



Participation in **H**olistic **E**nvironmental/Ecological **I**nnovations

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| Lead Author(s) | Fátima Alves (UC-CFE), Diogo Guedes Vidal (UC-CFE), Marco Meloni (SOUTHAMPTON), Paolo Spada (SOUTHAMPTON) |
| Contributing Author(s) | Kristina Reinsalu, Randel Länts (eGA), Simone Júlio, Rafaela Scheiffer (OFICINA), Guillaume Guesnon (Res Publica), Gyula Nagy (SZTE), Jón Ólafsson, Ben Hennig, Johannes Theodorus Welling, Marissa Sigrún Pinal (Uol), Cassandra Fontana (UNIFI), Paula Castro, Anabela Paula, Luciana Frazão (CFE-UC) Giovanni Allegretti, Sanara Sandri, Sérgio Pedro (CES) and Maarten de Groot (TGL) |
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Preface

Work Package 5 (WP5) – Evaluation and Impact Assessment – aims to evaluate PHOENIX’s activity, the co-design activity, the platform, pilots and the overall applicability of the Tangram methodology. The evaluation framework will be developed with an innovative collective process that will combine academic research of secondary literature, fieldwork and a citizens’ science process in collaboration with each Territorial Commission for Co-Design (TCCD). The objective is to track 1) adherence to ethical standards and the implementation of the organisational recommendations of PHOENIX; 2) engagement (e.g. number of participants and contributions per participant); 3) The ability of different engagement strategies (e.g. random selection vs open to all) to promote inclusion of women and hard to reach populations¹; 4) impact on individual attitudes (e.g. trust and efficacy); 5) impact on civic skills (e.g. civic knowledge and participatory civic skills); 6) impact on public policy; 7) usability of technological solutions; and 8) overall ability of the Tangram methodology to accelerate the European Green Deal (EGD) transition pathway.

This is the fourth (D.5.4) of seven deliverables from WP5. The task was designed in accordance with the philosophy of citizen science, which promotes the democratic generation of knowledge by engaging diverse stakeholders and facilitating the exchange of expertise and insights. It establishes a co-creation process to assist PHOENIX in finalising the impact evaluation framework. This participatory evaluation activity will be done through the local knowledge and the information package developed in Task 5.1 – definition of monitoring and evaluation framework. Since there is no “one-size-fits-all-solution,” the co-evaluation process will consider the pilots' context and tailor the module's design for impact evaluation to the local conditions and the specific process they will implement. The data collected and generated by Task 5.2 will contribute to updating the evaluation plan and optimising the impact evaluation instruments.

The methodology used in this task is qualitative. The research methods included a qualitative case study, a focus group in one of the TCCD meetings, a final qualitative questionnaire applied to TCCD participants, and a cross-pilots focus group with TCCDs representatives. The data collection was coordinated by CFE-University of Coimbra and SOUTHAMPTON with the collaboration of the following Local Partners: e-Governance Academy (eGA), Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação (OFICINA), Res Publica

¹ Refers to groups that face barriers to participation in traditional engagement processes due to factors such as socioeconomic status, geographic isolation, language barriers, disability, cultural differences, or limited access to information and resources.

(RP), University of Szeged (SZTE), University of Iceland (UoI), Università Degli Studi di Firenze (UNIFI), Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet (CFE) and Centre for Social Studies (CES).

Executive Summary

As part of Work Package 5 (WP5) - Evaluation and Impact Assessment, this Deliverable (D.5.4) offers a thorough assessment of co-design efforts, emphasising the applicability and impact of the participation methodology across several pilots. WP5 seeks to evaluate the co-design process's overall impact on participation, civic skills, policy and the efficacy of PHOENIX's initiatives and engagement strategies. A novel collective co-evaluation process that integrated fieldwork, scholarly investigation, and citizen science methodology in partnership with each Territorial Commission for Co-Design (TCCD) resulted in the development of the evaluation framework. The methodology for this evaluation is primarily qualitative, involving case studies, internal evaluation sessions, qualitative surveys, and cross-TCCD focus groups. The University of Coimbra (CFE) and Southampton University oversaw these efforts with assistance from regional partners. The assessment focused on monitoring essential factors such as:

- Engagement strategies, including the number of participants and their contributions;
- The effectiveness of inclusion strategies, particularly for women and hard-to-reach populations;
- The impact on individual attitudes (e.g., trust, efficacy).

- TCCD sociocultural composition;
- TCCD participants' motivations and expectations;
- Reflection on the co-design process and recommendations for improvements.

Some key findings:

1. TCCD Sociocultural Composition

The socio-cultural composition of the TCCDs demonstrated a partial representation of the territory's diversity. Even though attempts were made to guarantee participation across various socio-professional categories, under-represented voices—such as those from marginalised communities, younger participants, and rural areas—were not always included. Rural communities and youth participation were notably under-represented in areas like Odemira and Bologna. Nonetheless, several pilot programs, including those in Tavira and Rouen, demonstrated improvements in broader stakeholder participation and gender parity. These differences draw attention to the persistent difficulty in ensuring co-design procedures accurately capture the cultural diversity of the regions they intend to represent.

2. Participants' Motivations and Expectations

Various goals, including influencing local legislation, enhancing community well-

being, and supporting environmental sustainability initiatives, motivated participants throughout the TCCDs. Community-driven participation was encouraged in locations like Tavira and Gata-Malcata by emphasising local food security and fire risk control. Participants' expectations differed significantly; some were interested in developing their civic knowledge and skills, while others hoped for concrete policy initiatives. The assessment showed that participant satisfaction was higher when expectations were met, which is uncommon in pilots that offered real-time feedback and apparent paths to action. Nonetheless, several participants expressed dissatisfaction or disinterest when the co-design process was less organized or did not immediately provide results.

3. Engagement and Inclusivity

A prevalent observation amongst TCCDs was the challenge of sustaining involvement over time. Although there was much excitement at first, as the process continued, many TCCD participants became disengaged a tendency especially noticeable in lengthier co-design processes. Many individuals could take part in these processes thanks to remote-participation tools. However, the digital divide remained an obstacle in rural and marginalised regions. Notwithstanding these obstacles, areas like Tartu, Szeged, and Gata-Malcata showed high

involvement and satisfaction with the techniques.

4. Impact on Civic Knowledge and Skills

Participants regularly acknowledged that the co-design process enhanced their civic understanding and participatory skills. Through problem-solving, group debates, and collective decision-making, participants were able to expand their knowledge and enhance their abilities related to policy processes. This development was especially noteworthy in pilots like Tavira's Edible Gardens project and the Gata-Malcata cross-border fire management initiative, where participants were actively involved in creating workable strategies for their regions.

5. Influence on Public Policy

In influencing public policy, the co-design method had varying degrees of success. Strong policy effects were seen in some regions, most notably Rouen and Gata-Malcata, where participants actively influenced ongoing policy deliberations, especially those concerning environmental sustainability and governance changes. Some regions, on the other hand, found it difficult to link the co-design findings with more comprehensive policy frameworks, suggesting that participatory governance and policymaking need to be more integrated from the start.

6. Usability of Technological Tools

All the TCCDs used digital technologies to make co-design meetings and public participation easier. In many locations, these platforms made participation more widespread, in others, inclusion was hindered by the gap in digital literacy. In particular, participants in Iceland and Bologna highlighted challenges they encountered when using technology, emphasising the need for hybrid approaches that integrate digital and in-person methods, therefore guaranteeing inclusivity and engagement.

7. Reflection on the Co-Design Process

While most TCCDs welcomed the co-design process, a few issues arose, especially concerning long-term involvement and the capacity to influence policy. Participants frequently acknowledged the need for more formal facilitation and straightforward communication about the decision-making process, even if the participatory framework encouraged fruitful discussions. Participants in Szeged and Iceland highlighted the need for greater alignment between their contributions and the process's results, making these reflections particularly noteworthy. In addition, speakers from various locales, including Bologna and Rouen, emphasised the significance of incorporating the opinions of the business sector and environmental stakeholders to guarantee a comprehensive response to regional issues. In order to maintain momentum

and participation throughout the co-design process, many also advocated for more frequent feedback loops. This notion is reflected in multiple TCCDs.

Some recommendations for improvement:

1. Incentivize and Sustain Participation

Providing concrete rewards, such as payment for the time invested in co-design activities, providing childcare, or paying for travel, can ameliorate participation fatigue and improve long-term engagement.

2. Enhance Communication and Feedback

To enhance openness and trust in the process, a more organised communication approach that includes regular updates and unambiguous feedback loops, would assist participants in understanding how their input influences choices.

3. Broaden Sociocultural Representation

By using specialised outreach techniques and lowering barriers to participation, future co-design processes should prioritise under-represented groups, such as younger participants, rural communities, and marginalised populations.

4. Integrate Policy and Stakeholder Engagement

The results of co-design initiatives are more likely to impact public policy when legislators and other important stakeholders are involved early in the process, especially in processes that discuss environmental sustainability and community development.

5. Support Hybrid Participation Models

To guarantee that every participant can fully participate in the process, regardless of their level of digital literacy, a combination of digital and in-person engagement approaches should be used.

6. Support Hybrid Participation Models

Acknowledge the significance of context-specific modifications in co-design procedures, making specific that every pilot is suitably customised to the circumstances and requirements specific to the area.

1. Task 5.2 scope and objectives

Task 5.2 examines the co-design activities carried out by the Territorial Commissions for Co-Design (TCCDs) as part of its qualitative evaluation of the PHOENIX project. This report aims to gather, analyse, and synthesize data from various qualitative sources—such as internal evaluation meetings, focus groups, and participant feedback surveys. The report hopes to give participants a thorough grasp of actor engagement, the efficacy of the co-design processes, and the impact of these activities on public policy and local communities. In order to provide a thorough analysis of the co-design activities and capture the diverse viewpoints and experiences of TCCD participants, the qualitative assessment will employ several techniques. Task 5.2 aims to develop a sophisticated and context-sensitive evaluation methodology that captures the nuances of participatory governance by fusing qualitative insights with quantitative data gathered concurrently.

The task objectives are:

- Consider participant numbers, frequency of contributions, and representation of diverse voices in the TCCDs when assessing the degree of participation in co-design activities;
- Examine the reasons behind participant engagement in the co-design process and their expectations for the results of their participation. The purpose of this objective is to pinpoint recurring themes and possible roadblocks to further involvement;
- Examine the co-design techniques used by the various TCCDs critically, evaluating how well they work to encourage inclusive involvement and provide the intended results. Analysing the advantages and disadvantages of various engagement tactics is part of this;
- Ask participants about their thoughts on the co-design process and suggest any areas for improvement;
- Provide qualitative information to help shape the PHOENIX project's more significant impact evaluation methodology. This information should be focused on the impact on public policy, adherence to ethical norms, and the usefulness of technological solutions.

Task 5.2 will be crucial in understanding the dynamics of participatory governance within the PHOENIX project, offering valuable lessons and insights for future co-design initiatives.

2. Background

2.1 Traditional Models of Deliberation and Democratic Innovations: A Brief Literature Review

The Ecological Transition (ET) outlined by the EGD is a concept aimed at implementing a new social and economic model to address the main contemporary socio-ecological challenges based on redesigning how we live, work, and produce. **However, the complexity of this transition lies in the need to adopt new deliberative and participatory models, as traditional ones fail to meet the current needs of societies, for both humans and non-humans** (Abbas & Sintomer, 2023; Andreta et al., 2022; Cordier & Sintomer, 2023).

Deliberation is essential to democratic processes, aiming to achieve informed and inclusive decisions. **Traditionally, deliberation models were based on ideas from classical political philosophers such as Habermas (1984) and Rawls (1971), who emphasized reason, impartiality, and inclusion.** The Habermasian model of deliberation is based on communicative action and posits that practical deliberation should occur in public spaces where citizens can discuss political issues equally, seeking to reach a rational consensus (Habermas, 1989). This type of communicative action involves open and coercion-free communication, where participants can express their opinions and argue for their perspectives, aiming for mutual understanding—not uniformity of opinions but an agreement based on informed discussion—free from external pressures. This type of action should occur in physical or virtual public spaces and be accessible to all citizens. This model already recognizes the importance of various voices and perspectives to ensure legitimacy and representativeness. The Rawlsian model of deliberation (1971) is based on the theory of justice and deliberative democracy, grounded in the "veil of ignorance," where impartial conditions are sought for making fair political decisions. One characteristic of this model is that deliberation among participants should result in decisions that are made without knowing their characteristics, such as social class, gender, religion, or ethnic/cultural background. According to Rawls, ignoring this information is vital to ensure that decisions are devoid of prejudices or unfair advantages.

Although both models have contributed to advances in the field of deliberation processes, they inherently contain weaknesses that cannot be overlooked. The Habermasian model finds its major weakness in finding neutral spaces for deliberation, as the selection of such space may reflect bias and power, compromising the intended neutrality. Additionally, different cultural and social contexts may influence the

interpretation of what constitutes rational and impartial discussion, raising questions about the model's universality. Moreover, this model is based on an anthropocentric perspective, placing human reason at the centre of discussions, neglecting broader considerations about ecosystems, biodiversity, and the interests of some humans and non-humans (Crenshaw, 1989). On the other hand, the Rawlsian model's main weakness lies in its fundamental principle, the "veil of ignorance," as it disregards the substantial inequalities and differences among individuals. By not considering the various social, economic, and cultural circumstances that shape people's lives, Rawls' model may lead to decisions that do not adequately consider the specific needs of marginalized groups. In fact, by insisting on concealing individuals' social characteristics, there is a risk of inadvertently perpetuating a vision of justice that does not effectively address the disparities and diversity existing in society. **By emphasizing reason and impartiality, these models may overlook the perspectives of historically underrepresented social groups, perpetuating inequalities and injustices (Fraser, 1990).** These criticisms underscore the need for a more reflective and adaptable approach to deliberative theory, encouraging the development of models sensitive to diversity, representative, and capable of addressing the complexities of current challenges. **In this regard, Cohen's (1989) theory of deliberative democracy offers a more inclusive approach to deliberation, recognizing the importance of social differences. Cohen highlights the need to consider social inequalities when designing deliberative processes, ensuring marginalised groups have a significant voice in decision-making.**

The literature reveals a range of innovations in public deliberation processes that seek to overcome the limitations of traditional models, especially emphasizing the importance of direct citizen participation in decision-making (Dryzek, 2000; Pateman, 2012). Practical experiences, such as Citizens' Assemblies, Deliberative Forums, and Civic Councils, have been explored to promote more inclusive and informed participation (Fishkin, 2009). Additionally, incorporating digital technologies has transformed the dynamics of civic engagement. Online platforms, mobile applications, and social networks engage a larger number of citizens in debates, public consultations, and decision-making processes, ushering the era of digital democracy (Wilhelm, 2000). All of these challenge traditional hierarchical structures in favour of more horizontal and egalitarian forms of governance. **Despite the significant contributions of these democratic innovations, issues of representativeness, unequal participation, and the practical complexities of implementing new models, are recurring themes that have been identified as important weaknesses of these new approaches, implying the need for their constant redefinition (Gaventa, 2006).**

This need for redefinition is supported by the incapacity of such participatory approaches to address the complexities of contemporary socio-ecological challenges, which are multifaceted, transnational, intergenerational, and interspecies. There is a need to deepen and redefine an ecological democracy, as postulated by Dryzek (2000, 2012), through the integration of environmental considerations into democratic practices, recognizing the interdependence between social and ecological systems, transcending traditional epistemic boundaries, acknowledging the "web of life" among humans and non-humans, and promoting an ethical dialogue on coexistence (Leopold, 1949). **Through this expansion of the boundaries of deliberative dialogue, there is an exercise in overcoming traditional anthropocentrism that places humans as exclusive protagonists, recognizing the agency of non-humans (Latour, 1993; Plumwood, 1993; Vidal & Alves, 2024).**

2.2 Co-design meaning and principles

Contemporary socio-ecological challenges, such as climate change, deforestation, species extinction, pollution, food insecurity and overpopulation, are very complex, implying the need for different kinds of knowledge and for the different sectors society to engage with them (Alves et al., 2012, 2013; Alves & Viegas, 2019). Within the multifaceted ecological transition pathway, where a new paradigm shift is expected, responding to these issues, due to its social complexity, may be considered a 'wicked problem'—not in the sense that it cannot be fixed, but rather that there is no one-size-fits-all solution. (Tonkinwise, 2015). Addressing these challenges requires a joint effort from a diverse range of living beings who, through a co-design approach, are open to thinking, reflecting, testing, and implementing solutions together. **This “Dialogue Mapping” proposed by Conklin (2006) states that building shared understandings of the same problems should be based on the recognition that there are no right or wrong solutions since every problem is unique due to its contextual factors.**

Co-design processes or participatory design are often described as the act of creating and rethinking “with” people instead “for” people (Mckercher, 2020; Sanders & Stappers, 2008). The co-design process aims to benefit participants by promoting equality in participation, quality of engagement, procedural effectiveness, stakeholder satisfaction, and lasting value. The co-design process aims to benefit participants by promoting equality in participation, quality of engagement, procedural effectiveness, stakeholder satisfaction, and lasting value (BUM: Bottom-up Infrastructure, 2023). Beyond these, there are four principles acknowledged to be critical in conducting co-design processes (Beacon Strategies, 2022):

- Participation, which is crucial in the co-design process. It should be transparent regarding the methodology used and the resources available. The process should encourage broad input, encompassing a wide range of experiences and perspectives. It should be person-centered and inclusive, embracing plurality and diversity both in those who contribute and those who benefit, while also being culturally appropriate.
- Development: developing new ideas, experiences, and possibilities must be tangible for those who are part of the co-design process through different methods, such as media, graphics, video, and storytelling.
- Ownership and power: this principle refers to the equity value and importance of the input from all participants involved, regardless of their role, status, or socioeconomic and cultural background. Therefore, co-design should foster collective ownership to address power imbalances from the beginning of the process.
- Outcomes and Intent: The co-design process should be grounded in a pragmatic vision of what is realistically achievable, as meeting participants' expectations is essential.

2.2 Co-design implementation

The co-design process does not have a particular formula suitable to every context or situation. According to Mckercher (2020), the co-design phases are six: it starts by (i) building the conditions a genuine and safe involvement of people with lived experience. Then, it is necessary to (ii) immerse in people's expectations and align the objectives. After these two first steps, it is vital to (iii) discover with people the best way to achieve the goals and meet their expectations and (iv) design the methodological approach to reach them. However, as stated before, the co-design process must be flexible and not seen as a closed system. Therefore, it is essential to (v) test and refine and, when all parts involved agree, (vi) implement and learn.

The same author (Mckercher, 2020) argues that when assessing the co-design process, three main questions should be always present in the evaluators' mind:

1. Is this sharing power?
2. Is it building capability?
3. Is this a prioritising relationship?

These guiding questions are aligned with Burkett (2012, p. 8) when she notes that “Co-design happens over time and across structures – it requires a different kind of relationship between people which incorporates trust, open and active communication and mutual learning. Co-design is a process, not an event.”. As a process, it is a continuous collaborative work, where openness to change and to different perspectives is required, this is the base for trust and effective communication. While some authors advocate for empowering people and communities through co-design (Bøjer & Brøns, 2022; Coupe et al., 2020), **McKercher (2020) contends that transformational co-design—aligned with the socio-ecological transition outlined in the European Green Deal, involving a diverse range of stakeholders and people with lived experience—aims not to empower them, but rather to listen to them.**

2.3 Co-design evaluation approaches

As noted earlier, evaluating co-design processes must consider the primary principles previously identified, though the approach may vary depending on the topic at hand. For co-design processes addressing environmental issues, traditional methods such as surveys, focus groups, and interviews are commonly used (Table 1). **However, given the complexity, multidimensionality, and dynamic nature of socio-ecological challenges, there is a need to rethink and reimagine evaluation methods to capture essential elements—such as the participants' engagement experience—more effectively (Preskill & Gopal, 2014).** Additionally, the evaluation process occurs at three distinct stages, each differing in proximity to the baseline: before the co-design begins (to assess motivations, expectations, and intentions), during, and after the process.

However, a recent review reveals that most of the evaluations were done offline, and none of the evaluation methods were conducted for online co-design (Wang et al., 2022). Accordingly, there is a need to develop and conduct an evaluation process online, as such evaluations are underrepresented in academia. Given the high utilization of technology, it is also essential to assess its effectiveness in this context.

Table 1: Review of evaluation approaches of the co-design process on environmental issues

| Project/Source | Objective | Method | Duration | Participants |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| COACCH (McGlade et al., 2021) | CO-designing the Assessment of Climate Change costs | Survey and interviews | 2018-2021 Annual | Different stakeholders |
| Leapfrog (Manohar et al., 2016) | Design and evaluate new approaches to consultation through co-design | Non-written Consultation, Make-it Stick and Gathering stories through Creative Evaluation | Three moments after tool delivery: 1-2 months after; 6-8 months after; 24 months after | Public sector and community partners |
| Community Co-Design, Maintenance and Ownership of Green Spaces in Underserved Communities (Caperon et al., 2022) | To use innovative participatory methods to explore how the maintenance, co-design and ownership of green spaces affect their use for health benefits | Transect walks with photovoice; Interviews; Workshops | Three moments: 1 year after, 2 years after, 3 years after | Local families and members of community organizations (n=12) |
| CLEVER Cities (CLEVER Cities, 2021) | Evaluate the impact of co-design for nature-based solutions | Surveys, interviews and focus group | N.A. | 22 stakeholders (active co-design participants, the community, and the project team) |

N.A. Not available.

The review by Wang et al. (2022) states that designing the evaluation plan for a co-design process should align with the specific dimension intended for evaluation, which can fall into one of three categories:

- Evaluating the approach: This dimension focuses on the process design, namely the choice of tools, activities, and methods to be applied to the specific process. The designer's reflection was used to evaluate the approach, although the risk of bias

increased. Surveys of a quantitative and/or qualitative nature are also used to evaluate this dimension;

- **Evaluating the process: here, the focus relies on assessing the experience, the engagement level and the collaboration among participants. This evaluation was mainly done through surveys, interviews, and observation.**
- Evaluating the outcomes: this dimension covers the evaluation of the designed outputs, the implementation and the impact after the co-design process. It is focused on the quality and effectiveness of the outputs and is commonly made through surveys and interviews. However, as stated by Dietrich et al. (2017), evaluating outcomes is very hard since a follow-up over several months is needed to ensure the sustainability of the process implemented.

While evaluating these three dimensions is essential, each one is also time-consuming, and research projects often lack the human and financial resources to fully address them. **Wang et al. (2022) found that the majority of published papers (77.4%) focus on evaluating co-design outcomes, with fewer studies examining the process and approach.** Evaluating the process, however, offers insight into whether the approach was well-designed and effectively engages stakeholders. This can help to assess the effectiveness and sustainability of the expected outcomes.

2.3.1 Evaluating the co-design process

The co-design process should ensure that diverse knowledge, perspectives, and needs are balanced and equitably included, with particular attention to the vulnerable social groups identified in each context. Embracing these perspectives and ensuring the process is flexible and accessible is essential for enhancing the quality of stakeholder engagement and promoting a fair distribution of the benefits that may result from the process (Breukers & Jeuken, 2017).

As previously presented, several methods have been used to evaluate the co-design process – surveys, interviews, observation, and focus groups – but all of them have limitations that should also be addressed to improve the fairness and quality of the evaluation process. Considering this, and in line with the review of Wang et al. (2022), three recommendations can be highlighted:

- **Triangulation:** combine methods of quantitative and qualitative nature to ensure that the evaluation process can capture different realities and dimensions of the co-design. Also, in the case of quantitative methods, it would be essential to test, as

suggested by Koens et al. (2022), these methods to short samples since they may capture advantages from both qualitative and quantitative methods;

- **Reimagination:** the need to readapt the methods used is crucial in the evaluation process. Some authors suggest developing tools that foster a natural environment and a “safe space” for people to give feedback. This is the case of the Evaluation Game tool developed in the scope of the project Leapfrog (Coupe et al., 2020), which provides the opportunity for participants to reflect, discuss and express their feelings and personal experiences in a collective evaluation – what was working, why and what could be better. When working with students, Bremmer and Hoek (2020) showed that flexible video reflection was more effective in the evaluation than in written format. Pau and Hall (2021) suggest auto-documentation as a way to innovate the evaluation process;
- **Systematization:** this point unveils the question of the bias that may happen during the evaluation process. Whicher and Crick (2019) believe that without a **baseline**, it is impossible to have a reliable evaluation process; Bremmer and Hoek (2020) follow the same viewpoint and stated in their study that evaluation should take place earlier to allow feedback on the process.

Due to the complexity of evaluating the process, since it is an ongoing task, several authors have proposed guidelines to facilitate the systematization of the procedures to be followed. The step-by-step toolkit proposed by Man et al. (2019) presents a matrix that combines **what** is intended to be evaluated and **how** it can be done (Table 2).

Table 2: Adaptation of Man et al. (2019) proposal to evaluate the co-design process

| What is intended to be evaluated | Type of data | How it can be done |
|---|--|---|
| The plurality of knowledge, perspectives and social groups | Participants' age, gender, socio-economic status, and ethnicity, among others* | Registration forms, participants' self-presentation videos, surveys |
| The activities that are being held, which participants engage with them, their motivation, perceptions of | Participants' perceptions and engagement level | Surveys, interviews, focus groups, digital tools (e.g. smartphones), games (online/in loco) |

| What is intended to be evaluated | Type of data | How it can be done |
|---|--|---|
| inclusiveness and openness to listen to their voices | | |
| Sharing power among participants in an equitable manner | This feedback data relies on participants' experiences | Small focus groups, interviews, feedback tools, social media, self-assessments, surveys, peer observations, games |

Source: Adapted by Man et al. (2019); *Sensitive data should be previously authorized to be collected. This may vary according to the pilot's socio-cultural context.

The same authors (Man et al., 2019) suggest the moments to evaluate the quality of the co-design process (Table 3).

Table 3: Proposal of Man et al. (2019) to assess the quality of the co-design process

| Before the co-design process | During the co-design process | After the co-design process |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Why did you want to get involved with the co-design project? ▪ What were your expectations of the co-design before you started the work? ▪ Was the information given before starting adequate? Did you know what you would be doing and what was expected of you? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What did you think of the process overall? ▪ Which activities did you enjoy? Which activities did you not enjoy? ▪ Did you feel your opinion was listened to and acted on? ▪ What were your relationships like with other stakeholders? ▪ What were your relationships like with the facilitators? ▪ Were you provided with enough support to participate in the activities? ▪ Were you happy with the results of the co-design process? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ How did you feel once the project had finished? ▪ Did being involved in the project impact you, positively or negatively? ▪ Did you feel informed after your involvement had finished? |

Before the co-design process, Man et al. (2019) consider it essential to evaluate the participants' motivations, expectations, and transparency of the information given to them to participate in the co-design process. This moment can be considered the baseline, the information collected will be used later to compare those achieved in the following evaluation moments. The second moment of evaluation happens during the co-design process and invites the participants to think about their first experience in the process, which are the activities they mostly enjoyed, if they were given time and space to be part of the discussion and how the relationships with different stakeholders and facilitators were. The last moment of evaluation occurs after the co-design process and is the moment to reflect on the overall process, the impact and the sustainability of the involvement after the process is finished. In this proposal, **it is possible to identify three guiding questions proposed by Mckercher (2020) regarding the need to evaluate (i) whether the co-design process is sharing power, (ii) building capacity and (iii) prioritising relationships**, all covered in the second moment of evaluation. Also, the four principles proposed by Beacon Strategies (2022) can be identified: participation, development, ownership and power, and outcomes and intent.

2.3.2. The need to consider non-humans and future generations in the co-design process

The adoption of innovative democratic models, following Smith's definition (2009), involves strengthening the institutions to enhance social participation in public policy. This perspective recognizes the importance of collective action and, more crucially, the role of "stakeholders beyond citizens" (Hendriks, 2019, p. 445). The critical question remains about who is included in the "society's stakeholders" category. If there is a call to restore the society-nature relationship (Alves & Vidal, 2024b; Vidal et al., 2024), perhaps bringing nature to the core of the ET can be assumed as a democratic innovation. **Therefore, how can new participatory models be conceived integrating each territory's sociocultural reality and its relationships with nature?** The challenge is to overcome Habermas' proposal (1989; 1974) regarding the principles outlined for spaces of deliberation and citizen participation - general accessibility, elimination of privileges, and discovery of rational norms and legitimations. These principles may not be suitable for the necessary transition, as they may first exclude and marginalize disadvantaged groups with limited access to these deliberation spaces (Caselunghe et al., 2019). Secondly, non-humans and future generations—'stakeholders of society'—have historically been excluded from the debate, their agency overlooked (Čapek, 2010; Foltz, 2003; Nash, 2005). With limited ability to make their voices heard, they rely on representatives to express, translate, and mediate their interests. Including nature representatives and future generations as stakeholders has

emerged as a ground-breaking strategy to foster regenerative change for a flourishing world. This approach involves granting nature and future generations legal standing and a voice in decision-making processes, redefining our perspective on life and restructuring our existence. However, as the literature indicates, challenges persist in incorporating their multiple voices into these processes (Table 4).

Table 4 - Challenges and Solutions in Integrating Nature Representatives and Future Generations as Stakeholders in Deliberative Processes

| Challenges | | Possible Solutions |
|--|--|--|
| Nature Representatives | | |
| Lack of Legal Personhood for Nature | Granting legal personhood to nature and its elements is challenging as legal systems primarily recognize human interests and rights (Alves, Costa, et al., 2023). | Advocate for the recognition of the rights of nature in legal frameworks and constitutions, establishing legal precedents that consider nature as a legal entity. |
| Communication and Representation | Nature representatives cannot communicate in traditional human language, making it challenging to effectively express their interests and concerns in deliberation (Strang, 2023). | Develop innovative approaches to understanding and incorporating nature's feedback, such as ecological indicators, scientific research, participatory observation, and identifying their representatives with local communities. |
| Conflicts with Human Interests | Nature's interests may sometimes conflict with human interests or economic goals, leading to difficulty in balancing conservation and development considerations (Alves, Vidal, et al., 2023). | Implement collaborative decision-making processes involving stakeholders from diverse backgrounds to negotiate and find common ground between nature and human interests. |
| Future Generations | | |
| Time Horizon Considerations | Future generations' interests may be overlooked as decision-makers often prioritize short-term goals, making it challenging to address long-term environmental issues (Wade-Benzoni, 1999). | Introduce policies that require long-term planning and future impact assessments to consider the implications of present decisions on future generations. |
| Lack of Representation and Voice | Future generations do not have a direct voice in the present decision-making processes, leading to limited opportunities for their interests to be heard and | Establish platforms and forums that enable intergenerational dialogue and youth participation in decision-making, allowing them to express their concerns and ideas. |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| | considered (Byskov & Hyams, 2022). | |
| Intergenerational Equity | Balancing the needs of the current generation with those of future generations presents a challenge in ensuring fairness and justice in environmental decisions (Lawrence, 2022). | Embed intergenerational equity principles in environmental policies, requiring consideration of future generations' well-being and interests in decision-making processes; Select a representative that future generations would approve of the representation if they could do so. |
| Uncertainty in Future Scenarios | Predicting future environmental conditions and their impacts on future generations involves uncertainty, complicating the formulation of effective policies (Ekeli, 2004). | Invest in research and modelling to understand potential scenarios and use scenario planning to evaluate policy options and responses under different environmental conditions. Consider the youth's imaginaries and the futures they envision and want to build. |
| Common Challenge | | |
| Institutional Barriers | Existing political and governance structures may not be equipped to accommodate nature representatives or the long-term interests of future generations (Gonzalez-Ricoy & Rey, 2019). | Advocate for institutional reforms to include dedicated bodies or advisory councils representing nature and future generations in decision-making processes. |

Source: Elaborated by the authors and adapted from Vidal & Alves (2024).

Furthermore, ethical dilemmas arise when attempting to give voice to nature and future generations in these processes. **Who or what can legitimately represent them? How can we ensure that human agendas do not distort or manipulate their interests?** These questions spark complex debates about how to identify and select appropriate representatives while considering ecological diversity, intergenerational interests, and long-term thinking. The primary challenge lies in operationalizing this transformation.

3. Methodology

3.1. What are we evaluating, and what is the adopted approach

The TCCD evaluation aims to conduct a participatory evaluation activity of their pilot co-design process – **the focus of the evaluation is the TCCD co-design process**. Each pilot TCCD will also design, during this process, its module for impact evaluation specific to the local conditions and the specific process they will implement. The TCCD represents the commission that will implement the pilot. Since the focus of TCDD evaluation is the co-

design process, **the main objective was to evaluate the participants' experience of TCCD during the co-design process - transparency of methodology, the diversity of actors involved in the co-design process, and participants' expectations and motivations, among others.** Through this experience, we have identified with TCCD members the strengths and weaknesses of the co-design process - SWOT (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and, based on this analysis, co-develop a set of recommendations on the TCCD co-evaluation process to update the modular evaluation plan. This participatory evaluation activity engages stakeholders directly in the assessment of the co-design process. This approach ensures that the evaluation reflects the perspectives and experiences of those involved (Cornwall & Jewkes, 1995).

Local partners had a pivotal role in this process, they were responsible for conducting qualitative desk research and elaborating case study reports; carrying out and documenting the TCCD internal evaluation session, implementing the TCCD qualitative survey and translating open responses and supporting the cross-TCCD session by selecting representatives. The methodological approach (Figure 1) followed an interactive process where all qualitative data instruments were co-designed with the local partners in several phases:

Phase 1 – After the consortium meeting in Paris in March 2023, a survey was shared among all project and local partners, this is considered the first co-design moment. The survey helped understand partners' principal motivations and expectations for integrating this process into future activities, as well as what indicators should be used to evaluate the TCCD co-design process;

Phase 2 – between April and July 2023, the guidelines were developed based on the survey results and shared among each local partners responsible for implementing the evaluation in their pilots. This process involved individuals meetings with each other to adjust the guidelines to account for their sociocultural contexts;

Phase 3 – After July 2023, local partners prepared for the implementation of the TCCD evaluation system. During this initial implementation phase, individual meetings with each local partners were held in October 2023 to monitor the progress.

Phase 4 – During the Consortium meeting in Tartu in April 2024, a cross-TCCD evaluation session was organised by the CFE-UC team with all TCCD members that were present; this session aimed to create a SWOT analysis of the TCCD experience and to develop a set of recommendations to improve future TCCD experiences;

Phase 5 – From April to October 2024, the data collection and analysis were completed.

3.2. The evaluation system – instruments and guidelines

The co-designed, qualitative evaluation system aimed to provide a comprehensive approach, ensuring that the evaluation process is inclusive, reflective, and capable of generating meaningful insights to improve the TCCD co-design process. This system acknowledges the unique contexts of each pilot, a characteristic integrated into its design. Before detailing the instruments and guidelines for implementation, a brief overview highlights that these instruments serve distinct objectives yet are interconnected:

- Qualitative Case Study Description: Local partners will gather information through qualitative desk research concerning the case study and compile an English report;
- TCCD Internal Evaluation Session: Local partners will conduct, record, transcribe, and translate internal evaluation sessions with TCCD members;
- TCCD Qualitative Survey: Local partners will implement the qualitative survey by distributing a survey link and translating the open-ended responses;
- Cross-TCCD session: Local partners will support the selection of 1 or 2 TCCD representatives to participate in the session;
- TCCD Impact Stories/Letters of support²: Local partners will collect and document impact stories from the co-design process.

3.2.1. Qualitative case study description

Objectives: The qualitative case study description aims to provide in-depth and nuanced insights into the various forms and processes that TCCDs can experience. These case studies document and analyse the successes, challenges, outcomes, and mechanisms used to engage participants in these initiatives. The information gathered will help create a shared knowledge base to identify best practices by analysing the successes and challenges of different initiatives, which can then be applied to other contexts.

Instructions: The case study description (ranging from 500 to 1000 words) should be organised as follows:

Part 1 – TCCD identification and local conditions

² The analysis of this data will be included in the D5.7: Pilot Evaluation lead by SOUTHAMPTON team.

- 1. Identification:** The identification of the case study is usually brief and descriptive, with the pilot's name, region, local partners involved, green deal policy area, type of democratic innovation and participants' characterisation;
- 2. Overview:** The overview summarises the initiative, including its goals, methods, and outcomes.
- 3. Context:** The context section provides information on the political, social, and economic situation in which the initiative was developed.

Part 2 – The process

- 4. Methods:** The methods section describes the specific tools and techniques used to engage citizens in the decision-making process, such as public hearings, town hall meetings, citizen juries, or online forums, and the participants' recruitment criteria. This section may also describe any tools or technologies used to support the process and the number of meetings.

Part 3 – Impacts and lessons learned

- 5. Outcomes:** The outcomes section describes the results and impact of the initiative, including any changes in policy, decision-making processes, or community dynamics that resulted from the initiative. This section may also describe any unintended consequences or challenges encountered during implementation.
- 6. Analysis:** The analysis section critically reflects on the initiative, drawing on insights and lessons from the case study. This section may include a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the initiative, as well as recommendations for future practice and research.

3.2.2. TCCD Qualitative Survey

Important – This TCCD qualitative survey must be applied before the internal evaluation session and the online cross-pilot focus group.

Objectives: This TCCD qualitative survey, to be implemented during a TCCD session and transcribed (only open answers) and translated by the local partners, aims to gather TCDD participants' opinions and reflections on their participation.

This individual self-reflection moment will help us gather information on improving the TCCD co-design process. Therefore, participants' experience and insights are critical in this update process:

- Share insights and personal experience about the co-design process;
- Reflect on their role and contributions to the co-design process;
- Identify areas for improvement in their performance and contributions considering the SWOT analysis components – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats.

Instructions:

- 1. Structure:** the survey is divided into five parts with 26 questions in total (Appendix A): Part A is dedicated to the co-design process; Part B is focused on the TCCD; Part C on the co-design satisfaction and expectations; Part D aims to explore the relation between the TCCD and the future; Part E is dedicated to the sociodemographic information;
- 2. Duration:** the average time to complete the questionnaire is 30 minutes;
- 3. Application:** A link to the survey will be provided and should be applied to all TCCD participants. Local partners may be asked to assist with translating the survey. Although we prefer the online survey, if local partners face challenges with its implementation, they can print it and fill it out. In this case, the completed surveys should be scanned and uploaded to Qualtrics.
- 4. After application:** once the data collection is completed, local partners are asked to translate the responses – only those concerning open questions - to English and provide them to the TCCD evaluation team WP 5.

Important Note: This survey should also be applied to those participants who drop out (if any) during this process to understand their reasons.

3.2.3. TCCD Internal evaluation session

Important: This TCCD evaluation session is managed by the local partners. Local partners will decide whether they need to translate this document to the moderators or not.

Before the discussion

- 1. Participants selection:** The number of participants selected from the TCCD to

participate in the internal evaluation session should be a **minimum of 12 and a maximum of 15**. This decision is internal and shared with the TCCD participants but should ensure the diversity and plurality of actors concerning age, gender, nationality and social group – use the Appendix

2. C to fill in the participants' information. The TCCD implementers may decide whether this is an activity embedded in other activities of the TCCD or a separate one.
3. Informed consent – participants should sign an informed consent form before the session starts. See Appendix B. Since this session will **be translated, recording equipment should be used, and participants should be asked for permission, ensuring that the names of the participants are anonymised**;
4. **Facilitator/Moderator:** the facilitator and moderator should be the TCCD implementer or someone familiar with group discussion;
5. **Duration:** between one hour and a half and two hours (1h30m to 2h00m);
6. **Space planning:** This moment of self-reflection should occur in a safe and supportive environment for participants to share their experiences and feedback. Since this session will **be translated, recording equipment should be used, and participants should be asked for permission, ensuring that the names of the participants are anonymised**.
7. **Ensure everyone has a chance to speak:** Make sure everyone has a chance to speak and share their thoughts. Avoid allowing any one participant to dominate the conversation;
8. **Monitor the discussion:** make sure that you (the facilitator) pay attention to what participants are saying and respond with follow-up questions or comments encouraging further discussion. It is also essential to ensure that the discussion stays focused on the topics outlined.

During the discussion

9. **Welcome:** By welcoming the group to the discussion on the self-evaluation activity of the co-design process, the facilitator should inform the objectives to the participants:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Objective | This internal evaluation session analyses participants' experiences and self-reflection on the TCCD co-design process. |
|------------------|--|

By encouraging the discussion and reminding the participants to be respectful and constructive in their feedback, the facilitator should now explain that considering this primary objective, the discussion will consider the following aspects (please introduce each of the following questions one at a time - please note that the time must be managed according to the dynamics of the group; some questions may generate more discussion and others less. Each facilitator must be mindful of this):

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| GUIDING QUESTIONS | Adequacy of the composition of the TCCD and its diversity concerning the socio-cultural specificities of the territory: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Do you feel that the TCCD composition reflects the sociocultural diversity of your territorial context?</i> - <i>Does it address the primary socio-environmental problems?</i> |
| | Perception of the collective management of the co-design process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Were your opinions heard and acted upon during the co-design process?</i> |
| | Perception about their participation (or lack of) in the implementation of activities, strategies and choice of tools for codesign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Were you given sufficient support to participate in the activities?</i> - <i>Which activities did you enjoy?</i> - <i>Which did you not enjoy? Why?</i> |
| | Results – successful definition of TCCD or not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Were you satisfied with the results of the co-design process?</i> - <i>What areas for improvement did you identify?</i> |

After the discussion

10. Closing: The facilitator should summarize the key insights and learnings from the internal evaluation session (in a table, for example) and ask participants to confirm whether they agree with the information collected or if they want to make any changes:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Closing questions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does anyone want to add or change anything? - Do you think these ideas convey what has been discussed here? |
|--------------------------|--|

11. Transcribe and translate to English the Internal Evaluation Session using the questions to structure the document, alongside the Internal Evaluation Session Participant Identification Form. During the transcript, to ensure anonymisation, there is no need to identify participants by name. Instead, Local Partners may assign each participant an alphabetic letter, for example.

3.2.4. Cross-TCCD session

Important: This session is managed by the evaluation team – University of Coimbra and Soton.

Note: All participants should fill out the Participant Identification Form (Appendix C)

Before the discussion

- 1. Participants selection:** Each TCCD should select 1 or 2 (**internal representatives**) who will reflect on the overall process in a knowledge exchange moment – internally selected by TCCD participants who can best represent the diversity of positions and interests within the involved groups. While the selection process is recommended to consider the **ability to speak English, this is not mandatory**. Solutions can be discussed to address language barriers, such as finding someone to translate the representative's speech if necessary. Informed consent – participants should sign an informed consent before the session starts – see Appendix D.
- 1. Facilitator/Moderator:** the facilitators and moderators will be two/three members of UC and SOTON teams;
- 2. Duration:** between one hour and half and two hours (up to 3 hours maximum);
- 3. Space planning:** This moment of self-reflection should occur in a safe and supportive environment for participants to share their experiences and feedback. A slide will be shared with all participants during the discussion to help them follow the evolution of the debate and the information being collected - this will facilitate the identification of possible misunderstandings due to language barriers. This session **will be recorded to facilitate transcription and analysis, and participants should be asked for permission to ensure that their names are anonymised;**
- 4. Ensure everyone has a chance to speak:** Make sure everyone has a chance to speak

and share their thoughts. Avoid allowing any one participant to dominate the conversation;

5. Monitor the discussion: Ensure the facilitators pay attention to what participants say and respond with follow-up questions or comments to encourage further discussion. It is also essential to ensure the discussion stays on track and focuses on the topics outlined.

6. Exchange moment between TCCD representatives: before the discussion, there will be a round of presentations on the TCCD representatives.

During the discussion

7. Welcome: By welcoming the group to the discussion on the self-evaluation activity of the co-design process, the facilitator should inform the objectives to the participants (please introduce each of the following questions one at a time - please note that time must be managed according to the dynamics of the group; some questions may generate more discussion than others. Each facilitator must keep this in mind):

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Objective | This focus group aims to identify the main strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the TCCD co-design process through participants' experiences and, based on this, develop a set of recommendations for the TCCD co-evaluation process to update the modular evaluation plan. |
|------------------|--|

By encouraging the discussion and reminding the participants to be respectful and constructive in their feedback, the facilitator should now explain that considering this primary objective, he/she will present – in a shared slide - a set of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified during the self-reflection moment (qualitative survey) and will ask them to check if those are suitable or if they want to reconsider their initial choices and move forward to other dimensions of the collective reflection:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| GUIDING | The facilitator presents the strengths identified and asks <i>- What do you think about these strengths identified during the self-reflection moment by TCCD participants? Is there anything you want to remove or add?</i> |
|----------------|--|

| | |
|--|---|
| | <p>The facilitator presents the weaknesses identified and asks</p> <p><i>- What do you think about these weaknesses identified during the self-reflection moment by TCCD participants? Is there anything you want to remove or add?</i></p> |
| | <p>The facilitator presents the opportunities identified and asks</p> <p><i>- What do you think about these opportunities identified during the self-reflection moment by TCCD participants? Is there anything you want to remove or add?</i></p> |
| | <p>The facilitator presents the threats identified and ask</p> <p><i>- What do you think about these threats identified during the self-reflection moment by TCCD participants? Is there anything you want to remove or add?</i></p> |

After the discussion

8. Closing: Two moments: 1) The facilitator should present the SWOT analysis co-created with the participants and ask them to confirm whether they agree with the information collected or if they want to make any changes; 2) based on this, the group is invited to develop a set of recommendations for the TCCD co-evaluation process;

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <p>Closing questions</p> | <p>1) This SWOT analysis is the result of our discussion. Please read through it. Does it reflect the experiences and ideas you <i>exchanged during this session? Do you want to add anything?</i></p> <p>2) <i>Based on the SWOT analysis, we suggest you contribute to identifying a set of recommendations for the TCCD co-evaluation process: recommendation 1, recommendation 2... etc.</i></p> |
|---------------------------------|--|

9. Produce the report: Document the findings based on your notes and the session recording of the focus group in a written report alongside the Focus Group Participant Identification Form. When writing transcript, to ensure anonymisation, there is no need to identify participants by name. Instead, an alphabetic letter will be assigned to each participant.

3.2.5. Letter of support – (Up to 6 months after the internal evaluation session)

Objectives: The Letter of support – follow-up - aims to capture the impact of the TCCD co-design process on a participant's life.

Instructions

- 1. Deadline:** The Letter of support should be collected 6 months after the co-design process;
- 2. Applicability:** the analysis of the letters of support will be included in the *D5.7: Pilot Evaluation, and it will be used in communication*;
- 3. Structure:** the letter of support should be a written document in the participant's language, transcribed to English by the Local Partner, that narrates the impact of the TCCD co-design process at a personal level. An example will be provided to each Local Partner. As an option, the letter of support can be accompanied by a short – video where participants share their testimony of the impact of TCCD participation (optional). The evaluators will use this to analyse the participant's point of view.
- 4. Who should be asked to write:** 1 or 2 participants of the TCCD co-design process identified by the Local Partners;

3.3. Data Analysis

A mixed-methods approach was used in the data analysis for the TCCD co-design evaluation, combining quantitative and qualitative analysis to give a thorough knowledge of participant involvement, outcomes, and the overall co-design process.

SPSS v28 was used to analyse the data for the quantitative component of the evaluation. This software was used to handle and examine numerical data gathered from participants' feedback forms and structured surveys. Descriptive statistics were used as a primary statistical tool to compile information about participant demographics, engagement levels, and answers to particular questions about their experiences and satisfaction with the co-design process. A software tool for mixed-methods and qualitative research, NVIVO, was used to analyse qualitative data in addition to the quantitative analysis. The qualitative data gathered from open-ended survey questions, focus groups, and internal evaluation sessions was methodically coded and categorised to find recurrent themes, key insights, and participant narratives. Through NVIVO, a thorough theme analysis was made possible, enabling researchers to delve further into participants' experiences and thoughts on the co-design process. With this software, qualitative data could be arranged into categories that highlighted important themes including participant motivations, engagement barriers and the techniques used in the codesign process. In order to find new patterns in the data, we

employed inductive coding in this study, which is based on the empirical narratives of our respondents. Both vertical and horizontal analyses were performed. The vertical analysis required a personal assessment of every interview to understand the respondents' perspectives. In horizontal analysis, similar themes and opposing points of view were found by contrasting and comparing answers from several interviews. Coding matrices were employed to ascertain the range of perspectives and beliefs. Selected quotes were used to highlight different viewpoints about the study.

3.4. Ethics

The University of Southampton's Faculty Ethics Committee approved this work, which complied with ethical guidelines. Ethical clearance for the research was given under the code ERGO II 85579 (Appendix E). This permission emphasises the significance of informed consent, confidentiality, and the welfare of all people involved in the TCCD co-design assessment. It guarantees that all participant interactions and data collection procedures adhere to ethical principles.

3.5. Deviations

The TCCDs for the Transdanubia Region and Emilia Romagna could not be completed due to challenges in each region. In Transdanubia, local partners experienced a setback as their collaboration was dissolved, necessitating the search for new partnerships to implement the PHOENIX project. Consequently, the TCCD evaluation could not meet the planned deadline, prompting a request for an extension of six months from the European Commission. In Emilia Romagna, the enterprise SferaLab and the regional environment office have presented changing proposals regarding the TCCD, leading to a lack of clear direction. While local partners expressed their support and willingness to observe their decisions, their capacity to influence the TCCD process was limited. Despite the limited opportunity for input into the participatory process, there has been some interest in digital tools. However, they are not yet fully operational.

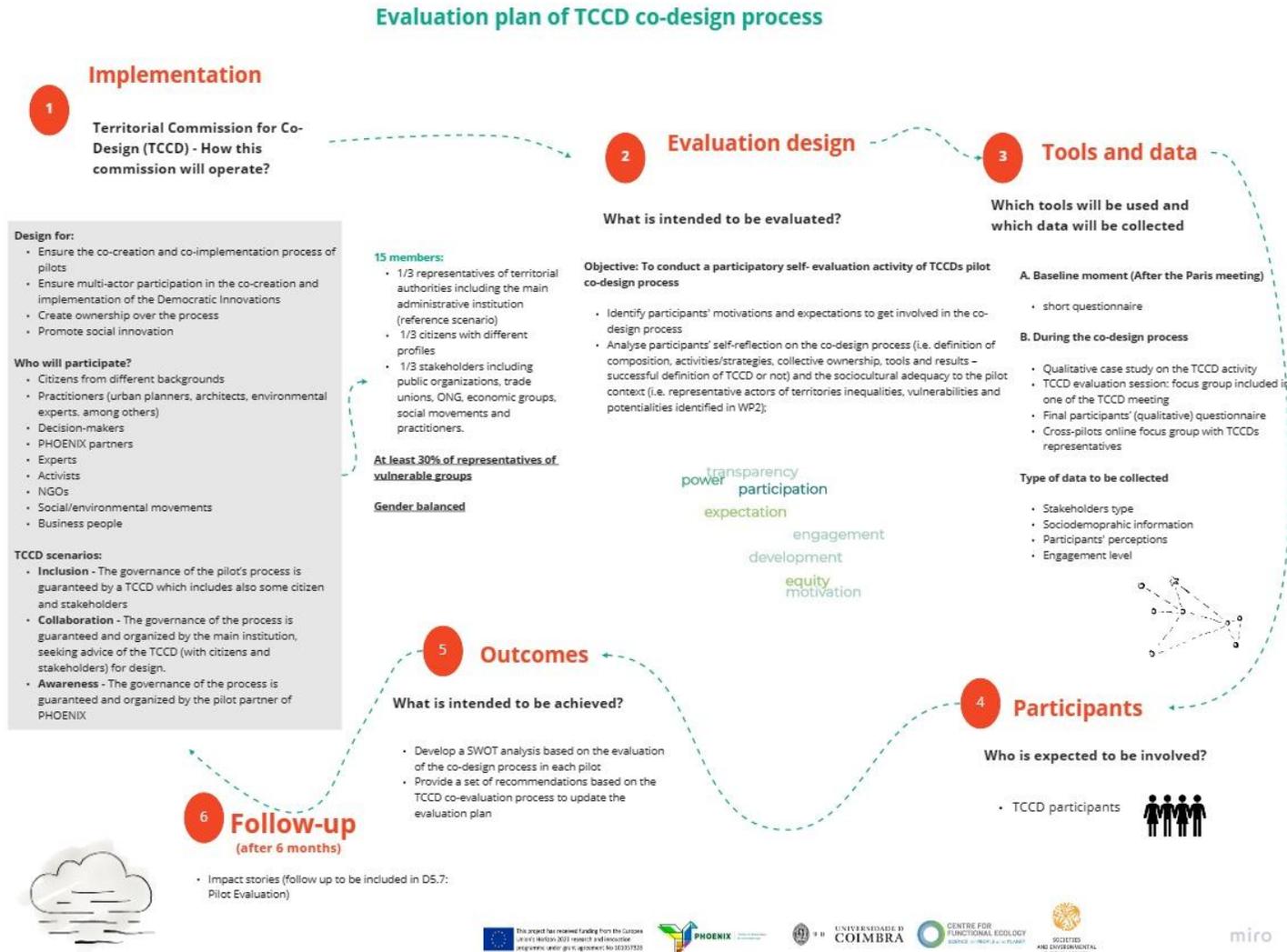


Figure 1 - Evaluation plan of TCCD co-design process

4. Results

In this section, we will systematically present the findings of our study, organized to provide a comprehensive overview of the co-design process and its outcomes. We will begin with the results of the pre-evaluation survey, which served as the foundational basis for co-designing the evaluation system. This initial survey provided crucial insights into the needs and expectations of the participants, guiding the subsequent phases of our research. We will then present an individual analysis of each TCCD case study. Each case study will be described in detail, highlighting the unique aspects and outcomes of the co-design process in diverse cultural contexts. After presenting these individual analyses, we will conduct an integrated analysis to identify common themes, patterns, and insights that emerge across the different TCCD case studies.

Subsequently, we will integrate the survey results for each pilot project. This analysis will focus on understanding the broader implications and effectiveness of the co-design process across various pilot implementations, providing a comparative perspective. Next, the content analysis results from the internal evaluation sessions will be discussed to offer a deeper understanding of the internal dynamics and reflections on the co-design process, shedding light on the participant's experiences and the overall effectiveness of the approach.

Finally, we will conclude with the results of the cross-TCCD session. This session involved a group reflection of all TCCDs together to identify the main strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities of the TCCD co-design process through participants' experiences, and based on this, develop a set of recommendations for the TCCD co-evaluation process to update the modular evaluation plan.

4.1. Pre-evaluation survey on the TCCD co-design process

PHOENIX aims to employ a codesign approach at all levels of the project. Part of this respects the design and implementation of a TCCD process that aims to ensure pilot co-creation and co-implementation process, multi-actor participation, creation of ownership over the process, and promotion of social innovation. Considering TCCD's ambition and novelty, it was essential to evaluate it to ensure the social-cultural diversity and the adequacy of the TCCD to the specificities of the pilots' contexts since it affects the co-creation and co-implementation success of pilots.

Considering this, the Paris meeting (1st to 3rd March 2023) included codesign moments to assist PHOENIX in updating its implementation plans. As this was the initial codesign moment, it is crucial to comprehend the project partners' principal motivations and expectations for integrating this process into future activities. Therefore, a pre-evaluation survey on the TCCD co-design process was shared with those who were present in this meeting, and a total of 21^{3,4} answers were collected, which will be helpful to:

- Conduct the TCCD pre-evaluation;
- To know partners' motivations, expectations, doubts and concerns;
- To understand pilots' TCCD profiles;
- To update the TCCD evaluation plan.

These initial findings are organized into four parts. The first part relates to the partners' involvement, motivations, and expectations with the TCCD. The second part covers the planning of the TCCD, while the third part deals with the composition of the TCCD. The fourth part focuses on the TCCD's expected impact, evaluation indicators, and instruments. At the end of the report, a summary of the main conclusions is provided, along with an expected profile of the TCCD by partner.

4.1.1. TCCD involvement, motivations and expectations

Table 4 shows the respondents' institutions, with those from the University of Szeged and Università di Firenze being the most frequent participants in the survey. Out of the 21 survey respondents, 15⁵ (71.4%) reported being involved in the design or implementation of the TCCD.

Table 5 - Respondents institutions

| Partners Institutions | N | Involved in the design or implementation of the TCDD? |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| University of Szeged | 3 | Yes |
| Università di Firenze | 3 | Yes |
| Res publica | 2 | Yes |
| University of Groningen | 2 | No |
| The Good Lobby | 1 | No |
| CES | 1 | Yes |

³ Only one consortium partner present at the meeting has not responded, but does not manage a TCCD/pilot.

⁴ It is worth noting that some partners from the same institutions and/or territories have answered the survey. Therefore, in some cases, there are different answers for the same question since some partners have different viewpoints on the same issue or may be referring to the pilots that they are responsible for.

⁵ The analysis presented in this report refers only to the 15 participants involved in the TCCD design and implementation.

| | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| OneSource | 1 | No |
| CSIC/IPP | 1 | No |
| Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | 1 | Yes |
| Szeged Mayor's Office | 1 | Yes |
| Municipality of Tavira | 1 | Yes |
| e-Governance Academy | 1 | Yes |
| University of Iceland | 1 | Yes |
| OFICINA | 1 | Yes |
| CNRS | 1 | No |
| Total | 21 | 15 |

As the TCCD evaluation was designed to be anchored in a self-evaluation approach, it is essential first to consider ***what mainly motivates the partners to integrate the TCCD*** (Table 6) and ***what they expect the TCCD will be able to achieve*** (Table 7) for being a part of this process.

Table 6 – Motivations expressed by partners concerning their participation in TCCD design and implementation

| Motivations | Frequency | Examples |
|--|------------------|--|
| Collective ownership over the process – bottom-up approach | 6 | <i>“the possibility to co-design the participatory process itself”</i> (Università di Firenze) |
| Novelty | 4 | <i>“What motivates us most is the novelty of it because it is a new area for us. I am curious to see what you can get out of it.”</i> (Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency) |
| Achieve more participation and involvement | 2 | <i>“Achieve more participation and involvement from stakeholders and interested parties”</i> (Municipality of Tavira) |
| Plurality, diversity and validity of the process | 2 | <i>“The fact that they can differentiate the actors and increase the diversity of perspectives in validating a methodology”</i> (CES) |

Four main motivations were identified among the partners who participated in the survey. The first, mostly mentioned, is that TCCD enhances collective ownership over the participatory and deliberative process through a bottom-up approach to promote top-down decision-making. The second, also frequently mentioned, is the novelty of the process and the curiosity about what it will bring to territories and people. It presents a challenge for those engaged in traditional participation models. Although less frequently mentioned, two other important motivations are the need to achieve greater participation and involvement from stakeholders and interested partners, and the expectation of

incorporating a plurality of actors and diversity of perspectives into the TCCD process. These aspects are anticipated to enrich the process and validate the innovative TCCD methodology.

Table 7 - Expectations expressed by partners concerning their participation in TCCD design and implementation

| Expectations | Frequency | Examples |
|---|------------------|---|
| Enrich participation | 7 | <i>“A working routine useful to enrich the participant-driven perspective of the process”</i> (CES) |
| Improving communication of citizens' needs to the responsible authorities | 4 | <i>“It will encourage local authorities and stakeholders to hear the needs of citizens in a process, to build common sense ideas and solutions for issues such as mobilisation, inclusion... Above all, co-design can effectively prepare the authorities' commitments to consider the proposals coming from the processes).”</i> (Res publica) |
| Keep the link between European Green Deal topics and participation | 2 | <i>“We are experts in engagement methods, we are not experts on environmental issues nor food sustainability. On the one hand the TCCD should bring this content to the pilot, at the same time its composition should support the elaboration of really innovative participatory model for a pilot”</i> (eGA) |
| Ambivalence | 1 | <i>“We do not have high expectations at the moment, but we are confident that the initiative will be successful and can form the basis for future dialogues and developments.”</i> (Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency) |

Regarding partners' expectations, two main dimensions stand out, which are linked to the previously mentioned motivations. Firstly, there is an expectation to enrich the participation process due to its novelty. Secondly, there is a desire to improve the communication of citizens' needs in the decisions taken by the responsible authorities, which is related to ownership over the participation process. The importance of TCCD was also highlighted as a means to strengthen the link between the European Green Deal topics and participation in the pilot. However, one partner expressed some ambivalence about the process, potentially due to its complexity and the amount of information provided during the Paris meeting.

4.1.2. TCCD Planning

According to the TCCD guidelines, three scenarios were devised to identify the typology of governance after implementing the TCCD to shape the specific local conditions of each pilot territory. These scenarios are (i) inclusion, where the governance of the pilot's process is ensured by a TCCD that includes citizens and stakeholders, along with the local partner providing the framework of the TCCD; (ii) collaboration, where the governance of the process is guaranteed and organized by the leading institution, seeking advice from the TCCD (with citizens and stakeholders) for design. Again, the local partner provides the TCCD framework; (iii) awareness, where the governance of the process is ensured and organized by the pilot partner of PHOENIX. During the process, the local partner tried to generate growing interest in including stakeholders and citizens. The local partner helps observe and suggest but does not impose the presence of citizens and stakeholders in the co-design. In the best situation, this scenario can evolve into a collaboration scenario during the implementation of the process. Table 8 presents the ***TCCD scenarios that partners have identified will be reflected in their TCCD.***

Table 8 – TCCD scenarios identified by the partners

| Country/Pilot | Partner | TCCD Scenario | | | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------|------------|------------|-----------------|
| | | Collaboration | Inclusion | Awareness | Not decided yet |
| France ⁶ | Res publica | | | | |
| Hungary ⁷ | University of Szeged | | | | |
| | Szeged Mayor's Office | | | | |
| | Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | | | | |
| Portugal ⁸ | OFICINA | | | | |
| | Municipality of Tavira | | | | |
| Iceland ⁹ | University of Iceland | | | | |
| Estonia ¹⁰ | eGA | | | | |
| Italy ¹¹ | Università di Firenze | | | | |
| Gata-Malcata ¹² | CES | | | | |
| Total (%) | | 40% | 20% | 20% | 20% |

⁶ 2 pilots: National and local.

⁷ 2 pilots: Regional and local.

⁸ 2 pilots: local.

⁹ 1 pilot: national.

¹⁰ 1 pilot: local.

¹¹ 2 pilots: regional and local.

¹² 1 cross-border pilot: regional.

Two main conclusions can be drawn from this preliminary data. First, there are instances where country institutions have differing views on how the TCCD will operate, as is the case in Hungary and France. However, to fully understand this information, knowing which institution is responsible for each pilot would be helpful. Second, the most likely scenario that will be reflected in their TCCD is Collaboration (n=5). However, decisions have not yet been made in France, Hungary, and Italy. Once again, this could be related to different TCCDs in the same territory managed by the same partners.

Regarding the **start of TCCD activities** (as shown in Table 9), 6 partners stated that they are set to begin after July 2023. As for the expected number of meetings, the minimum is three (n=4), and the maximum is 6 (n=3), with an average of four.

Table 9 – TCCD activity start and number of meetings expected

| | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------|--|-----|
| TCCD will start before July 2023 | Res publica | University of Szeged | OFICINA | eGA | UNIFI | |
| N° of meetings expected | 6 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 6 | |
| TCCD will start after July 2023 | University of Iceland | Municipality of Tavira | Szeged Mayor's Office | UNIFI | Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | CES |
| N° of meetings expected | 3 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 3 |

4.1.3. TCCD Composition

The ideal composition for each TCCD should follow these guidelines: each TCCD should have approximately 15 members to ensure gender balance and at least 30% representation of vulnerable groups¹³, distributed as follows:

¹³ The identification of vulnerable groups should be carried out by local partners, considering the specific sociocultural characteristics of each context. This ensures that the composition of each TCCD is inclusive, with approximately 15 members, a gender balance, and at least 30% representation of these vulnerable groups.

- 1/3 representatives of territorial authorities, including the foremost administrative institution (reference scenario)
- 1/3 citizens with different profiles
- 1/3 stakeholders, including public organizations, trade unions, NGOs, economic groups, social movements, and practitioners.

However, due to the complexity and diversity of the pilots involved, it is more important to achieve a correct territorial representation rather than an ideal number. Therefore, variations are allowed, and the **partners expressed their expectations regarding the composition of the TCCD** (Table 10).

Table 10 – TCCD composition according to the partners

| Country/Pilot | Partner | TCCD Scenario | |
|----------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | Phoenix plan: 5 elected representatives/civil servants, 5 CSOs/stakeholders, and 5 citizens | We cannot follow the Phoenix plan |
| France ¹⁴ | Res publica | | |
| Hungary ¹⁵ | University of Szeged | | |
| | Szeged Mayor's Office | | |
| | Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | | |
| Portugal ¹⁶ | OFICINA | | |
| | Municipality of Tavira | | |
| Iceland ¹⁷ | University of Iceland | | |
| Estonia ¹⁸ | eGA | | |
| Italy ¹⁹ | Università di Firenze | | |
| Gata-Malcata ²⁰ | CES | | |

¹⁴ 2 pilots: National and local.

¹⁵ 2 pilots: Regional and local.

¹⁶ 2 pilots: local.

¹⁷ 1 pilot: national.

¹⁸ 1 pilot: local.

¹⁹ 2 pilots: regional and local.

²⁰ 1 cross-border pilot: regional.

At first glance, the results reveal that some partners (n=6) expect not to be able to follow the ideal Phoenix plan in some TCCDs. However, their justifications help to clarify:

- For example, Res Publica and OFICINA have emphasized the need for flexibility and noted that they intend to follow the plan in an approximate manner. This is contrast with the Rouen pilot, which will have 30 people, but they will be distributed according to the ideal proportion – 1/3 citizens, 1/3 local authorities, and 1/3 stakeholders;
- Concerning Szeged and eGA, the question relies on the difficulty of keeping the same members throughout the entire process or even dealing with refusals since this is voluntary work;
- Università di Firenze is concerned that a similar commission is already active, so they will need to adapt to its composition;
- The University of Iceland will need to adapt to a national composition that correctly represents the population;
- CES will need to be flexible since Gata-Malcata is a cross-border pilot with high complexity.

Considering this preliminary information, flexibility is already considered in the guidelines. Therefore, the partners who revealed this need can be considered aligned with the ideal Phoenix TCCD format. Another issue is related to the fact that being part of the TCCD is voluntary and unpaid work, which appears to be a barrier to keeping their members motivated and engaged throughout the entire process. As a result, a strategy could be designed to mitigate this risk.

Since the Phoenix project deals with the ecological transition – which considers the need to envision a sustainable, inclusive, and fair future for all – and environmental issues, it is vital ***to know the partners' opinion on including a representative of future generations and a representative of nature (non-human) in the TCCD.*** Table 11 presents the results concerning their opinion to include a representative of future generations in the TCCD.

Table 11 – Partners perception regarding the inclusion of a representative of future generations in the TCCD

| Include a representative of future generations in the TCCD. ²¹ | | |
|---|--|--------------|
| Agree, and we will include | I agree, but we won't be able to include | I don't know |
| | | |

²¹ The University of Iceland and eGA both disagree in the survey, but in their justifications, they have clarified that in the case of University of Iceland they will try to find someone, while eGA already has this inclusion planned.

| | | he/she/they in our TCCD | he/she/they in our TCCD | |
|-----------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Partners | Res publica | | | |
| | University of Szeged | | | |
| | OFICINA | | | |
| | University of Iceland | | | |
| | eGA | | | |
| | Municipality of Tavira | | | |
| | Szeged Mayor's Office | | | |
| | Università di Firenze | | | |
| | Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | | | |
| | CES | | | |

These results revealed that, in general, partners are open to including a representative of future generations in the TCCD. Only two want to include a representative but do not know how. It would be essential to assist in finding a representative who can be included in the TCCD since there are still some uncertainties.

Regarding including a representative of nature (non-human) in the TCCD, the answers are somewhat different from those of a representative of future generations (Table 12).

Table 12 - Partners perception regarding the inclusion of a representative of nature (non-human) in the TCCD

| | | Include a representative of nature (non-human) in the TCCD | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---|-----------------|---------------------|
| | | I agree, and we will include he/she/they in our TCCD | I agree, but we won't be able to include he/she/they in our TCCD | Disagree | I don't know |
| Partners | Res publica | | | | |
| | University of Szeged | | | | |
| | OFICINA | | | | |
| | University of Iceland²² | | | | |
| | eGA | | | | |
| | Municipality of Tavira | | | | |
| | Szeged Mayor's Office | | | | |
| | Università di Firenze | | | | |

²² The University of Iceland disagreed in the survey but justifies that an environmental NGO will be included in the TCCD to represent nature (non-human).

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | Central Regional Agency | Transdanubian Innovation | | | | |
| | CES | | | | | |

Although 6 partners are willing to include a representative of nature in their TCCDs, the fact is that 2 do not know how to do it - the University of Szeged and Università di Firenze. Additionally, 5 partners do not have an opinion regarding this possibility, they are Res publica, University of Szeged, eGA, Municipality of Tavira and Szeged Mayor's Office. This highlights an opportunity to support and guide partners who are experiencing challenges or uncertainties regarding the integration of a representative of nature. Addressing this issue is particularly important for ensuring the project's success and safeguarding the interests of future generations.

For instance, CES explained their choice to "Disagree" as an intentional "provocation" to spark discussions on how to incorporate a representative of nature into TCCDs. While such dialogue is valuable, it is equally critical to maintain focus on the innovative aspects of TCCDs, which aim to foster inclusivity and engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including future generations and nature, in the decision-making process.

4.1.4. TCCD impacts, evaluation indicators and instruments

Identifying partners' perceptions and assessing ***the extent of TCCD's impact on future activities*** provides helpful information that should be combined with the motivations and expectations to be part of this innovation process (Figure 2).

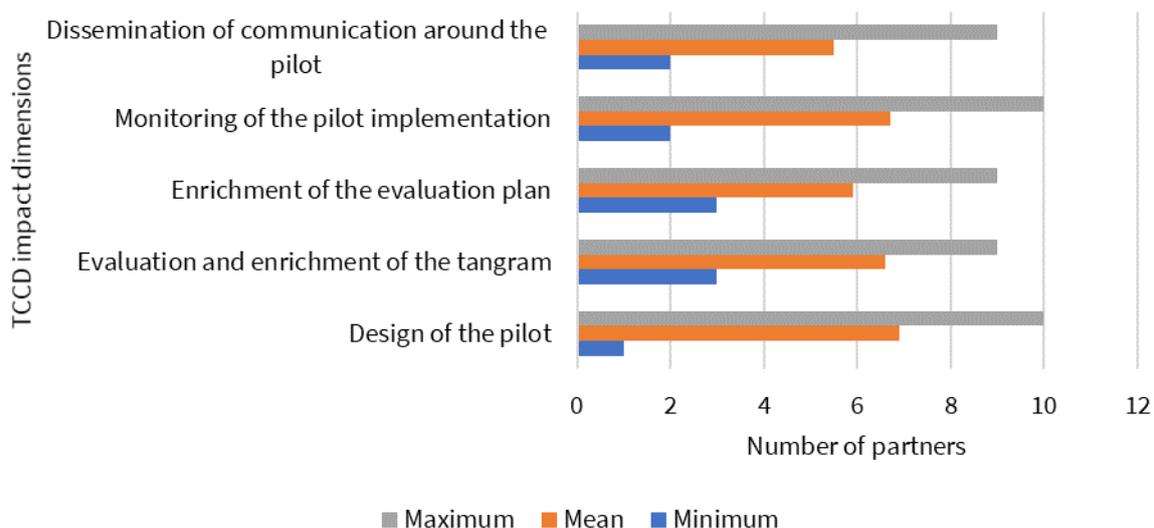


Figure 2 - Partners perception of the impacts of TCCD activities

The data presented in the figure reveals, based on the mean, that partners believe that being a part of TCCD will have less of an impact on the dissemination of communication around the pilot (Mean = 5.5; Std =2.1) and the enrichment of the evaluation plan (Mean = 5.9; Std =1.7). Conversely, TCCD will significantly impact the pilot's design (Mean = 6.86; Std =2.6) and the monitoring of the pilot implementation (Mean = 6.71; Std =2.3). However, when looking at the minimums and standard deviation and considering the reduced number of answers (n=15), interpreting the data based only on the mean can result in bias. Designing the pilot, which has the highest mean, has the highest standard deviation and received the lowest minimum score (1). On the other hand, the dimensions with the lowest standard deviation were those with the highest minimum values (3) – evaluation and enrichment of the tangram and enrichment of the evaluation plan – suggesting that there is consensus among partners concerning these dimensions.

The introduction states that the TCCD evaluation is a co-design process that values partners' views. Therefore, this survey also aimed to understand the partners' perceptions regarding the ***adequacy level of a set of indicators proposed to conduct the TCCD evaluation*** (Figure 3).

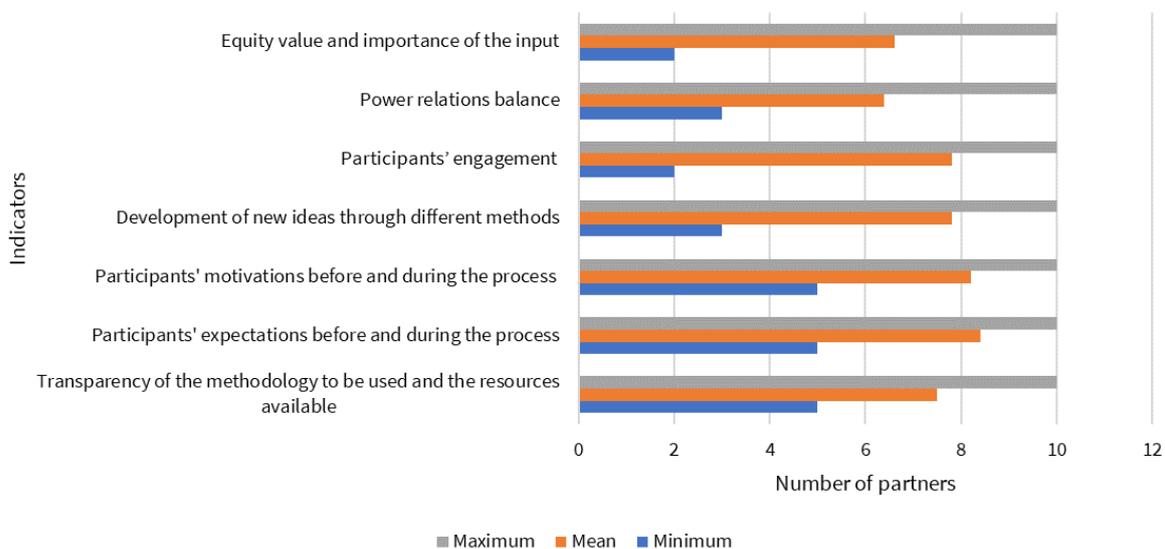


Figure 3 – Partners perception of the adequacy of TCCD evaluation indicators

Data on partners' perceptions of the adequacy of the indicators used to evaluate the TCCD co-design process reveal a clear consensus. **The indicators considered most appropriate were those related to participants' expectations (Mean = 8.4; Std = 1.4) and motivations (Mean = 8.2; Std = 1.8). Conversely, indicators related to power relations balance and the equity value and importance of the input were viewed as less suitable by the partners.**

These preliminary results show that partners recognized the importance of valuing TCCD participants' expectations and motivations as part of a participatory evaluation process. This information will help design the evaluation system. However, some partners perceive the evaluation of power relations balance and equity in the process, as well as the input provided by participants, to be less appropriate. Not disregarding the partners' perceptions, it is worth noting that the essence of TCCD is based on plurality, diversity, and co-shared responsibilities. It aims to engage more people, especially those often marginalised and facing barriers to participating in deliberative processes. Therefore, evaluating how participants experience the process and identifying any barriers may help identify the main strengths and weaknesses, ultimately improving the TCCD.

Another critical dimension of the TCCD evaluation refers to the research instruments that will be used. TCCD will be evaluated with a combination of a self-evaluation meeting – internal and cross-pilots (1), a survey of the participants (2), a case study (3), and impact stories (4). Partners were asked whether they were willing to include additional research instruments, and none expressed an intention to do so at this stage. However, it is important to address the partners' concerns and questions regarding the research instruments (Table 13).

Table 13 – Partners' concerns and /or doubts regarding the research instruments to be used to evaluate TCCDs

| Country | Partner | Concerns/doubts |
|----------------|--|---|
| France | Res publica | “This is already a lot.” |
| Hungary | Szeged Mayor’s Office | “Not decided yet” |
| | Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency | “Not decided yet” |
| Portugal | OFICINA | “No, we don't think we can do all that. We don't understand the relevance of doing a case study and why Participedia is the platform chosen amongst many others. We believe a case study can be written by the evaluators through responses of the forms, so that we can employ our time better.” |
| Estonia | eGA | “Who is addressed by self-evaluation meeting? TCCD or eGA, or Pilot city?” |

Out of the 15 partners who responded to the survey and who are involved in the TCCD design and implementation, only 4 expressed concerns or doubts. Among these, 2 have not yet decided whether they would like to expand the evaluation of TCCD. Another 2 considers

the evaluation proposal too comprehensive or beyond its implementation capacity. Finally, 1 partner has expressed doubts about expanding the evaluation of the TCCD by focusing on who or what is targeted in the evaluation.

4.1.5. Final remarks

Based on this TCCD evaluation pre-survey application, some final remarks can be drawn:

- Partners are interested in experiencing the novelty of the TCCD process as collective ownership, with the expectation of enriching participation and improving communication on citizens' needs and policy design;
- There are some indecisions regarding TCCD typologies, but *collaboration* seems to be the most expected typology;
- Most TCCD initiatives will start after July 2023;
- TCCD composition needs to be flexible in order to combine the Phoenix ideal plan with the sociocultural characteristics of the territory;
- Future generations will be represented in most of the TCCDs;
- Nature representation needs to be worked on with TCCD partners, as there are some doubts about how to include it and which possible actors may be called to integrate it:
- There is a consensus among partners on the possible impacts of TCCD in enriching the evaluation plan and the tangram;
- Participation expectations and motivations are considered the most adequate indicators to evaluate TCCD;
- The majority of partners do not express any doubts or concerns about adopting the minimum evaluation menu;
- At this, partners have not indicated any intention to expand the research instruments for evaluation beyond the minimum required;
- 2 out of 15 partners consider the evaluation proposal to be too comprehensive or beyond their capacity to implement;
- 1 out of 15 partners doubts who or what is targeted in the TCCD evaluation.

4.2. TCCDs case study description

This section presents the case study descriptions crafted by local partners responsible for implementing each TCCD. We have maintained a faithful presentation of their descriptions because these partners were directly involved in the process and are best acquainted with

the unfolding dynamics. After the case study presentations, a reflexive and integrated analysis is conducted, highlighting the various nuances and mosaics of processes involved.

4.2.1. CNDP (France)

PART 1 IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

1. TCCD IDENTIFICATION – PILOT NAME AND REGION:

This pilot scope is the Metropolitan France. It is a public debate on maritime planning organised by the *Commission nationale du débat public* (CNDP), an independent institution. The goal is to discuss the future of the sea, the coastline, marine biodiversity or offshore wind energy.

This national debate will take place on the maritime fronts of Metropolitan France:

- Normandie – Hauts-de-France
- Bretagne – Pays de la Loire
- Nouvelle-Aquitaine
- Méditerranée

More information on this website is available: <https://www.debatpublic.fr/la-mer-en-debat>

For our TCCD, the scope is on the coastline of Normandie – Hauts-de-France. It brings together people who are less familiar with the public debate procedure. The group is defining one or more participatory processes they want to set up in their territories to talk about the public debate.

2. NAME OF PARTNER IN CHARGE OF THE TCCD:

Res publica as a local partner:

- Sophie Guillain
- Irene Rosetti
- Guillaume Guesnon

CNDP as local administration:

- Carmen Bouley de Santiago
- Pierre Honoré

Both are part of the *Commission particulière du Débat public* (CPDP) for the Normandie – Hauts-de-France coastline within CNDP.

3. GREEN DEAL POLICY AREA

This public debate covers many green deal policy areas like energy (with offshore wind farms), industry, and biodiversity. Its objective is to accelerate the shift to sustainability and thus meet the EU's Climate ambitions.

4. TYPE OF DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION

The democratic innovation lies, on the one hand, in the TCCD itself, which brings together people who are less familiar with politics. For the first meeting, we had to adapt our approach to the public debate subjects and our ways of discussing them.

On the other hand, during the first weekend, we asked the TCCD to work on defining one or more participatory processes in their territories as part of the public debate. They have to set up their process up to the end of public debate (24th of April 2024). They will be mainly in self-management.

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

In the TCCD, there were 23 people from the Normandie, Hauts-de-France, and Ile-de-France regions. There were employees, volunteers, or beneficiaries from social structures. The group parity was almost perfect, with a representation from all generations (one minor). We also had one homeless migrant. These social structures will reach people with various profiles in their territories, but generally poor people.

6. OVERVIEW

A summary of the initiative:

- September – November 2023:
 - We are contacting social structures like associations and social centres to ask them if they want to participate in the initiative. We have had many rejections because the first meeting date was too short notice. Ideally, we would like an employee with one or two beneficiaries per structure.
 - Preparing the first weekend by adapting the program for this kind of public
- 2-3 December 2023: First meeting of the TCCD in Paris
 - Getting to know each other.
 - Understanding the public debate, the CNDP and Phoenix.

- Understanding the issues at stake in the debate.
- They are designing one or more participatory processes in their territory.
- December 2023: resuming of the first meeting. Resuming the first meeting (as in, continuing/going back to OR summarizing the first meeting, as in reviewing and gathering the important things discussed in the meeting)
- January – April 2024: Set up the participatory process before the end of the debate (26th of April). From Res publica (Phoenix) and the CNDP, the TCCD will receive the following support:
 - Online meetings every fortnight between CNDP and Res publica with the TCCD to see progress, help and evaluate.
 - 10th of February in Amiens to see progress, help and evaluate.
 - Setting up a public debate pack: computer graphics, communication documents, maps, and animation tools.

7. CONTEXT

The French government wishes to revise the façade strategic documents (documents stratégiques de façade, DSF).

These documents must identify, among others, a map of priority for maritime and land areas for installing offshore renewable energy production facilities and their connection to the public electricity transmission network for each coastline. As these projects will impact the environment, the CNDP decided to hold a public debate (from October 2023 to April 2024) on each coastline.

PART 2: THE PROCESS

8. METHODS

For the TCCD, we have only had one weekend-long meeting from the 2nd to the 3rd of December 2023, where the participants had to build one or more participatory processes in their territories. We will have another face-to-face meeting in Amiens in the Hauts-de-France on 10 February 2024 to talk about setting up these processes.

In addition, from January to 26th April 2024 (=the end of the public debate), we will hold online meetings every fortnight to support them. The different processes envisaged by the members of the TCCD in their territories (on the date in December) can be found below:

- The social structure in Calais, Hauts-de-France:
 - Speakers at the public debate in the street and front of schools

- Citizens' breakfasts: presentation of the public debate and workshop on the sea
 - The social structure in Dieppe, Normandie:
 - Neighbourhood party on the theme of the sea
 - Organisation of a film debate
 - The social structure of Dunkerque, Hauts-de-France:
 - "Drôle de fête" a local party with a workshop and local artists to present the public debate.
 - The social structure of Le Havre, Normandie:
 - Informative and participative meetings for residents
 - Exhibition on the sea
 - The social structure of Saint-Quentin, Hauts-de-France:
 - Including themes specific to the debate in the young people's summer trip to the sea
 - Activities in the social centre linked to the public debate
 - The social structure of Paris, Ile-de-France:
 - Organisation of a film debate
 - The organisation of conferences on the sea
-

PART 3 IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. OUTCOMES

Our TCCD's first weekend was a success for Res publica and the CNDP. The participants really enjoyed the weekend, and we created a good group dynamic. They were particularly interested in coming to share their activities and listening to other experiences. They also really enjoyed the workshops they participated in during the weekend, which they would like to replicate in their structures.

The CNDP, which is a big institution that follows sometimes rigid participatory procedures, has looked closely at this experiment, and may draw inspiration from it for future public debates.

10. ANALYSIS

The strengths of the initiative:

- Very good diversity of the territories engaged in the public debate, gender, and age
- Very good dynamic during the weekend

- Good outcomes for the participatory processes
- Good comprehension of the issues at stake, Phoenix and CNDP

The weaknesses of the initiative:

- Given the uncertainties surrounding the public debate, we contacted the social structures too late, which led to many rejections.
- This type of initiative is expensive because it is aimed at poor people.

The lessons learned of the initiative:

- More time is needed to recruit this kind of people and explain them the debate's subjects.
- To recruit this type of audience, it is also necessary to provide for meals, hotel, and transportation expenses, as well as compensation.





Figure 4 – Illustration of some of the activities and dynamics of CNDP TCCD

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Guillaume Guesnon, Res publica, 2nd January 2024, Arcueil, Ile-de-France.

4.2.2. Rouen Métropole (France)

PART 1 IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

1. TCCD IDENTIFICATION – PILOT NAME AND REGION

This TCCD scope is the territory of Rouen Métropole. The pilot is the creation of the community of citizen conventions to strengthen the links between municipal and metropolitan levels and reinforce the ecological transition in the territory.

The role of the TCCD was to start drawing up the roadmap for the community of citizen conventions: group composition, objectives, and frequency of meetings. The TCCD has decided that the creation of this community of citizen conventions will be created in the end of January/the beginning of February 2024.

2. NAME OF PARTNER IN CHARGE OF THE TCCD:

Res publica as local partner:

- Sophie Guillain
- Irene Rosetti
- Guillaume Guesnon

Rouen Métropole as local administration:

- Isadora Guerra
- Agnès Grandoux

Both are in charge of citizen participation at Rouen Métropole

3. GREEN DEAL POLICY AREA

This community of citizen conventions will define its programme and actions but, among the objectives already defined by the members of the TCCD, it must link the local and metropolitan levels to accelerate the ecological transition.

To push the community of citizen conventions into action, the TCCD proposed that they work on composting. This action will enable participants to work together on a concrete subject while also meeting the objective of linking up different scales.

4. TYPE OF DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION

The community of citizen conventions brings together citizens (as a priority and in greater numbers) from the metropolitan citizen assembly and from the local conventions/citizen group on transition, elected representatives and municipal/metropolitan agents who support these conventions/citizen groups, on a voluntary basis.

The community of citizen conventions will be mainly self-managed.

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

For the TCCD:

- 1st meeting:
 - 17 participants, 13 women and 4 men.
 - All French
 - No information about the age or education
- 2nd meeting:
 - 12 participants, 8 women and 4 men.

- 5 metropolitan agents (including 2 from local administration), 4 from Sustainable Development Council (*Conseil du développement durable*), 1 citizen, 1 municipal agent and 1 elected representative.
- All French
- No information about the age or education
- 3rd meeting:
 - 10 participants, 6 women and 4 men
 - 2 metropolitan agents, 3 Sustainable Development Council, 2 other citizens, 1 citizen from the metropolitan citizen assembly and 1 elected representative
 - All French
 - No information about the age or education

For the community of citizen conventions, the objective is to have in majority citizens from the metropolitan convention and local conventions, as well as elected representatives and municipal/metropolitan agents who will support these conventions. This community of citizen conventions will decide if it will apply a quota of citizens compared to elected representatives and municipal/metropolitan agents.

6. OVERVIEW

It is the community of citizen conventions which will define its programme and how it will work during its first meetings. Nevertheless, the TCCD defined some objectives:

- Co-constructing a work programme
- Working together on the subjects of the programme
- Giving the local conventions the task of reflecting on issues that need to be addressed at local level but also listen to the work/initiatives of the local conventions that may be useful at metropolitan level
- Acting together on concrete actions at all levels (e.g composting)
- Sharing participative methods as what works well to motivate citizens over the long term. Also, using and applying the metropolitan participation charter
- Training, calling on and sharing expertise on the ecological transition.

A call for volunteers will be organised to form the community of citizen communities. For this first meeting, after explaining the goals and sharing information about ecological transition and participative processes, the participants will work on one concrete example to motivate them: composting.

7. CONTEXT

Rouen Métropole will renew its territorial plan including environmental policies. A participatory process on this territorial plan has launched between October 2023 and June 2024 including a metropolitan citizen assembly.

The territorial project aims to establish how to reconcile the urgency of climate change with the preparation of a fairer future for all. The planning documents that will be reworked (SCOT-AEC and PLUi) will concern not only urban planning rules but also air, climate and energy planning for 2050.

Rouen Métropole will translate the territorial plan into an action plan with the help of the community of citizen conventions.

PART 2 THE PROCESS

8. METHODS

We have done 3 meetings for the TCCD:

- 1st meeting: 01/06/2023
 - Information about Phoenix, TCCD, metropolitan and local conventions
 - Round table of the participants: people introduce themselves and feedback on local conventions
 - Discussions in subgroups on what the objectives for the community of conventions are and what the co-design for them is
 - Preparation of the next meeting together
- 2nd meeting: 05/09/2023
 - Summary of the last meeting and reactions
 - Time for sub-group work on objectives for the community of conventions
 - Discussions together on the sub-group works and on the next steps
- 3rd meeting: 28/11/2023
 - Proposition of Rouen Métropole on the community of citizen conventions: composition, goals... and reactions of participants
 - Sub-group time on the community of citizen conventions
 - Phoenix evaluation
 - Call for volunteers for the community of citizen conventions
- 4th meeting > creation of the community of citizen conventions at the end of January or at the beginning of February 2024.

PART 3 IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. OUTCOMES

In the beginning, the Rouen Métropole didn't know what they wanted to do and how to create connections with the different levels. But quickly, and especially after the first TCCD meeting, they had a much clearer vision.

For the participants, they didn't really know where they were going, they had to understand the purpose of why they were there, but they managed to define a goal / project that suited everybody.

According to the participants, it was a very rewarding experience. Before the TCCD meetings, some participants wondered whether they had been right to get involved at a local level and whether their actions would have any influence. For many of them, the TCCD and the project of the community of Conventions have complemented their local involvement.

The participants were satisfied with this experience and were particularly interested in coming to share their approaches and listening to other experiences. For them, the co-design process should be repeated in the future.

Main challenges:

- Diversity of the TCCD: it was complicated to mobilise citizens from local conventions and elected people. Also, we didn't have enough young people and there was a lack of men, although we managed to have more for the last meeting (23% for the first and 40% for the last).
- TCCD's participants: between the 1st meeting and the last one, we lost a lot of participants (17 vs 10 participants).
- Responsibility for pilot administration: local administration must take its place in the definition of its new project.

10. ANALYSIS

The co-design process seems to have been a success for everyone. In 3 meetings, we were able to create an innovative process that will be useful for Rouen Métropole in implementing concrete policies in favour of the environment.

And one of the reasons for this success was that we held lengthy discussions with Rouen Métropole to define a pilot that would be useful to them, which ensured we had their support throughout the co-design process.

The weaknesses of this process have already been mentioned (see 9.).

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

Guillaume Guesnon, Res publica, 2nd January 2024, Arcueil, Ile-de-France.

4.2.3. Bologna (Italy)

PART 1

1. BOLOGNA

2. Fondazione Innovazione Urbana and Università di Firenze

3. Climate mission

4. Mixed

The Tangram has now been discussed internally with Fondazione Innovazione Urbana (FIU) and they will operatively manage the whole process. The whole Bologna's tangram proposes a mix of activities that span from workshops, transects, games and therefore proposes a method that does not fall entirely within one or the other of the four methodologies.

5. [PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY: Citizens, Practitioners (urban planners, architects, environmental experts. among others), Decision-makers, Activists, Social/environmental movements, NGOs, Business people, socio-environmental vulnerable groups, nature (non-humans) representatives, representatives of future generations, representatives of minorities and migrants, representatives of women, scientific community members, other - please specify]

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

6. [OVERVIEW]

The participatory process aims to anticipate and explore the potential roles and contributions of the Neighbourhood Houses (referred to as CdQ, Case di Quartiere) in achieving the goals of the Bologna Climate Mission. This involves direct collaboration with a select number of CdQs, likely six out of the 33 within the city boundaries, and the communities inhabiting them. The specific methods for this engagement have not been finalized but are currently under discussion. Nevertheless, you can make direct reference to the tangram in this context.

Ultimately, participants will be tasked with proposing viable services and products that can support the Bologna Climate Mission. Additionally, they will be required to identify and map the stakeholders who may contribute to these efforts.

7. [CONTEXT]

The context is characterized by a strong and dynamic participatory tradition. The municipality's participatory processes are designed and coordinated by Fondazione Innovazione Urbana (FIU <https://www.fondazioneinnovazioneurbana.it>), a private foundation funded by the Municipality itself with the University of Bologna (Alma Mater). Therefore, the interaction with local authorities was mediated by Fondazione Innovazione Urbana given that the president of the Foundation, is also the Municipality's delegated person on Neighborhoods and Civic Imagination, Neighborhood Houses project, policies for the third sector, participatory budget, social inquiry, and the relations with FIU. The main topic: Neighbourhood Houses (referred to as CdQ, Case di Quartiere) was chosen by her cabinet.

The Phoenix participatory process will intercept already existing processes: firstly, it falls under the long-term process coordinated by Fondazione Innovazione Urbana (FIU) that aims to rebrand the CdQs, sustaining the process of generational turnover and creating a network between them. They already worked collectively to define a common manifesto. Secondly, the pilot process must be understood as strongly intertwined with the many initiatives that the municipality of Bologna – again through by Fondazione Innovazione Urbana (FIU) – is carrying out under the umbrella of Bologna Climate Mission (towards climate neutrality in 2030). Thirdly, the citizens that participate in the TCCD have been selected (through a self-application process) between those who participated in the recent Citizen Assembly on Climate (a process that ended in mid-November). The effort to connect

different participatory processes within one umbrella (Phoenix process) is of clear interest in procedural and research terms.

In terms of social and political context, it can be said that the Municipality is facing some strong contestation, especially in relation to some infrastructural projects that are now under implementation. Those contestations are clearly related to the participatory processes that have just been named (in particular the Bologna Climate Mission) as well.

PART 2

THE PROCESS

8. [METHODS]

The methods have not been decided yet. But you can refer directly to the tangram that will be the starting point of discussion.

PART 3

IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. [OUTCOMES]

No information.

10. [ANALYSIS]

No information.

[You are welcome to include pictures or any other supporting information you think is relevant, considering the data protection regulations]

11. REFERENCES [OPTIONAL]

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

[Cassandra Fontana]

[Fondazione Innovazione Urbana]

[21/11/23, Bologna]

4.2.4. Iceland

PART 1

1. Iceland

2. University of Iceland

3. Land use and land restoration, specifically in the Highlands of Iceland

4. Game Platform

Game platform developed by the partner in collaboration with Citizens Foundation in addition to a citizen's assembly.

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

The Icelandic TCCD consists of seven members. Six of these members were nominated by the three municipalities (Bláskógarbyggð, Rangárbing ytra, and Þingeyjarsveit) participating in the first phase of the pilot. The seventh member is an official from the Prime Minister's office who has worked on public lands administration in the ministry.

The members nominated by the municipalities are three women and three men, all Icelandic and above 25 years of age. They include a teacher, two sheep farmers (one of whom also serves as an elected official on her municipality's government), one homemaker, an elected representative and a public official with a professional role in the municipal offices. The member nominated by the Prime Minister's office is a female Icelandic national over 25 years of age.

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

6. [OVERVIEW]

The goal of the TCCD was to create a proposal for a series of deliberative processes focusing on land use and land reclamation in the highlands of Iceland. The method utilized within the TCCD and supported and facilitated by the UoI team involved weekly online meetings. The outcome is a document created by the TCCD members outlining the social challenges of establishing a useful deliberative process on the issues addressed in this pilot. Furthermore, the recommendation of

the TCCD is to engage in trust building between the various groups within society who form opposing ideological poles and between the public and the government (local and national).

7. [CONTEXT]

The TCCD initiative operated within a polarized political and social context with deep rifts among various groups in Iceland. The general groups could be sorted into urban and rural, although in some ways, this is an oversimplification. The cause of the polarization can be linked to ideological differences but also to differences in values, personal histories, and identity. The issue of land use in the highlands has a particular relevance due to the historical use of the land for sheep grazing, although many other uses come into play, mainly energy production, recreation, conservation initiatives and tourism. An integral part of the status quo is a negative feedback loop in which discourse on the various interests in this area promotes division and undermines trust between opposing groups in society.

PART 2

THE PROCESS

8. [METHODS]

The method involved in the TCCD process was weekly meetings held online (using Zoom). During the first meetings, the UoI partners provided an introduction of the PHOENIX project and described the task of co-creation. Additionally, the UoI team shared information on deliberative processes, both theoretical and practical, through examples. The TANGRAM created for the Icelandic pilot was detailed for the group through a presentation. Beyond

this, the role of the UoI members was to facilitate the discussions and keep the group on track in its work.

In total, the TCCD met nine times. The product of the TCCD is a document outlining the project's goals along with the many challenges the group experienced in co-creating a recommendation for a deliberative process. Ultimately, the group did not recommend any process and warned against a citizen's assembly on the topic of the pilot.

The method applied in the first (regional) part of the pilot is a game platform called the Land Use Game, developed by the UoI team in cooperation with Citizen's Foundation. The game enables participants to choose their preferred land use types through a map interface of the three municipalities. The Land Use Game has been open to public participation since the autumn of 2023. During the TCCD meetings, it was not considered for further use by the group except within primary and high school settings as an educational tool. However, the TCCD did not recommend its use in the concluding document it produced.

PART 3

IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. [OUTCOMES]

It is difficult to ascertain whether there were any real-world results or impacts from the work of the TCCD at this point in time. The results are valuable for the UoI team, which now has a more in-depth understanding of the multiple challenges that exist within this issue in Iceland. The dynamics between the communities that live in areas near the Highlands or that are using the area for a variety of purposes and those who are 'outsiders' highlight deep levels of distrust. One of the reasons given by the group for their hesitation in selecting deliberative methods to address the issue of land use and land restoration in the Highlands was a lack of trust towards 'outsiders' and national level government officials and initiatives. Therefore, the main challenge was to focus the group on selecting an approach which would meet their needs without compromising the pilot's goals.

10. [ANALYSIS]

The TCCD initiative was a worthwhile exploration of the personal, professional, and social impacts of the Highland land-use issue on this group of people. The group is not representative of the communities of these municipalities (the group had no youth representatives nor representatives of foreign origin living in Iceland). The TCCD did however provide insight into the lived experiences of its members, all of whom have

relevant perspectives within this policy issue. The outcome of the TCCD work is not a proposal for a deliberative process or sequence of processes, however, a core issue – that of trust among groups – was prioritized by the TCCD. Processes which engage various groups in trust building and encourage positive dialogue among its members would therefore be a useful path going forward with the work of this pilot.

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

[Jón Ólafsson, Ben Hennig, Johannes Theodorus Welling, and Marissa Sigrún Pina]

[University of Iceland]

[01/03/2024, Reykjavík]

4.2.5. Tavira (Portugal)

PART 1 IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

1. Tavira

2. Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação

3. Farm to fork

4. Collaborative regulation

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

The initial composition of the TCCD was 16 people, 5 people linked to Tavira's Municipality and eleven citizens, which means they accepted to be part of the initiative. Concerning their age profiles, the youngest is 29 and the eldest 60, their distribution is the following:

- From 29 to 40 years old: 4

- From 41 to 45 years old: 3
- From 46 to 50 years old: 6
- From 51 to 60 years old: 3
- There are 10 women and 6 men

There is a decision maker from the Municipality, one department head, and 3 technicians. The majority are Portuguese (12) and 4 people are of other nationalities, 2 French, 1 German and 1 Australian. Among the professions or occupations of the citizens, there are 2 teachers, a regenerative agriculture practitioner and 2 representatives of NGO's (Al-Bio and Ecotopia Activa). All six parishes of the county were represented by at least one TCCD member.

6. OVERVIEW

Tavira's Edible Gardens is a project originated from a winning participatory budgeting proposal created by a group of citizens with the leadership of the local organic farmer and activist Angela Rosa, who dreamed of transforming public open spaces in gardens for citizens to care, cultivate and build a spirit of community. The overall objective of the project is to implement a network of Food Gardens at the county through a participatory process with the population of Tavira. Because the gardens are municipally owned, they cannot be "given" or explored by third parties without a local law that regulates the attribution of the gardens, the duties, and rights of all the stakeholders involved and many other details that need to be addressed. To implement the project, the first step was to build a municipal law (regulamento in Portuguese). Because the project came from PB, it was decided that this law should be done in collaboration with citizens. This intention was publicly announced in the beginning of September of 2023, and the decentralized sessions were carried out in all the parishes (6) open to all citizens to participate and provide their contributions to the local law. In all the sessions people were invited to participate in the TCCD, and a list of interested people was built. Based on the profiles available, the TCCD was built with the aim of having a wide range of interests and perspectives represented.

7. CONTEXT

The city of Tavira is the seat of a municipality with a great deal of geographical diversity, with an important coastline, beaches, islands, a transition zone between the coast and the mountains, known as the "barrocal", and the mountains themselves. There are huge territorial differences regarding rural areas in the mountains and those located near the coastline, and with the urban agglomerates. Tourism is a very important economic activity and all the connected sectors such as retail, catering, restaurants and accommodation, and

agriculture. Tavira is the community representing Portugal in the inscription of the Mediterranean Diet as a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, which was decided on December 4th of 2013 at the 8th Intergovernmental Conference held in Baku, Azerbaijan. It also includes part of the Ria Formosa Natural Park, an internationally classified and protected ecosystem made up of barrier islands and salt marshes, considered one of the most productive areas of the biosphere.

The municipality of Tavira has a history of citizen involvement in local environmental causes, as well as presenting land conflict related to solar energy production and intensive agriculture within the county. Tavira has some significant environmental movements, as well as a considerable community of foreign citizens, an additional point of interest in working on sustainability within the scope of testing democratic innovations in local territories to strengthen the European Green Deal through the PHOENIX Project.

Participatory Budgeting have been carried out in the municipality since 2019. In 2020/2021, the Edible Gardens Project was the second most voted in this edition of Tavira PB, making it eligible for implementation. With a budget of €33.500,00, it was approved because the most voted project did not exhaust the budget limit for that edition of PB. The proposal aims to make Tavira the "first municipality with edible gardens in the Algarve" and to "create a local, participatory, and transformative food system in the urban space, turning it into a place for living and food production by recovering, enhancing, and transforming public spaces that may currently be underutilized into spaces for community agricultural production."

Due to the pandemic and other constraints, the implementation is delayed. Due to budgetary and regulatory constraints, the Tavira Municipal Council identified the need to create a municipal law for the project. Since the beginning, the municipality has assumed a very open posture of interest in acquiring expertise on participatory processes and expressed desire to be closer to their citizens, to strengthen mutual trust.

PART 2 THE PROCESS

8. METHODS

Firstly, citizens have been engaged in participatory sessions at the six different parishes of the Tavira county. The sessions were 1:30h long in average and were composed of a presentation of the PHOENIX Project, presentations between the citizens, co-creation of

proposals for six different themes (user's rights, user's duties, City Hall's responsibilities, Garden's sustainability, Cultivation solutions, and Garden's attribution), conversation and prioritisation of proposals. These sessions were open to all citizens to participate, and all followed the same methodology, carefully selected to reach their aim: the collective construction of a local law to regulate the process of attribution of the gardens and their functioning and possible growth in the future.

The second stage of the process was to invite citizens who have been at the participatory meetings to integrate the Territorial Commission of Codesign (TCCD) to create a group to go through all proposals and reach consensus towards the drafting of the local law.

The first meeting of the TCCD was introductory, deepening their knowledge of this project in comparison with similar ones taking place in Tavira, and settled the way the members would work together, with everyone's agreement. The second meeting was interactive and focused on the presentation of proposals submitted in the previous participatory sessions and formulation of considerations to promote their inclusion in the draft. The third and fourth meetings were carried out to build consensus regarding the specific proposals for several sections that build up the Municipal Law regarding the Edible Gardens of Tavira. The fifth meeting was held by the municipal staff to share the final draft of the Law. Another meeting was set up for an evaluation activity among the participants in the TCCD. A final meeting to incorporate the contributions once the compulsory consultation has been completed is expected.

PART 3 IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. OUTCOMES

Considering that the implementation of the project “Edible Gardens of Tavira” started in September of 2023, it is too soon to talk about possible impacts. We need more time to have the local law approved and the process of attribution of the gardens finalized. At the moment, the feedback of the participants is quite positive, although some members didn't manage to participate in all sessions, and some have even given up being part of the process. It is understandable, because it is done on a voluntary basis, and sometimes it is difficult to juggle work duties and this kind of activity. Nevertheless, we have a group of engaged citizens, that believe in the process and are happy that a space to hear their opinions and co-decide on something so important for the county was created.

The first phase of the TCCD is completed, consensus was reached on all the aspects of the local law, even with sensitive topics such as water provision and usage and the responsibilities of the Municipality, for example.

The final draft was presented to the TCCD and an evaluation activity was conducted. There will be a time in the future for the compulsory public consultation, and a new meeting will be held to decide what to do with the contributions.

10. ANALYSIS

At this stage, the main problem is the difficulty to maintain the participation of all the TCCD members. We have started with 16 people and finished with an average of 10 people attending. The main weaknesses of these types of initiatives are probably the engagement of the citizens, especially if it requires many meetings during a long period of time (more than 3 meetings during more than 3 months). It has been discussed that compensating participants financially could solve the problem. Although this could make people more prone to participating, it could also affect their perception and make them feel there is an agenda to be complied with. . Nevertheless, both could be amalgamated, by having people participate on a voluntary basis, with the attribution of financial compensation as an element of surprise.

The participants at the evaluation session considered that that were few citizens, and that younger people and people from the more rural parishes were missing. The fact that 6 of the citizens withdrew from the process contributed to this, because they were the ones that were younger, from rural parishes and of foreign nationalities.

On the other hand, even when groups get smaller, if they are on a voluntary basis, it means those participants are really engaged in participating and genuinely interested in the project, in sharing their time, and providing their vision and knowledge to collectively build solutions for the territory.

Other conclusion that arrived from the evaluation session is that the scope is very narrow, co-creating a local law for the food gardens is something very specific, that doesn't allow discussion about broader issues, such as environmental issues, water scarcity, agriculture, and so on. That could have been the reason for the demobilization of some of the citizens. Nevertheless, they participated in 1 or 2 sessions and provided their views and contributions that were well received.

All participants were happy with the co-creation process and felt that this methodology should be applied in other projects and especially in elaborating other local laws.



**[REFERENCES]**

Websites: <https://cm-tavira.pt/site/> and <http://op.cm-tavira.pt/resultados>

PART 4**12. CONTACT INFORMATION**

Rafaela Graça Scheiffer and Simone Júlio

Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação and Câmara Municipal de Tavira

08/12/2023, Tavira, Portugal

4.2.6. Odemira (Portugal)

PART 1 IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

1. Odemira

2. Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação

3. Building a 2030 agenda for the territory

4. Participatory Methodology

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

The initial composition of the TCCD was 12 people, 2 people linked to Odemira's Municipality and ten citizens, which means they accepted to be part of the initiative.

There are 6 women and 6 men.

There are two decision makers from the Municipality, one male and one female.

The majority are Portuguese (8) and 4 people are of other nationalities.

6. OVERVIEW

The Territory Forum is an initiative by the municipality of Odemira, aimed at bringing the municipality closer to its citizens and establishing collaborative work so that citizens' priorities for their territory can be known. The goal is to build a shared vision of development and guidelines with results that would ultimately lead to an improvement in the quality of life for all. This is an initiative that unfolds organically through collective decisions in an extensive process of consultation coordinated by volunteer citizens, rich in reflections and characterized by participatory decisions. The Forum is promoted to facilitate the "co-construction of a Territorial Agenda 2030 and a commitment to shared action as an exercise in direct democracy, towards a transformative process of Odemira's Territory management".

The main objectives are:

- Defining a local territorial agenda that articulates the environmental, social and economic dimensions, establishing development priorities;

- Promoting the articulation of several legal instruments and participatory initiatives organization;
- Sharing and disseminating technical knowledge and information that promotes the valorization of the natural and cultural heritage, the quality of landscape, health, and wellbeing of residents and visitors;
- Defining and implementing a green and blue infrastructure for efficient water management, soil and biodiversity conservation, local food planning and an increase of responsible tourism.

7. CONTEXT

The Municipal Council of Odemira has a well-established history in the development of participatory democracy methodologies, with the Participatory Budgeting being a prominent example. This process began in 2011 and has been continuously in operation to this day. Recently, the municipality initiated a program called the Territory Forum, which can be defined as "a space for civic participation and reflection to co-create (involving and holding everyone accountable) a territory with a higher quality of life, based on the identification of common goals for sustainable development, built on an innovative governance model. It aims to be a participation space for the entire community, without exception." There are many social and environmental movements and organised groups of interest, as well as a significant community of foreign citizens who belong to highly participatory local communities in Odemira.

The process of the Territory Forum (TF) officially began in November 2021 with an initial session to build the Forum. Following an open invitation from the municipality, a group of volunteer citizens to co-design the process was formed.. This group, consisting of about 10 to 12 volunteers, can be seen as a Territorial Commission of Co-Design (TCCD) as they actively participate in co-creating the process, bridging the gap between the Municipality and the Citizens.

The first meeting, on November 27, 2021, gathered more than 80 citizens at the Municipal Market. They were asked about the guiding principles of the Forum, including: i) objectives; ii) operational model; iii) formal or informal structure. To define strategies, a methodology involving three groups was employed. The event was attended by the Mayor, Hélder Guerreiro, and councillors Isabel Palma Raposo, Raquel Vicente e Silva, and Pedro Ramos. The second meeting, held on February 12, 2022, also brought together approximately 80 citizens at the Municipal Market. The goal was to contribute to the creation of a Charter of

Principles for the Forum and to provide feedback on the contributions made in the previous session.

The third and final meetings of this initial phase of the Forum took place on May 21st of 2022, where citizens gathered at the Riverside Garden to validate the Charter of Principles. Strategic themes were defined (Water, Sustainability, Health, Education, and Family Well-being), and working groups were established to enhance participation and promote the dissemination of objectives.

The validation of the Charter of Principles was conducted by approximately 30 citizens, both online and in person, and it was noted that citizen participation during this phase was limited. Therefore, a change in strategy was chosen: decentralized meetings (one per parish) using the Spiral methodology, focusing not only on problems but also on solutions. Training sessions on the adopted methodology took place between January and February 2023. In March, decentralized sessions were held in all 13 parishes of the municipality. Each meeting began with an introduction to the initiative (what it is, its importance, mission, values, objectives, and functioning), followed by an invitation to form working groups for discussion and reflection on "What generates well-being?". After individual contributions were recorded on post-it notes, a debate to organize the contributions into themes and priority order followed. The results were then processed in April and May to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the Territory Forum, held on June 17, 2023.

The annual meeting of the Territory Forum, held on June 17, 2023, highlighted some reflections from participants, including: i) a low number of participants (250 in total); ii) the results produced by the Forum. It was also evident that many ideas emerged, and participants are very pleased with the existence of this process, which also motivated the volunteer group to speak up. The next steps of the Forum are along the lines of:

- Providing feedback on the results of the decentralized sessions in the parishes and involving a facilitation group in each of these localities;
- The Forum could become a physical space (a platform for broad discussion with an advisory function, supporting the Executive of the Odemira Municipal Council);
- Giving more space and voice to young people and children, working within schools;
- Creating mechanisms to have its own budget and actively support citizens in submitting project proposals to the municipality.

PART 2 THE PROCESS

8. METHODS

The Forum is a dynamic process in the sense that its functioning model is adaptative. Although it was born due to a wish of the political body – meaning it can be considered a top-down initiative – the way it has unfolded can be considered a bottom-up approach, because it was due to its TCCD (the group of volunteers that was created from the very first session, and has decided the methodologies and the steps to follow) that the model has evolved. This heterogeneous group of people – that is now the dynamizing group - has also evolved and adapted to the coming challenges that it faced since the beginning, in 2021.

The recruitment was done during the first 3 sessions of the Forum that were done essentially to define the forum’s objectives and the model. The sessions were open to all citizens and had a participatory model, and people appointed to act as facilitators. The first session had the purpose of systematizing the purposes and objectives of the forum, the second of co-constructing the objectives and the Charter of Principles and somewhere between the second and the third the TCCD was created, with the people that were enthusiastic about the initiative and had participated on a regular basis and had the willingness to co-construct the process and be a part of it.

This Commission is also dynamic, with a core of people that managed to stay since the beginning and others that come and go according to their interests and time availability to dedicate to the process.

PART 3 IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. OUTCOMES

Despite the undefinition in the start of the process due to the willingness of the Municipality to co-construct all the aspects of the process with citizens, including the core management team, Fórum do Território has reached a point where all the aspects have become defined, agreed upon and clear.

The first two years of the process can be identified as “Phase 1” where centralized sessions were carried out to design the foundations of the process; objectives, charter of principles and management team.

The activities carried out during 2023 can be defined as “Phase 2” and correspond to the decentralized sessions. This necessity was identified in the 3rd session where it was diagnosed that the number of participants was decreasing, so it was necessary to think about a strategy to reach more people. Thirteen sessions were carried out in each parish and the same methodology was deployed (SPIRAL methodology).

With the end of 2023 and start of 2024, the process has reached “Phase 3”, in which it has become more detailed with the elaboration of an action plan that clearly identifies the actions, priority target groups (children and youth, and elderly), methodologies and the elements of the team that are responsible for each action. The coordination/management team has become stabilized from the initial 10 to 12 elements and is now composed of 8 elements, 6 civil society elements and 2 of the technical staff of the municipality (plus the 2 executive representatives, that intentionally keep the distance from the decision-making process but are still responsible for it).

The fact that some of the aspects were undefined could also have some negative effects, such as: it is complicated to explain what the results will be to the participants, or in other words how the participation in Fórum do Território will materialize in Odemira’s territory, and this can generate a demobilizing effect.

The changes in the methodology adopted were an outcome of the needs identified during the process (an external evaluation methodology was developed, and an evaluation report was produced), and its intentional undefinition ultimately led to its flexibility to adapt and change the course of action, which is a positive result.

10. ANALYSIS

Since this is a project that has been ongoing for almost 3 years, there are some recommendations to be addressed:

- It’s easier to promote top-down approaches, even if the final goal is civic participation. This initiative was completely designed with the participants, which is why it had a slower pace and has shifted directions (methodological approach) in order to become clearer and more efficient.
- Undefinition with management, objectives, methodologies and results can produce low participation or demobilization.
- Sometimes not having everything planned to the minute details can promote flexibility and resilience to adapt to different contexts, which can be positive

(changing the type of sessions and its location, the methodology applied, deciding who needs to be engaged and how to do it).

- Since the beginning FT has developed a monitoring and evaluation system that has proved very valuable to make decisions and solve some of the problems that were identified (such as the need to reach children and youth and the elderly and to increase the number of participants).

Regarding the co-creation process done by the TCCD:

- Because the management/coordination team (TCCD) was built from volunteers, they are really engaged in the process and work very hard to improve it and to have positive and beneficial effects on people and territory, but their availability to contribute to the FT is limited, which helps to explain the “slower pace” mentioned above.
- To balance the time that the members of the Commission dedicate to the co-creation process, the municipality has ensured some financial compensation. Weekly meetings, preparation and carrying out sessions with citizens is time consuming and needs to be properly addressed so people can continue in the process. This can be a good solution for processes that start on a volunteer basis.
- The Commission has also been dynamic, with different contributions and perspectives given by different people.
- So far, the members are happy with the co-creation process, the dialogue they have and the results they have accomplished.
- There are still some areas they need to be improved and addressed, such as communication, reporting what was done and the activities that are being done, as well as reaching more citizens in the rural areas. Another thing that needs improvement is the management of people’s expectations in what pertains to the FT’s results, because people don’t have all the answers and some problems are complicated to solve. There are some subjects that also need to be addressed, such as immigration and the type of agriculture we want for Odemira.



PART 1**1. Gata-Malcata**

The Spanish and Portuguese Gata and Malcata mountains (respectively) form a cross-border ecoregion characterised by rural landscapes that share several social, economic, and ecological characteristics and challenges, linked to climate change. Both are characterised by scattered settlements, ageing population, fragile rural economies and risks of severe wildfires. A fragmented governance (shared among two countries and their regional administrations, several municipalities and other institutional levels) characterise this ecoregion.

2. Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet (CFE) and Center for Social Studies (CES) – both from the University of Coimbra.**3. [GREEN DEAL POLICY AREA]**

Both territories, highly vulnerable to forest fires and water scarcity, seek to respond to the need for landscape planning and management that may help to prevent fires and implement innovations regarding water management systems and the prevention of scarcity scenarios. Such goals are connected to the valorisation of primary sector activities (agriculture, livestock and forest management) that act as productive firebreaks in mountain areas, which also contributes to biodiversity and ecosystem services. This pilot will support the implementation of strategies related to the abovementioned initiatives. The tools and methodologies designed by the PHOENIX project in this territory aim to involve local communities and stakeholders in the definition and/or strengthening of ongoing strategies that seek to increase the territory's resilience to wildfires, through promoting rural economies linked to the 'agrosilvopastoral mosaic system'. Furthermore, the pilot may discuss some of the project's central themes: circular economy, sustainable agriculture and energy transition.

4. [TYPE OF DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION]

As imagined in the first draft of the "Tangram", such a territory requires a systemic approach to DI, where different devices rotate around a main participatory channel. The latter will be a sort of observatory that allows the social mapping of land uses and initiatives that occur on both sides of the border, reconfiguring the landscape of the ecoregion in a direction that can positively impact the reduction of wildfire. Different channels of

participation (bootcamps for local producers, a forum for institutional actors or a process with schools using gamification tools) will target diverse actors, and will converge towards the joint-creation of a new “actor” (eventually a transnational association) that can channel a sustainable cross-national dialogue among local initiatives and help fund-raising for giving continuity to successful actions. This pilot holds the potential to significantly impact the region through this democratic innovation approach, involving local communities and stakeholders in defining and validating ongoing strategies.

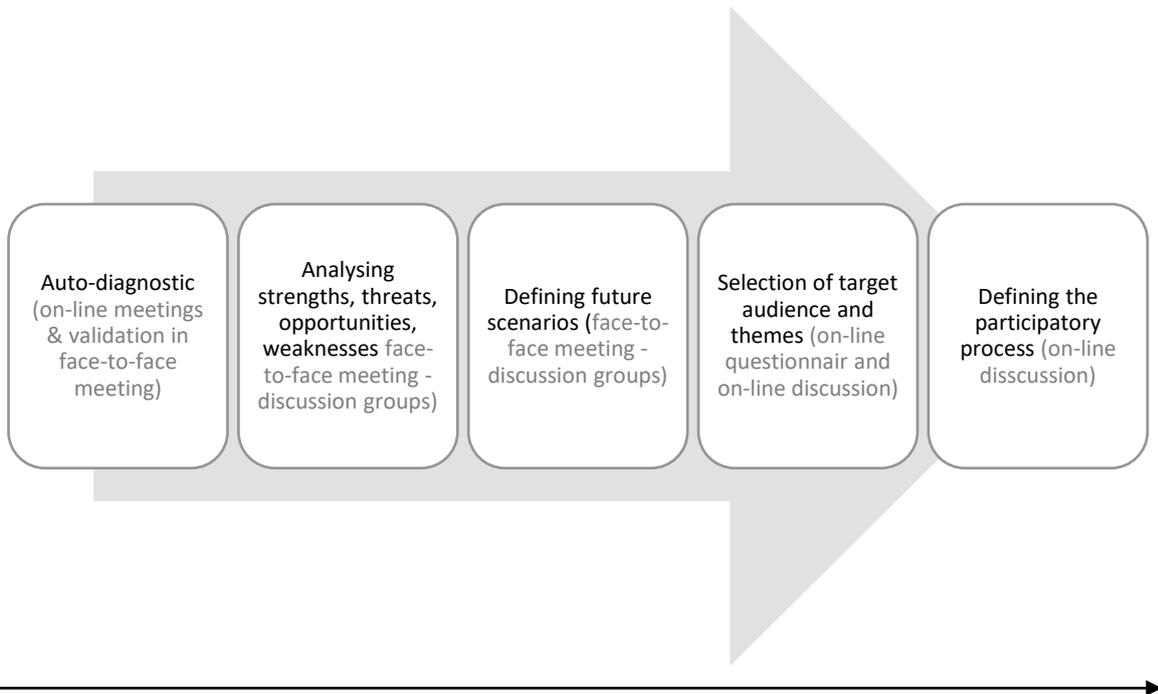
5. [PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY: Citizens, Practitioners (urban planners, architects, environmental experts. among others), Decision-makers, Activists, Social/environmental movements, NGOs, Business people, socio-environmental vulnerable groups, nature (non-humans) representative, representative of future generations, representative of minorities and migrants, representative of women, scientific community member, other - please specify]

The TCCD comprises active citizens, innovative enterprises, social organizations and administrative institutions (municipalities and their associations, regional governments, school-district coordination boards) from the Gata-Malcata territory, trying to represent a large diversity of standpoints. It meets regularly since September 2023 to define a participatory process to be implemented between July and October 2024 that aims to increase synergies between existing projects, with a focus on increasing the territory's resilience to major fires. Marked by a variable geometry of members, the TCCD recorded plenary meetings which ranged from 10 to 17 persons (with an average of 14 persons/per meeting). In total, 32 persons (from 19 institutions) joined the TCCD. Since they cannot always be present, we established an alternative method of approval for the meetings' minutes that proved useful: people who cannot be at a specific event or give contributions by phone call may send/leave notes on the proceeding's draft, and we complete the final version with their contributions. The website is being finalised with a section devoted to TCCD's members, where all internal documents can be completed collaboratively and wiki-likely. Women's presence in the TCCD has stabilized at around 35% (with peaks of 50%). The presence of people under 25 is around 20% until now, but we hope to increase it once we start the pilot, so that they can participate in the monitoring and evaluation activities.

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

6. [OVERVIEW]

The initiative was defined through a sequence of events (summarized in the Figure 1 below) that included an online questionnaire to identify the priority target audiences, the topics to be addressed and the types of initiatives that would be carried out considering each type of audience.



**SEPTEMBER
2023**

**JUNE
2024**

The Crossborder "Gata-Malcata" pilot (between Spain and Portugal) comprises the municipalities of Sabugal and Penamacor, which includes the Portuguese territory known as "Serra da Malcata", and 19 municipalities in the Spanish territory grouped in the Comarca/mancomunidad "Sierra da Gata". Although, today, the participatory processes are fragmented and mainly tied to procedures provided by legal requirements and funding schemes, both regions have mechanisms and/or initiatives involving local communities in the transformation and reorganisation of the landscape, also impacting the reduction of fire risks and stimulating the agrosilvopastoral economy in these rural territories. Sabugal and Penamacor have an "Integrated Landscape Management Areas", that with an approved management plan, which will start work soon. In Sierra da Gata, the MOSAICO project aims for the sustainable recovery of forests through agroforestry and other land uses to re-establish a mosaic landscape that may reduce wildfires and promote circular economy.

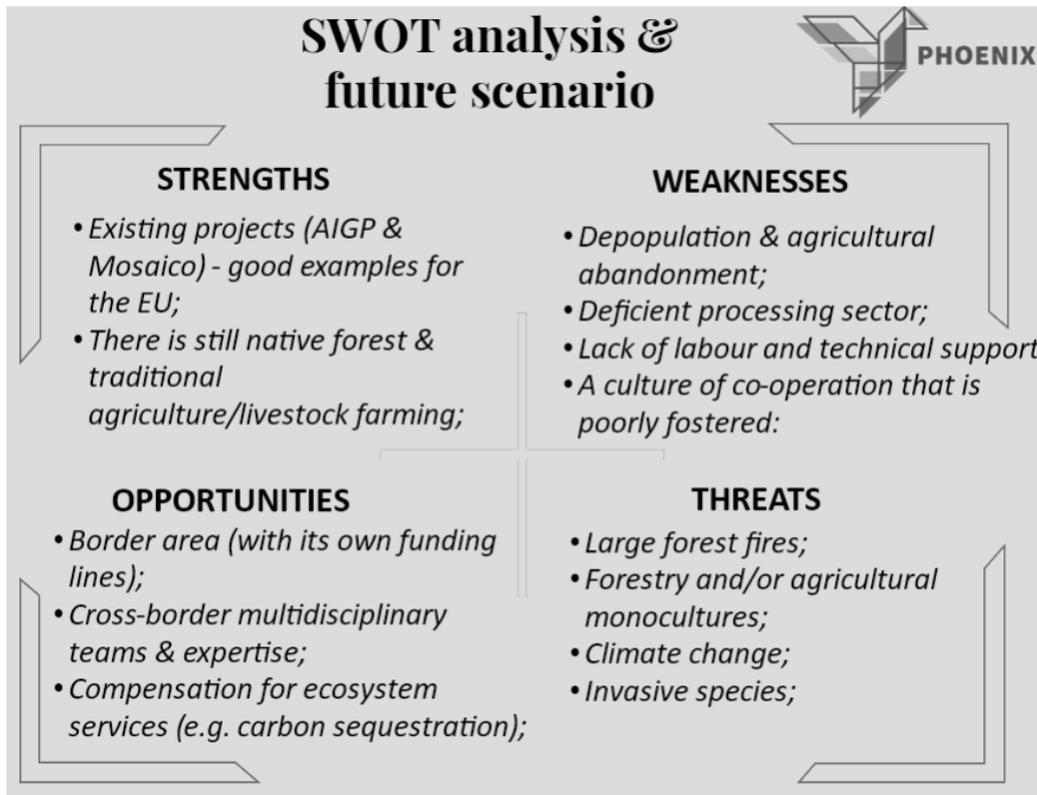
PART 2

THE PROCESS

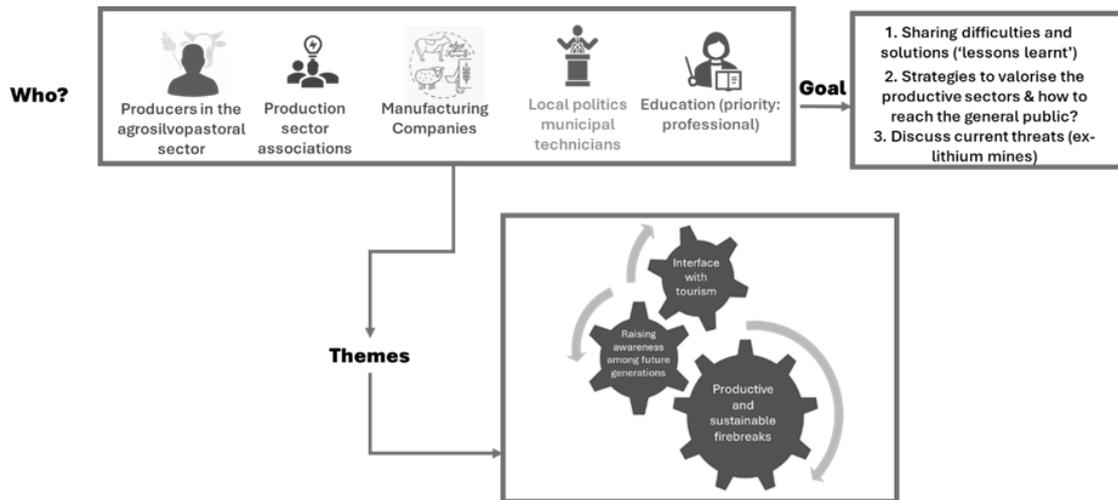
8. [METHODS]

The process is being conceived in an iterative form, with the active collaboration of the TCCD. In the identification of TCCD members for Portugal, a main role has been played by the members of CFE-UC that are from and/or have been working in the Portuguese area and have a mental mapping of different actors that could join and consolidate the TCCD. A “snowball method” was used to increase its diversity, trying to reflect with the first group on “missing actors” and gradually involving them. In Spain, important support came from the two regional governments (CCDR Centro in Portugal and Extremadura in Spain) and local action groups, especially in convincing and mobilizing local institutions. We did not have almost any refusals from the people we contacted, thanks to the mouth-to-mouth methods we used to contact them, which granted a baseline of trust in our work to the newcomers. However, the process of recruitment was slow and incremental, considering the characteristics of the area and the absence of a previous stable transborder working group.

Frequent contacts with TCCD are made periodically via online and in-person meetings, the initiative’s next steps are discussed. During the first in-person meeting (December 2023), a SWOT analysis regarding the pilot of Gata-Malcata (Figure 2) and the vision for the future was defined. The common indication was to promote a return to the traditional landscape of this territory (defined as ‘Mosaico’), ensuring that producers are able to make a decent living from agrosilvopastoral activities, valuing the fact that they make the territory more resilient to fires and more biodiverse.



Following the first SWOT analysis, an online questionnaire was carried out with the members of the TCCD in order to define the main audience to target and the priority topics to be discussed in the first pilot initiatives. The public identified were – firstly - Producers of the agrosilvopastoral sector, Production sector associations, Manufacturing companies, Local politicians and municipal technicians. Then came the area of Education (with priority in professional education) (Figure 3). The objectives of the initiatives to be carried out in the pilot were then defined as 1) Sharing difficulties and solutions (‘lessons learned’) on both sides of the border; 2) Identifying strategies to value the productive sectors and how to reach the general public; 3) Discussing current and new threats (for example: lithium mines).



Considering the identification of the main types of publics to be targeted, the first initiative will be a sort of “Bootcamp” action, aimed at identifying and consolidating a cross-border strategy to enhance the territory's resilience to fires and create long-term synergies, such as a cross-border association or a collaborative network. Specific objectives include fostering trust among key-players (producers, producers’ associations, the processing sector) through the exchange of lessons learned between Portugal and Spain, validating and deepening stakeholder mapping, and testing, validating, and publicising the ‘social mapping’ tool. Additionally, the Bootcamp will discuss strategies for communicating the value of these sectors in promoting greater resilience and identifying the needs for creating a cross-border association.

PART 3

IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. [OUTCOMES]

Participants shared a highly positive perception of recent project activities, commenting on the excellent organisation and the productive, yet enjoyable, nature of the meetings. They particularly valued the opportunity to learn about ongoing initiatives in other countries and appreciated the recognition of a robust team behind the project. The methodologies employed are seen as flexible and adaptable to various territories, which bolsters confidence in the participatory process. This inclusive and non-hierarchical approach was

noted as a refreshing change from past experiences, and there is a strong belief that this process should be extended to more local stakeholders.

The current dialogue and community engagement in the Gata-Malcata pilot are viewed as significant opportunities that should not be overlooked. Key-challenges were identified, particularly in structuring the project and integrating the unique aspects of each territory into a cohesive strategy. Understanding how different regions can address their specific challenges is deemed crucial. The importance of having intermediaries to facilitate meetings, even within the same country, was highlighted as a valuable insight. The exchange of experiences among teams facing similar difficulties was enriching, fostering a sense of solidarity and connection. Additionally, successful strategies from other countries involving a broader range of stakeholders were considered potentially replicable in their own territories.

The concept of "ambassadors" emerged as a promising idea, helping to implement and root initiatives more effectively, as well as promoting their spread throughout the territory. The Gata-Malcata pilot, despite its complexity and later start, is seen as particularly interesting and challenging for the PHOENIX project, as it offers valuable insights and opportunities for the overall initiative. Furthermore, the commitment of TCCD members since the beginning has shown a clear interest to make this entity last and have an active role in the territory far beyond the duration of the project.

10. [ANALYSIS]

A bootcamp with field visits for exchanging experiences and learning between fire risk reduction initiatives as part of Gata-Malcata pilot, focusing on agrosilvopastoral activities, offers significant advantages and drawbacks. On the positive side, it fosters practical knowledge transfer and collaboration, enabling participants to see successful strategies in action. The participatory dynamics, such as "social mapping" of resilience initiatives, promote a deeper understanding of community-driven efforts. Additionally, highlighting the role of the traditional primary sector in creating resilient landscapes underscores the value of ecosystem services. However, the intensive nature of bootcamps can be challenging. Logistic complexities and the need for effective coordination between diverse stakeholders can also pose significant hurdles. Despite these challenges, the potential for meaningful impact and enhanced cross-border cooperation makes the bootcamp a worthwhile endeavour. The second activities (to be defined in more details for the fall) will complement the audience, especially targeting a young generation that needs to be

strengthened in its desire to contribute to the territorial development, through learning holistic potentials of innovative activities, as those that can claim to provide “ecosystem services” to the territory. For this reason, the CEF/CES team is working closely with UNIFI team to adequate and readapt gamification tools that have been elaborated to support a stronger and deeper debate on the territorial potentials, and innovative strategies for reimagining the regional landscape. With the TCCD, the PHOENIX local team has been discussing the development of the bilingual website (<https://gatamalcata.eu/pt>) as an output that can be donated to the territory at the end of the project, in order to contribute to giving sustainability to the results that the participatory activities are pursuing.

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA

Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet (CFE)

Paula Castro - pcastro@ci.uc.pt

Anabela Paula - anabela.paula@uc.pt

Luciana Frazão – luca.frazao@gmail.com

Center for Social Studies (CES)

Giovanni Allegretti – giovanni.allegretti@ces.uc.pt

Sanara Sandri - sinarasandri@ces.uc.pt

Sergio Pedro – sergiopedro@ces.uc.pt

June 13, 2024, Coimbra, Portugal.

4.2.8. Tartu (Estonia)

PART 1

1. Tartu

2. e-Governance Academy

3. Food sustainability, social and environmental impact of the food

4. Citizen Assembly on Food Sustainability

The participatory process is Citizen Assembly on Food Sustainability, a mini-public of 30 randomly selected citizens. The central goal is the development of Tartu's food circular economy network and model as a tangible one-time benefit with sustainability prospects.

5. PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY

34 invitations were sent out aiming at 1/3 of representatives of territorial authorities, 1/3 of citizens, and 1/3 of other stakeholders. The 1st meeting accommodated **17 persons**:

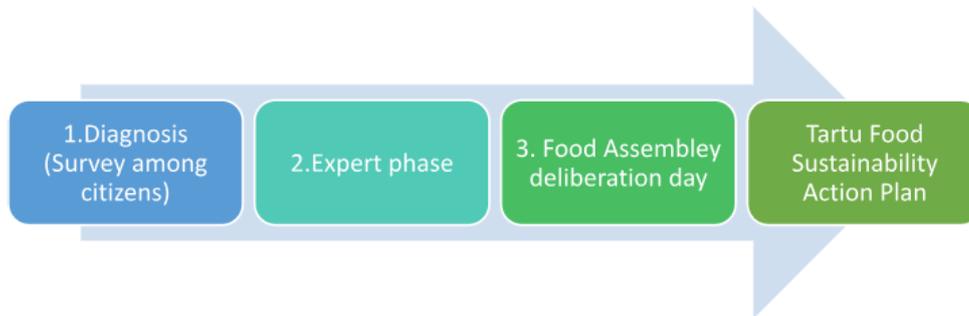
- 2 representatives of small CSOs which represent both individual and content-related activism – Foodbank
- 1 person representing a small civic initiative - foodsharing
- 2 individual civic activists (who are more specifically interested in environmental issues
- We have 2 representatives of Academia (university of life sciences)
- We have 1 person representing the Tartu 2024 Cultural Capital team
- We have 1 person representing the corporate sector – COOP supermarket
- We have 1 person representing a regional development hub
- We have 2 persons representing environmental organizations
- The rest are representatives of different units of city administration.

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS

6. [OVERVIEW]

Tartu Food Assembly is a mini version of people's assembly, focusing on food sustainability. It aims to test the collaboratively developed participatory process in raising awareness and gathering proposals on how to facilitate more climate-friendly food choices and reducing food waste. The intended result is a sustainability action plan for food within the circular economy roadmap. The established network will assist the city with food-related and other initiatives.

The Food Assembly Scenario



DIAGNOSIS (Autumn 2023)

The diagnostic stage aims to bring Tartuvians' food behaviour to light and identify their expectations towards other stakeholders.

EXPERT ASSESSMENT (Autumn 2023 – Winter 2024)

Uses input from the diagnostic stage to formulate topics and questions for the Food Assembly's discussion day.

FOOD ASSEMBLY (DISCUSSION DAY) (March 2024)

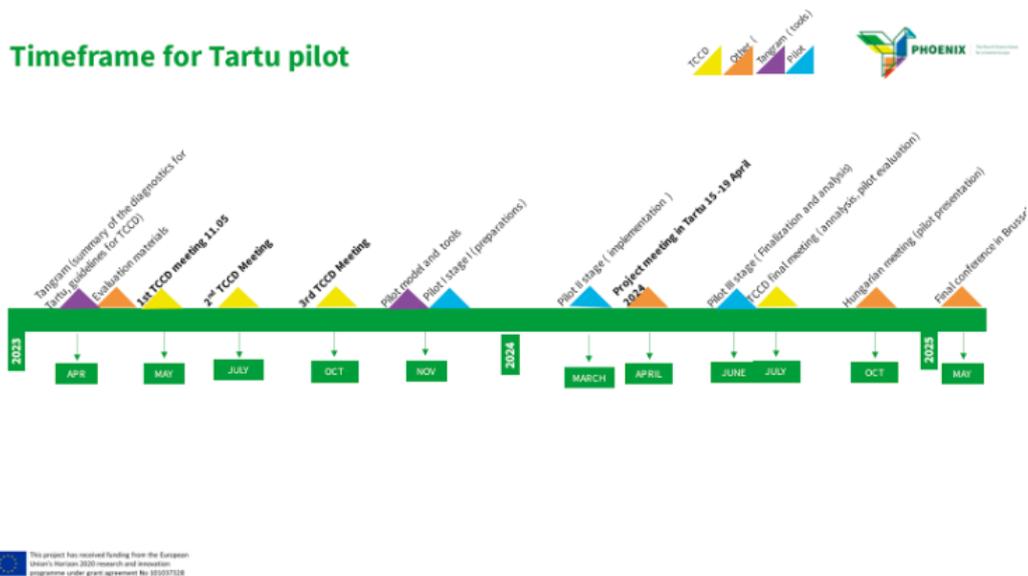
Experts, municipality, and 30 randomly selected residents will deliberate offline-online to inform the Tartu food sustainability action plan.

TARTU SUSTAINABLE FOOD HANDLING (WASTE REDUCTION) ACTION PLAN

The Tartu pilot should provide recommendations for the community, businesses, and municipality.

7. [CONTEXT]

The Tartu Mayor and his Deputies supported the initiative. We studied the local political and participatory culture via a survey of residents and expert interviews. The research revealed that food management is a hot topic, and the topic is crosscutting in many strategic goals and activities of the city of Tartu.

THE PROCESS
8. [METHODS]


The Tartu Climate Council and Digitalization (TCCD) virtually reached a balanced composition of civic activists and green deal experts. The Tartu city administration helped to identify potential participants. We mapped 47 persons representing different organizations and individual citizens. At the first meeting we had 17 TCCD members, city administration, and eGA team people. The composition of the other two TCCD meetings was similar. The only diversity challenge was the prevalence of women and people around 30.

During the first TCCD meeting the following sub-topics were prioritised: 1. **Food-sharing and saving**; 2. **Climate friendly food at schools**, 3. **Food innovation and sustainable food system**. We focused on the overarching **food sustainability topic** because it was voiced in interviews and was linked to strategic city initiatives.

The 1st TCCD Meeting: 11 May 2023, Tartu City Hall.

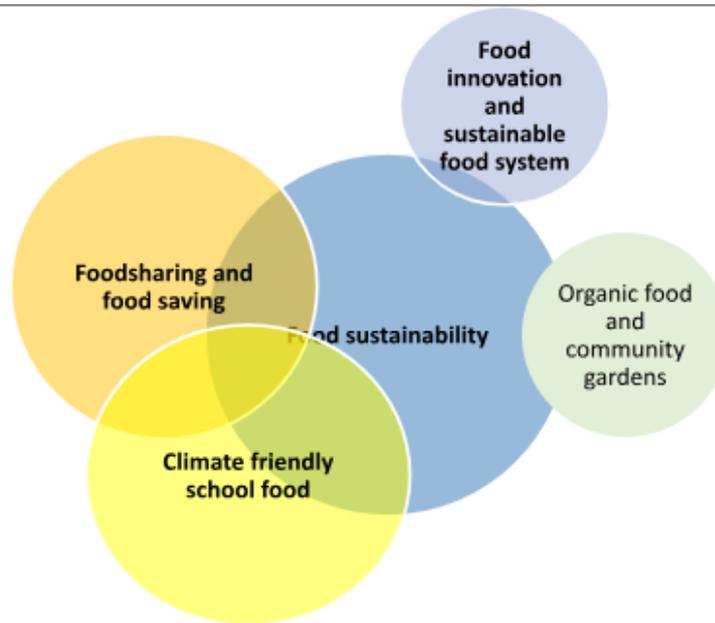
34 invitations were sent out aiming at 1/3 of representatives of territorial authorities, 1/3 of citizens, and 1/3 of other stakeholders. The 1st meeting accommodated **17 persons**:

- 2 representatives of small CSOs which represent both individual and content-related activism – Foodbank
- 1 person representing a small civic initiative - foodsharing
- 2 individual civic activists (who are more specifically interested in environmental issues)
- We have 2 representatives of Academia (university of life sciences)
- We have 1 person representing the Tartu 2024 Cultural Capital team
- We have 1 person representing the corporate sector – COOP supermarket
- We have 1 person representing a regional development hub
- We have 2 persons representing environmental organizations
- The rest are representatives of different units of city administration.

The attendees' composition of other two TCCD meetings was similar. Thus, we can state that the TCCD was diverse, and citizens were represented. However, the only problem regarding diversity was that the TCCD was female-dominated and although there were people around 30, very young people (under 20) were not represented. We tried to address this issue by sending invitations to the Youth council as well as neighbourhood associations and councils, but we did not end up being able to recruit any participants from those organizations.

Participants learned about the Phoenix project, the cooperation group, the pilot project, and the Tartu Circular Economy Roadmap process. Group discussions focused on the following: What are the core topics of food sustainability? What could be the engagement model, methodologies, and stages for the citizens' assembly? What is the role of experts (facilitators versus listeners)?

Key topics:



The 2nd TCCD Meeting: 6 July 2023, Tartu 2024 hall.

There were 12 people present from organizations involved in food sustainability-related activities, individuals associated with the city government and the e-Governance Academy. The primary meeting's goal was to clarify the topic and model for the Tartu Citizens' Assembly on Sustainable Food (the Food Assembly). We worked in two thematic groups: (1) Food Saving, Sharing, and Rescue; (2) Making School and Kindergarten Food More Climate-Friendly and Healthier. We discussed: (a) stages of the Food Assembly engagement process; (b) possible surveys before expert-moderated discussions.

The 3rd TCCD Meeting: November 2023, Tartu.

We finalized the scenario for the pilot. The focus of the last TCCD meeting before the Pilot started was, however, to co-create the survey on citizens' attitudes and behaviour regarding more food sustainability. The Survey is ongoing and promoted in all communication channels of Tartu city. Some of the TCCD members will be experts at Food Assembly and all TCCD will be invited to assess the outcome of the pilot

PART 3

IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. [OUTCOMES]

The outcome of the TCCD is the process design for a mini citizen assembly on the topic of food sustainability. The Food Assembly will test this participatory process vision. TCCD and the Food Assembly will result in proposals for a municipal sustainability action plan for food, a part of the being-developed circular economy roadmap. These proposals will outline regulations, choices, or incentives for a more sustainable food usage. The established network will keep assisting the municipality in food-related initiatives. The network and Food Assembly will serve as a city cooperation model.

10. [ANALYSIS]

It was an open and straightforward dialog with the Tartu municipality and other stakeholders. We decided to develop the Tartu food handling network and sustainability model (as part of Tartu circular economy roadmap). The TCCD process showed the importance of expectation management. The municipality expects concrete solutions and tangible results to its specific commitments (food sustainability action plan for circular economy roadmap). However, the municipality is represented in the TCCD at the specialist-level only, so political support is not guaranteed. There were several other challenges. The TCCD expert members are interested in bigger, systemic changes in food management, but the municipality has a limited mandate to interfere, and the Food Assembly can mostly affect citizens' individual practices. Also, we need to make a “deal” with the municipality that it will periodically update us for impact assessment reasons. Overall, we want to go beyond nudging individuals and aspire for a more systemic change of the whole food ecosystem in the city. The final food assembly model reflects the learning journey of the city when it comes to experimenting with diverse democratic innovations. The final model integrates lessons learned from participatory budgeting (implemented in Tartu since 2013) and the Climate Assembly (May 2023). This mini-assembly on food sustainability should be a focused process with a clear and tangible outcome – an easy-to-follow action plan.

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

[Kristina Reinsalu]

[eGA]

[06/12/2023, Tartu, Estonia]

4.2.9. Szeged (Hungary)

PART 1

1. [TCCD IDENTIFICATION – PILOT NAME AND REGION]

Szeged

2. [NAME OF PARTNER IN CHARGE OF THE TCCD]

University of Szeged

3. [GREEN DEAL POLICY AREA]

Energy

4. [TYPE OF DEMOCRATIC INNOVATION]

Citizen assembly

5. [PARTICIPANTS COMPOSITION: AGE, GENDER, EDUCATION, NATIONALITY, STAKEHOLDER CATEGORY: Citizen, Practitioners (urban planners, architects, environmental experts. among others), Decision-makers, Activists, Social/environmental movements, NGOs, Business people, socio-environmental vulnerable groups, nature (non-humans) representative, representative of future generations, representative of minorities and migrants, representative of women, scientific community member, other - please specify]

First TCCD meeting; 2023.07.20. 17:00-19:00:

8 participants:

- age was fairly balanced
- gender was a bit unbalanced (6:2)
- 2 citizens; 1 NGO; 3 practitioners (urban planners); 1 local utility provider representative (Water system); 1 decision-maker

Second TCCD meeting; 2023.08.31. 17:00-19:00

8 participants:

- age was balanced (1 teenager, 4 young adults, 3 middle-aged adults)
- gender was balanced (5 men, 3 women)
- 4 citizens; 3 practitioners (urban planners); 1 local utility provider representative (Water system)

Third TCCD meeting; 2023.09.01. 14:30-16:30

- age was not balanced (4 young adults)
- gender was not balanced (3 men, 1 women)
- 2 citizens; 2 practitioners (urban planners)

IDENTIFICATION AND LOCAL CONDITIONS**6. [OVERVIEW]**

The primary goal of the first TCCD (Community Co-Design and Development) meeting was to create a comprehensive understanding of the city's situation by identifying and detailing the main pressing problems and their related sub-problems. This goal was fully achieved. During the initial meeting, participants were divided into groups and collaborated to uncover the current issues and their sub-problems in the city.

The objective of the second meeting was to select the most critical (sub-)problems from the previously collected problem pool. In this phase, participants were organized into different groups and identified the most critical problems through brainstorming sessions conducted in two rounds. First, they narrowed down the numerous problems and identified what they considered the most important ones. Then, from these narrowed-down problems, they chose the 8 problems for which goals would be assigned during the third TCCD meeting.

The group dynamics within the TCCD were satisfactory, allowing every participant, whether representing the professional, political, or civic sectors, to voice and express their opinions. Certain useful methodological lessons were learned from the operation of the TCCD.

7. [CONTEXT]

In Hungary it is a nationwide issue that the country lacks extensive traditions and experiences in terms of participatory decision-making processes. There is no tradition of doing this, and therefore the demands of the residents are less powerful, and it is an unusual and sometimes unknown method for them. Szeged is led by an opposition administration in contrast to the national government of Hungary, and the city is open and receptive to new ideas and initiatives. While the Southern Great Plain is not the most economically developed region in the country, the city of Szeged is an important economic and social hub in the country.

PART 2

THE PROCESS

8. [METHODS]

The TCCD meetings were promoted to the public through social media channels, which were shared by the partner organization and related social media pages and individuals. Additionally, interview partners who participated in the earlier stages of the project received multiple emails inviting them to participate in the TCCD.

During **the first TCCD meeting** participants were organized into two different teams (consisting of mixed-role stakeholders). The first round was a brainstorming event, in which participants had to gather problems related to the city. One group was focusing on energy-related issues, whilst the other on environment-related issues. Each group had a moderator assigned, who listed their arguments on paper, and organised the ideas on a canvas. After the first round was complete, the two groups switched places and had to supplement the canvas the other group had just created. In the final round, the whole TCCD worked together to transfer the identified problems on a lotus, containing 8 major topics (or problems), complemented by sub-problems. The final outcome of the first meeting was this “problem-lotus” of the city of Szeged.

The methodology of **the second TCCD meeting** consisted of multiple rounds. In the *first round*, participants were divided into two groups. In this phase, they had multiple tasks using a brainstorming method. Firstly, they discussed whether to supplement the issues identified in the first meeting with additional problems. Their next task was to extract 1 or

2 sub-problems from the previously identified main problems that they considered the most important. To identify these problems, participants had to discuss and argue within their groups to determine which problem should take priority and should be presented to the Community Assembly later on. The groups collectively completed the task in 35 to 45 minutes. After this, the organizers compiled the selected problems.

A short break followed, and the methodology for the *second round* was to select one specific problem from the narrowed-down list of problems to present to the Citizen Assembly. During this round, participants were provided with pens and papers to list their arguments and counterarguments for each problem. However, it became apparent that the groups were more cooperative when a slightly different approach was taken. The group size allowed for live discussions, moving from one problem area to another, and discussing the pros and cons verbally. Thus, in this smaller group, it worked well to form a single team in the second round, and they engaged in more qualitative discussions, responding to each other's arguments. Some problems were merged, while others were reformulated by the group. By the end of the second round, the 8 main problems were finalized for the TCCD's third meeting. A moderator/facilitator was needed to guide the second round, progressing through the problem areas in order and ensuring that each participant could express their opinions and arguments.

The goal of **the third TCCD meeting** was to assign achievable goals related to the previously identified 8 main problems. The methodology used was similar to the previous ones. The group moved from problem to problem, with the help of a facilitator/moderator, identifying the achievable goals. In some cases, group members suggested possible solutions, concrete implementation methods, and processing tools for the problems. However, the moderator reminded them multiple times that during the meeting, they should formulate the objectives of the Citizen Assembly. The third TCCD meeting lasted for 120 minutes.

PART 3

IMPACTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

9. [OUTCOMES]

[The outcomes section describes the results and impact of the initiative, including any changes in policy, decision-making processes, or community dynamics that resulted from

the initiative. This section may also describe any unintended consequences or challenges encountered during the implementation.]

- During the process, three main goals were set to be achieved. One of them was to foster collaboration and dialogue among residents, civilians, and representatives of the local government under the TCCD. The goal of the first meeting was to gather the main problems of Szeged. One result of this was the creation of the first part of the applied "lotus blossom" exercise, its inner circle. So, the collection of Szeged's problems came together. The next part of this was when we started to unfold the problems. One output of the TCCD meetings was the emergence of a collection of 8 main problems and, related to each of them, 8 sub-problems.
- Another result was that the problems for which the community meetings could provide housing solutions were prioritized and selected. These were identified through a shared discourse, requiring participants to coordinate in multiple rounds. As a result, for each of the 8 main problems, 1-1 most likely sub-problem was designated. Originally, the pilot was supposed to be related to energy, so we targeted these topics. However, during the TCCD, it became evident that the problem domain is actually broader and could be discussed more extensively. Thus, energy and waste incineration, along with habitat and heat island-related ecosystem services related to transportation and green areas also became central discussion topics in the citizen assembly.
- The main achievement is that we had the opportunity to coordinate the topics designated by the TCCD at the Szeged City Hall, and the deputy mayor assisted in specifying the topics. From this point on, a close collaboration developed among local partners, the Szeged University, and city hall officials.

Challenges:

- The timing of the third TCCD meeting was not ideal, as it started at 2:30 PM on a Friday, which meant that it fell within working hours for many participants.
- Not everyone enjoyed the community planning process. There were municipal employees who informally told their colleagues that the whole thing was just a "raking of water," meaning it was entirely meaningless. It's not surprising that not everyone found joy in the community planning process. Such complex initiatives can often pose challenges and may not immediately find the support they seek. Communication gaps among participants or differences in expectations may have played a role in this experience. This can also be the reason that explains why the last TCCD meeting was a failure
- Another issue is that the participants delegated by the city were not actually

connected to the project, and they didn't really know what they were delegated for. They likely lacked enthusiasm and interest, probably because they couldn't see the big picture.

- Even though we explained what would happen in the beginning of the TCCD, they still didn't feel ownership of the process. It was also noticeable that those who attended once didn't always come back; they felt that one occasion was sufficient because they had already expressed their opinions. Despite presenting the entire process to them, it seemed like they believed they had contributed what was possible.
- A difficulty we faced was that the lengthy questionnaires during entry and exit created an official tone. Informally, we learned from other municipal colleagues that they considered the questions entirely unnecessary and difficult to answer. They couldn't understand why they needed to provide answers; they were delegated to express what the problems were, not to fill out complicated surveys.

10. [ANALYSIS]

At the beginning of the meetings, there was no need for icebreakers as the participants were already familiar with each other to some extent. The basic introductions served as a form of icebreaking. Subsequently, the discussions proceeded smoothly. During the small group tasks (consisting of 3-4-5 participants), there was no need for moderation as the groups operated relatively harmoniously. The conversation style, pace, and atmosphere remained calm throughout, with participants engaging in civil and respectful dialogue.

The discussion was dominated by politicians and municipal representatives. However, it's important to note that every participant had the opportunity to speak at length, and no one was left completely side-lined or without a voice. Transportation and urban development perspectives (represented by decision-makers and policymakers) were in conflict with the ecological considerations emphasized by the community and experts with a strong ecological background.

One particularly positive aspect was that, even though there were only a few residents present, they provided constructive criticism, to which the authorities responded. This contributed to the development of a dialogue between them.

During the exchange of ideas, we also encountered differing interpretations of concepts, such as in the case of energy poverty. One participant emphasized that a certain phenomenon aptly characterized this issue, while another participant added that there are

several other dimensions to it, including poor infrastructure, lack of insulation, and energy wastage.

On the second TCCD meeting, some group members were more vocal than others, but they didn't attempt to overshadow their peers; instead, they assumed a sort of moderator role within the group, taking notes on the group's opinions and asking questions to others. In contrast, in the other group, the conversation evolved into a more equitable discussion among group members, resulting in the group taking longer to complete the task and identifying the selected problems with more difficulty at the group level. In terms of group dynamics during the second TCCD, it can be noted that those who had participated in the previous session were the most active, as they were more familiar with the situation and the tasks at hand.

During the process of selecting problems, there were instances where quick consensus was reached, while in others (e.g., land use: *forests around the city vs. heat island*; water surfaces: *lack of water surfaces vs. further improvement of water quality*), minor debates arose. However, these were mostly professional discussions, with experts dominating, although there were occasional contributions from civilians. In the end, efforts were made to select problems that could be processed more effectively and efficiently during the Citizen Assembly.

PART 4

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

[Gyula NAGY]

[University of Szeged]

[2023.09.08 Szeged Local case study]

4.2.10. Integrative Analysis of TCCDs: Process Specificities and Impacts

The nine TCCD case studies provide a detailed overview of the various approaches, problems, and effects of participatory procedures in different European regions. Each TCCD was adapted to its specific local setting, reflecting the regions' various socio-political contexts, stakeholder makeup, and aims. The recruitment and engagement methods in the TCCD demonstrate a comprehensive awareness of community dynamics since they need to be adapted to local realities. The use of participatory methods, such as open meetings and iterative recruiting, ensured that the process tried to be inclusive and representative of the different community interests. Local conditions considerably impacted the form and outcomes of each TCCD. For example, the Iceland TCCD concentrated on land use and reclamation in the Highlands, emphasising trust-building in a politically polarised environment.

In contrast, the Bologna TCCD attempted to incorporate Neighbourhood Houses within the city's climate mission, utilising Bologna's strong participatory heritage, enabled by the *Fondazione Innovazione Urbana*. The processes have different techniques and frameworks. The Rouen Métropole TCCD included several sessions with iterative feedback loops to fine-tune objectives and strategies. Bologna's approach was more dynamic, incorporating various activities and ongoing internal conversations. Iceland used a game platform and a citizen's assembly to bring varied stakeholders together in weekly online sessions to create a deliberative process for land use issues.

Despite the visible differences in these processes, grouping the TCCDs into thematic clusters based on their methodologies and outcomes can be helpful to understand the nuanced dynamics of participatory processes in diverse socio-political environments (Table 14). Four clusters can be identified:

1. Structured and Iterative Feedback Processes: Highlighted the importance of structured engagement for clear outcomes but underscored challenges in maintaining diversity and retention;
2. Innovative Use of Technology: Demonstrated the efficacy of online platforms in fostering inclusive deliberation but pointed out challenges in navigating ideological differences;
3. Cross-Border and Community Development Initiatives: Emphasized the benefits of cross-border cooperation while calling for more detailed process documentation for comprehensive evaluation;

4. Core Participatory Models: Suggested broad governance and community engagement improvements, needing detailed process analysis for deeper insights.

Table 14 – TCCDs organized into clusters according to process specificities and impact on outcomes.

| Cluster | TCCDs | Process Specificities | Impact on Outcomes |
|--|--|---|---|
| Structured and Iterative Feedback | Rouen Métropole (France), Bologna (Italy) | Structured meetings, iterative feedback loops | Clearer policy integration, concrete proposals, challenges in diversity and retention |
| Innovative Use of Technology | Iceland, Tartu (Estonia) | Online platforms, Citizen Assembly | Comprehensive deliberation, trust-building, challenges in ideological divides |
| Cross-Border and Community Development | Gata-Malcata (Portugal-Spain), Szeged | Cross-border initiatives | Strengthened regional cooperation, community resilience |
| Core Participatory Models | CNDP (France), Tavira (Portugal), Odemira (Portugal) | Broadly inclusive, governance improvements | Improved governance, community engagement |

Each TCCD employed unique engagement methods and strategies, resulting in specific strengths and challenges to address. The TCCDs that integrate the “Structured and Iterative Feedback Processes” cluster effectively used structured and iterative processes to develop clear visions and concrete proposals. The dynamic mix of activities in Bologna ensured diverse engagement. However, they faced issues with participant retention, diversity, and integrating multiple participatory processes. In the “Innovative and Use of Technology” cluster, the TCCDs use online platforms and regular meetings which have facilitated comprehensive and inclusive deliberation, by also building trust and developing actionable plans. Nevertheless, these TCCDs have to manage ideological divides (Iceland) and ensure participatory culture's relevance (Tartu).

The importance of cooperation across borders and the development of shared strategies for regional issues was a crucial issue in the “Cross-Border and Community Development” cluster with some challenges related to limited specific process details that make it harder to assess detailed impacts. The last cluster, “Core Participatory Models, ” focuses on fostering inclusiveness, transparency, and improved governance. However, evaluating specific strengths and weaknesses through the case studies was challenging. Another important aspect is the lessons learned that emerged (Table 15), highlighting their processes, outcomes, and implications for effective democratic engagement.

Table 15- Lessons learned that emerged from the TCCD dynamics

| Lesson | TCCDs | Key Insights |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Adaptability and Flexibility | Rouen Métropole | Iterative feedback loops ensure relevance and effectiveness. |
| Diverse Engagement Methods | Bologna | A mix of activities engages a broader audience but requires careful integration. |
| Regular and Structured Communication | Iceland | Weekly meetings foster continuous engagement and deliberation. |
| Inclusiveness and Representation | Rouen Métropole | Continuous strategies are needed to engage diverse and underrepresented groups. |
| Innovative Use of Technology | Iceland and Tartu | Technology enhances engagement but must be accessible and user-friendly. |
| Cross-Border Collaboration | Gata-Malcata | Shared strategies and trust-building are key in differing regulatory and cultural contexts. |
| Clear Objectives and Vision | Rouen Métropole | Clear objectives align efforts and facilitate progress evaluation. |
| Building Social Capital | Iceland | Trust is essential for overcoming political divides and sustaining engagement. |
| Integration with Existing Initiatives | Bologna | Integrating new processes with existing initiatives requires careful coordination for coherence. |
| Continuous Evaluation and Responsiveness | Rouen Métropole | Continuous feedback and improvement mechanisms enhance the participatory process. |

The adaptability of participative procedures emerged as an important takeaway from the TCCDs and establishing clear objectives from the outset. Each effort revealed the necessity to modify approaches to distinct local circumstances and changing participant needs. The Rouen Métropole, for example, used iterative feedback loops to make revisions depending on participant comments, guaranteeing relevance and efficacy throughout the deliberative process (Rodenbiker, 2022). Various engagement approaches proved critical in sustaining interest and participation among varied communities. Bologna's strategy, which included workshops, transects, and games, drew a diverse range of stakeholders and the use of technology by Iceland and Tartu needs to be inclusive and accessible to increase engagement and support deliberative democracy as long as it corresponds with community demands. However, integrating these strategies proved difficult, emphasising the significance of strategic planning and flexibility (Duea et al., 2022; Reinsalu, 2022, 2023).

Another important lesson is the fact that participants recognised the importance of consistent and structured communication in preserving trust and clarity, and this was very

clear in Iceland's case, where their weekly online meetings enabled continuous interaction and conversation, effectively bridging ideological gaps and fostering informed decision-making (Suherlan, 2023). Providing varied representation is also critical for the credibility and success of participatory procedures (Motos et al., 2021). The Rouen Métropole faced difficulty retaining diverse participants, highlighting the continued need for focused measures to engage disadvantaged populations.

At a different level, Gata-Malcata's collaboration showed the necessity of creating shared strategies and trust between neighbouring regions, which is necessary for sustained cross-border governance. Practical cross-border projects need a thorough awareness of regulatory frameworks and cultural contexts (Gilman & Schmitt, 2022). Similarly, trust and social capital are critical for long-term involvement and commitment (Gilman & Schmitt, 2022). Iceland's emphasis on trust-building between varied groups and government bodies was crucial in overcoming political polarisation and encouraging collaborative decision-making.

Two other lessons are pivotal. The first one relates to the challenge of integrating with existing initiatives. This can be challenging but is crucial for coherence and sustainability. Bologna's experience integrating Neighbourhood Houses with climate missions underscored the complexities of coordination and the need for strategic alignment. The second one is the need for continuous evaluation and responsiveness, which is essential for refining processes and improving outcomes over time. Rouen Métropole's iterative recruitment and feedback mechanisms exemplified this approach, allowing continuous improvement of the participatory process based on participant insights.

These lessons highlight the importance of flexibility, inclusiveness, regular communication, and innovative approaches in participatory governance. They underscore the need for ongoing evaluation and responsiveness to ensure that participatory processes are compelling, legitimate, and capable of addressing complex local and regional challenges.

4.3. TCCD Qualitative Survey

4.3.1. Sample characterization

The TCCD members participating in the qualitative survey exhibit diverse profiles across various demographic and stakeholder categories. This initiative aimed to ensure inclusivity and plurality among participants, encompassing a broad range of ages, genders, nationalities, and social groups (Table 16).

Table 16 – TCCD qualitative survey sample characterization (N)

| Pilot | | Bologna | Tavira | Rouen | CNDP | Iceland | Gata-Malcata | Szeged | Tartu |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|--------|-------|------|---------|--------------|--------|-------|
| Gender* | Male | | | 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
| | Female | 9 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 4 | | 7 |
| | Prefer not to say | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | 4 | |
| Age** | Mean | 46.9 | 49 | 52.5 | 49.2 | 46.8 | 49.4 | 31.1 | 55.1 |
| | Min | 26 | N.A. | 35 | 18 | 24 | 37 | 27 | 33 |
| | Max | 81 | N.A. | 74 | 67 | 64 | 57 | 36 | 72 |
| Nationality** * | Algerian | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | Belgian | | | | 1 | | | | |
| | Colombian | | | 1 | | | | | |
| | German | | | | | | 1 | | |
| | Estonian | | | | | | | | 9 |
| | French | | | 5 | 8 | | | | |
| | Hungarian | | | | | | | 6 | |
| | Icelandic | | | | | 7 | | | |
| | Italian | 9 | | | | | | | |
| | Portuguese | | 1 | | | | 4 | | |
| Spanish | 1 | | | | | 4 | | | |
| University Degree** | Yes | 10 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 9 |
| | No | 0 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Stakeholder category | Citizens | 4 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| | Practitioners | 4 | | 2 | | | 5 | | 5 |
| | Decision-makers | | | | | 1 | | | |
| | Phoenix partners | | | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | |
| | Experts | | | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| | NGOs representatives | 2 | | | | | | | |
| | Social/environmental movements | | | | 1 | | | | 1 |
| | Business people | | | | | | | | 1 |
| Other | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | | |

Note: * Missing values (n=13); **Missing values (n=12); N.A. Not Applicable

Throughout the survey, local partners deliberately tried to achieve demographic diversity. Women were prominently represented in discussions (n=35), particularly in Bologna (n=9) and Tartu (n=7), underscoring a strong female presence in participatory processes. Age diversity was evident, spanning from younger individuals in CNDP (18 years old) to older participants in Bologna (81 years old), Rouen (74 years old) and Tartu (72 years old), ensuring an intergenerational exchange of ideas and insights about green deal topics. Additionally, the survey showed a wide range of nationalities, including Icelandic, French, Estonian, German, and others, emphasizing global perspectives about the topics discussed, enriching diverse cultural and regional viewpoints and experiences.

Most participants have a university degree (n=47), with high percentages showing completion of higher education in every area. Notably, the percentage fluctuates, with Bologna (N=10), Tartu (n=9) and Gata Malcata (n=9) holding the highest values.

Participants come from a variety of stakeholder categories, such as citizens (n=21), practitioners (n=16) and experts (n=3). Representatives from NGOs, corporate sectors, and social and environmental movements are involved, demonstrating various viewpoints and levels of experience. Overall, there is a wide variety of TCCD members who answered the survey regarding gender, age, nationality, educational background, and stakeholder type. This diversity adds to a thorough and inclusive conversation about green deal topics and possible solutions to implement them and face local challenges. For 46.3 % of the participants, this was their first time participating in a co-design process.

4.3.2. The Co-design

This section offers perspectives on co-design from participants from various TCCDs based on their experiences. After considering co-design from various viewpoints and experiences, participants were asked to consider its advantages, disadvantages, opportunities, and threats. It is expected that we will get a more profound understanding of co-design's capability to drive innovation and resilience in the face of global socioenvironmental challenges.

The essence of codesign as understood by different participants is defined by three interconnected themes that emerge from the thematic analysis of responses to the question "What is codesign for you?" These themes include a (i) collaborative co-creation process for problem-solving, a (ii) process of involvement and inclusion, and (iii) a process marked by honesty and transparency. When taken as a whole, these topics offer a thorough

grasp of how codesign is viewed as a complex strategy for collaborative creation and decision-making.

Fundamentally, codesign is commonly understood as a cooperative process wherein numerous stakeholders actively participate in the project's design and development.

This method strongly emphasises teamwork, where various participants—citizens, professionals, specialists, or leaders of social and environmental movements—join forces to develop answers for problems that affect them all. Co-creation, or the collaborative search for answers or solutions based on the varied experiences of people from different backgrounds, is the central concept at play here. As one respondent accurately puts it, Codesign is a "participatory process of multiple parties designing together," capturing the essence of cooperative activity and shared decision-making.

"People from different fields and backgrounds come together to discuss a given topic, exchange ideas, make suggestions, etc." (Tartu, Female, 33, Practitioners)

"People with different backgrounds, working together on a solution." (Iceland, Male, 47, Citizens)

Stakeholder synergy is said to be fostered by integrating diverse viewpoints and skills through this co-creation process. As another responder put it, "people from different fields and backgrounds come together to discuss a given topic, exchange ideas, and make suggestions," underscoring the importance of a variety of perspectives in producing original and useful answers. According to one participant, codesign is therefore more than just collaboration—it's about creating a shared vision, which they define as "designing a shared vision for a project." (Iceland, Female, 48, Other). To make sure that the results meet the requirements and expectations of all parties concerned, this vision is thoughtfully considered, discussed, and improved upon collectively.

The notion of involvement and inclusion is closely associated with the collaborative aspect of codesign. Codesign aims to ensure that a wide spectrum of voices is truly involved in the process, not just those that are invited to the table. This inclusivity emphasises that all viewpoints are important in determining outcomes and extends from locals and individuals to different interest groups and organisations. As an example, a participant defines codesign as a "participatory project that involves collaboration between those who usually benefit from the project and those who usually propose it." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens). This suggests a conscious attempt to close gaps between various society functions and guarantee the active participation of decision-makers and recipients.

"For me, co-planning is listening, dialogue and discussion for the creation of collective solutions that take into account the needs of all the parties involved." (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners)

"It is so that as many people as possible can participate" (CNDP, Male, 67, Social/environmental movements)

In urban planning and environmental protection, for example, codesign involves a variety of stakeholders in identifying and resolving significant concerns. This extensive participation is essential for creating a sense of legitimacy and ownership and for gathering a thorough grasp of the requirements and goals of various communities.

The third topic emphasises how crucial honesty and openness are to the co-design process. Although cooperation and inclusivity are essential, participants are also aware of the difficulties and complications of codesign. A few comments highlight the need to oversee these procedures with "strong intellectual honesty and clarity of objectivity." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGOs representatives). Here, being transparent means being open with one another and being aware of the dangers and challenges of working together. One respondent eloquently expresses this, who characterises codesign as "a long, dispersive and often manipulative process" requiring "great skills" to assure transparency and prevent deceptive or shallow methods.

"Co-planning is a long, dispersive and often manipulative process. To bring about effective and transparent results, great skills are needed in those who manage the process, clarity of objective and strong intellectual honesty. Like all collaborative processes it has a component of great ambition and a dark side full of risks. And for this reason I like it, but like for many other things, such as building networks, you have great ambitions but then... I don't think it's enough to give a brushstroke of values to make them succeed, nevertheless I think we should try" (Bologna, Female, 72, NGOs representatives)

"Honesty, exchange of experience" (Szeged, Prefer not to say, 31, Other)

As another participant put it, honesty in codesign means acknowledging the "dark side full of risks" in team projects but aiming for sincere and valuable results. This viewpoint draws attention to the moral aspects of codesign, wherein attaining significant outcomes requires striking a balance between ambition and openness. The "exchange of experience" and honesty are stressed, emphasising how codesigning must be a reflective and flexible process that may adjust to meet opportunities and difficulties.

In summary, an integrated understanding of the notion as a dynamic, interactive process is presented by the thematic analysis of what codesign means to different stakeholders. Codesign is characterised by its inclusive approach, which guarantees broad participation from various societal groups; its collaborative nature, which brings diverse actors together to co-create solutions; and its honesty and transparency, which acknowledges the potential and drawbacks of collaborative efforts. These characteristics collectively highlight that codesign is a flexible and context-sensitive approach that adjusts to the demands and difficulties of the particular issues it aims to address rather than a one-size-fits-all strategy. As a result, codesign is seen as an effective method for encouraging democratic engagement, boosting decision-making authority, and producing inclusive and sustainable results.

The experience of participating in a codesign process can be diverse. Various experiences are divided into positive and critical/negative experiences after participants' answers to the question "Can you share some words that describe your experience in this co-design process?" were analysed. The positive experiences are further broken down into two primary subcategories: personal enrichment, learning, collaboration, and dialogue. These categories effectively convey participants' feelings, insights, and opinions about participating in the co-design process.

Many participants highlighted personal growth and acquiring new information and skills while describing their co-design process experience as educational and enriching. One participant put it this way: "Enriching, sharing, learning, convergence" (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizens). The process is perceived as a chance for learning, finding, and exchanging fruitful insights. Being exposed to novel methods and viewpoints frequently results in this feeling of personal enrichment. For example, one Rouen participant (Rouen, Female, 74, Citizens) described the experience as "personal enrichment, discovery of practices, fruitful exchanges".

"Long-term practice; a common desire to change, to contribute; openness; humour; thoughtful process management; inclusion; personal development through shared experiences; new and updated acquaintances." (Tartu, Female, 53, Social/environmental movements)

"Motivating, effective, collaborative, complicit, slower, but more efficient." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, other)

In addition, the co-design process offered a venue for deeper involvement with the project and personal growth. Participants reported feeling more connected to the initiative and

involved in making decisions and solving problems. One Gata-Malcata practitioner observed, "I am immersed in a co-design process that is enriching others. You experience a stronger sense of connection to the project and a sense of participation in issue solving." (Gata-Malcata, Practitioners, 57). Participants also perceived the process as a means of obtaining "constructive, useful, new thoughts and knowledge" (Tartu, Female, 33, Practitioners), highlighting the illuminating and growth-promoting elements of co-design.

Another significant motif discerned from the answers is the focus on teamwork, innovation, and proficient communication – an experience of collaboration and dialogue. Participants appreciated having the chance to converse, listen to others, and identify points of agreement. They emphasised the value of polite tolerance, innovative compromise, and fruitful idea exchange. A participant, for instance, summed up their experience as "creativity, compromise, and listening" (Tartu, Male, 54, Citizens). Another said, "respect, tolerance, dialogue" (CNDP, Male, 67, Social/environmental movements), emphasising the fundamental function of communication.

"It was instructive to think together with others. I got to know other points of view and acquired new (professional) information." (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix partner)

"The motivation to move forward together and do things that we could not have done alone." (CNDP, Female, 67, Citizens)

The welcoming and transparent atmosphere that encouraged and considered a range of viewpoints and opinions was another thing that the participants enjoyed. Participants were inspired to strive towards common objectives because the inclusive approach promoted community and teamwork. The cooperative portion of the co-design process frequently included the deliberate control of interactions to guarantee that each member had the chance to make a significant contribution. One participant emphasised, "Everyone was able to communicate, and communication was excellent. Our approach was appropriate for exposing the issues in Szeged (36-year-old male Szeged, a Phoenix partner). Numerous respondents mirrored this feeling of productive communication and mutual understanding, highlighting the importance of cooperative participation in the co-design process.

Despite the many positive reflections, some participants voiced critical opinions, claiming dissatisfaction and disillusionment with the co-design process. These unpleasant experiences were frequently linked to a lack of tangible results or perceived inefficiency.

One participant from Bologna, for example, thought that "the most generic and abstract part receives too much time. Sensation of bereavement" (Bologna, Woman, 79, Citizens). This shows that some participants were disillusioned with the process because they felt it was excessively academic and had little practical focus. Some attendees expressed dissatisfaction with the co-design sessions' structure and lucidity. For instance, one Icelandic specialist said, "Not sufficiently organised. Many ambiguous questions" (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts), indicating that there is not a clear hierarchy or plan in place. Another participant (Iceland Female, 64, Citizens) thought the procedure "confirmed the suspicion of a deep disagreement about the methods and virtual consultation of the government". This raises questions about the sincerity and efficacy of participatory processes, implying that expectations for genuine engagement and impact were not always fulfilled.

The analysis indicates that although co-design processes might present abundant chances for involvement, education, and teamwork, they must also be carefully overseen and accommodating to participants' requirements and anticipations to prevent disappointment and disillusionment.

Participants were invited to reflect on the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of their codesign experience. This information will be helpful to improve future processes and to understand the diversity of experiences. The internal factors – strengths and weaknesses – are presented in Table 17.

The co-design experience's main advantages are its emphasis on professional and personal growth, diverse participation and community engagement. Since everyone is welcome and comes from various backgrounds, meaningful conversation and teamwork are encouraged. This diversity fosters a cooperative atmosphere that enhances co-design, especially with a solid dedication to environmental and cultural preservation. A participant highlighted the successful cross-border cooperation by pointing out the "diversity of perspectives, dialogue, search for convergence," for instance.

Table 17 – SWOT Analysis of Co-Design experience: strengths and weakness (Internal factors)

| Strengths | Weaknesses |
|---|--|
| <p>Community Engagement and Participation: Active involvement of diverse community members and establishment of participatory frameworks.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Existence of a network of Neighbourhood Houses and of the culture of participation in political/strategic decisions." (Bologna, Female, 45, NGOs Representatives)</i> <i>"People from different backgrounds complement each other." (Tartu, Female, 58, Practitioners)</i></p> | <p>Lack of Clear Direction or Coordination: Absence of clear guidance, goals, or coordination, and challenges with legislative disparities and operational complexities.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Lack of a pre-established budget." (Bologna, Female, 30, Practitioners)</i> <i>"Lack of clear guidance, lack of a clear goal." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGOs Representatives)</i></p> |
| <p>Personal and Professional Development: Opportunity for personal growth, skill development, and knowledge exchange.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Personal enrichment, Discovery of practices, Fruitful exchanges." (Rouen, Female, 74, Citizens)</i></p> | <p>Difficulties in Engaging Participants: Low motivation, time constraints, and passive engagement reduce effectiveness.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"None of the participants seemed strongly interested and motivated in the project." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)</i> <i>"People have little time to contribute to voluntary work." (Tartu, Female, 54, Citizens)</i></p> |
| <p>Environmental and Cultural Preservation: Commitment to preserving diverse landscapes and cultural heritage.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Great diversity of landscapes and good state of conservation of forest ecosystems." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 45, Practitioners)</i></p> | <p>Operational and Logistical Issues: Excessive democracy, governance issues, and political dynamics complicate decision-making.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Too much democracy." (Tartu, Male, 54, Citizens)</i> <i>"Operative with local politic." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 37, Practitioners)</i></p> |
| <p>Commitment and Initiative: Strong determination, initiative, and dynamic engagement drive collective goals.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"The will and determination." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 49, Experts)</i> <i>"Dynamic, understandable." (Szeged, Male, 36, Phoenix Partner)</i></p> | |

These advantages are somewhat offset by glaring flaws such as poor synchronisation or direction and trouble holding participants' attention, which are the main weaknesses. Confusion and obstruction to progress are caused by unclear objectives, inadequate instructions, and practical problems like "lack of pre-established budget" and "misunderstanding of the method." Furthermore, problems with operations, such as "too much democracy" might cause stagnation in the decision-making process. These problems show how co-design activities require more explicit frameworks and more capable leadership.

There are numerous opportunities (Table 18 – SWOT external factors) to improve citizen engagement, learning, and creativity through co-design. Involving a larger spectrum of community members and sectors can increase involvement and produce more complete results.

Table 18 - SWOT Analysis of Co-Design Experience: Opportunities and Threats (External factors)

| Opportunities | Threats |
|--|---|
| <p>Citizen Engagement and Participation: Enhanced opportunities for diverse community involvement. </p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Possibility of citizen participation." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)</i> <i>"Public from several municipalities - the desire to do, the will." (Rouen, Female, 47, Citizens)</i></p> | <p>Lack of Coordination and Focus: Fragmented efforts and divergent interests hinder cohesive action.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"There was no cohesion between the parties, none of the participants seemed strongly interested and motivated in the project." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)</i> <i>"Scattered light, poor focus." (Tartu, Female, 53, Social/Environmental Movements)</i></p> |
| <p>Learning and Skill Development: Potential for participants to learn new models, rethink processes, and develop skills.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Learn about new opportunities." (Bologna, Female, 81, Citizens)</i> <i>"Allows you to rethink processes." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Practitioners)</i></p> | <p>Resource Constraints: Limited financial and organizational resources impede sustainability. </p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Critical moment for Neighbourhood Houses and for volunteering in general." (Bologna, Female, 45, NGOs Representatives)</i> <i>"Difficulty in diversified governance." (Bologna, Female, 30, Practitioners)</i></p> <p>Time and Commitment: Busy schedules and competing priorities strain involvement and decision-making.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"People have little time to contribute to voluntary work." (Tartu, Female, 58, Practitioners)</i> <i>"It takes a lot of time." (Tartu, Prefer not to say, 72, Other)</i></p> |
| <p>Process Improvement and Innovation: Opportunities to systematize community reflections and innovate in co-design practices. </p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Systematize various reflections already active on the city, with the direct involvement of the communities." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)</i> <i>"Together we are stronger (there will be a better result)." (Tartu, Female, 58, Practitioners)</i></p> | <p>Communication and Engagement: Organizational complexities, political party involvement, and trust-building barriers complicate collaboration. </p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Difficulty of actively involving the political party throughout the process." (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners)</i> <i>"Too many organizations - territorial and associative network = fog." (Rouen, Female, 47, Citizens)</i></p> <p>Sustainability and Follow-Up: Lack of follow-up mechanisms reduces the sustainability and impact of co-design outcomes.</p> <p>Quotes: <i>"Not having any follow-up to the work carried out." (Rouen, Female, 74, Citizens)</i></p> |

| | |
|--|---|
| | <i>"Abandonment of the project after the end of the established time." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizens)</i> |
|--|---|

Possibilities for "learning by doing" and reevaluating current procedures provide room for capacity building and skill development, which can lead to advancements in co-design techniques. Nonetheless, some dangers make these opportunities less sustainable. Time limits, resource shortages, and a lack of cooperation and concentration among stakeholders may impede the efficacy of the co-design process. Fears such as "risk of inoperability after the end of the project" highlight how disengagement and project abandonment can result from a lack of a cohesive vision and insufficient funding. Moreover, communication and commitment maintenance challenges, together with the requirement for continuous monitoring, pose a danger to co-design efforts' long-term effectiveness.

The co-design experience's SWOT analysis reveals a complex interaction between opportunities, threats, weaknesses, and strengths. While there is a lot of room for growth and creativity regarding community engagement and varied participation, coordination issues, resource constraints, and sustainability concerns must be addressed to make the most of the process. Co-design projects will be more unified, inclusive, and effective if these areas are the focus.

4.3.3. The Territorial Commission for Co-Design (TCCD)

A Territorial Commission led the co-design process for Co-Design (TCCD), composed of participants from different sociocultural backgrounds, contexts, and interests. Therefore, analysing the participants' perceptions about the TCCD was crucial. The answers to the question, "Could you please explain what the Territorial Commission for Co-design is for you?" offer a nuanced comprehension of the differing viewpoints of the Territorial Commission for Co-design. Although respondents give the commission varying descriptions, a few fundamental themes come through: it is viewed as a forum for multi-stakeholder co-design and planning, a place to foster communication and interaction, a way to promote community involvement and participation, and a body with various functions.

Numerous participants view the TCCD as a cooperative forum wherein various stakeholders collaborate to plan, create, and carry out projects jointly, including residents, experts,

practitioners, and decision-makers. In order to meet local needs and issues, broad participation and collaborative decision-making are prioritised.

The commission, for instance, is described as a:

"common planning between different subjects that considers territorial specificities"
(Bologna, Female, 79, Citizens).

One participant perceives it as "a multi-stakeholder co-design space responsible for designing the participatory path that will have to respond to the design challenges by involving a larger community" (Bologna, Prefer not to mention, 29, Practitioners). These quotations demonstrate a conviction that co-design can promote shared ownership of projects and outcomes, thereby increasing their relevance and impact. In addition, it is acknowledged that integrating different viewpoints is necessary when tackling regional issues. The statement "The meeting of stakeholders (citizens, technicians, elected officials) to co-construct a territorial method" (Rouen, Female, 48, Practitioners) is made by a practitioner from Rouen. This statement emphasises the commission's function as a forum where various specialities and interests come together to create coordinated plans for territorial development.

A recurring motif regards the TCCD as a platform for communication and interaction amongst many interested parties. In order to cooperatively handle local concerns, the emphasis here is on promoting communication, understanding, and mutual learning. This viewpoint highlights the significance of honest communication and positive interactions as essential components of successful co-design procedures. An individual from Tartu highlights the importance of expert knowledge and peer learning in the co-design process when she characterises it as a:

"constructive exchange of ideas between experts in their field" (Tartu, Female, 33, Practitioners).

However, some participants also stated that more concrete actions are required after these discussions. As one Rouen resident puts it, "Conducive environments are for the interchange of ideas. The issue is that we cannot take action (Rouen, Female, 47, Citizens). This sentiment highlights what appears to be a disconnect between talk and action, implying that although discourse is essential, it needs to produce concrete results in order to keep stakeholders involved and trusting.

The commission is also thought of as a way to promote community engagement and participation, bringing local communities together to work together to address local problems and advance community development. This point of view highlights the commission's duty to enlist the public, increase public awareness, and encourage active engagement in decisions that affect their daily lives. It is defined as:

"an assembly of citizens who make projects together" (CNDP, Female, 66, Phoenix-partners)

"allowing citizens to be aware of certain issues, to participate in debates, to give their ideas and to move things forward" (CNDP, Female, 67, Citizens)

These quotations demonstrate a faith in the ability of grassroots involvement and public participation to propel community-led development. The commission is seen as a platform that enables citizens to voice their concerns and actively involves them in crafting solutions.

Aside from the prevailing themes, a few more viewpoints offer more specialised or distinctive analyses of the TCCD function. Some see it as a living lab, a testing ground for new ideas and community-based activities. Some view it as a Consultative Group that offers suggestions and ideas on specific problems or as a Decision-Making Authority in charge of making important choices regarding pilot programs. As an example, a participant puts it as:

"the body that makes decisions about the pilot himself" (Gata-Malcata, Practices, Male, 40)

Some have expressed a more critical perspective, viewing the commission as a "waste of time" (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts) or as a "theoretical exercise and analytical task for university students" (Iceland, Female, 64, Citizens). These answers imply a certain amount of disenchantment or incongruity between expectations and reality, highlighting the need for better communication and demonstration of tangible impacts.

Participants in the TCCD generally reported a positive view regarding the TCCD's aims' clarity and moderate satisfaction with its diversity; nevertheless, they also pointed out areas that needed development concerning inclusivity and comprehensibility. 69.2% of respondents believed the TCCD's objectives were well-defined and obvious, while 30.8% disagreed. Thus, most participants think that the TCCD had a clear goal and direction, essential for ensuring stakeholders collaborate effectively and strategically. A well-stated goal can facilitate the alignment of participants' varied interests and set expectations, improving decision-making and resultant outcomes. Nonetheless, there may be an opportunity for improvement in the TCCD's goal communication, given the sizeable

percentage of respondents (30.8%) who thought the objectives were unclear. This disparity could indicate miscommunications among stakeholders or the need for additional in-depth talks to ensure everyone is on the same page. Given the diverse backgrounds of TCCD participants, objectives must be communicated clearly and revisited periodically to ensure mutual understanding and alignment.

Participants' attitudes differ concerning the diversity of the TCCD's composition, reflecting a range of opinions regarding the commission's inclusivity (Table 19).

Table 19 – TCCD participants' perceptions about its composition in terms of diversity

| Scale | N* | % |
|-------------------------|----|------|
| Very diverse | 19 | 29.2 |
| Moderately diverse | 28 | 43.1 |
| Somewhat diverse | 16 | 24.6 |
| Not diverse enough | 1 | 1.5 |
| Don't know/Can't answer | 1 | 1.5 |

*Missing values = 5

The majority (72.3%) of respondents view the TCCD as "very diverse" or "moderately diverse," according to the statistics, demonstrating a generally favourable opinion of the organization's inclusivity. This is encouraging because diversity in a commission of this kind is essential to guarantee that a wide range of viewpoints, backgrounds, and requirements are considered throughout the co-designing phase. Diversity enriches the conversation, enables more thorough problem-solving, and guarantees equal and efficient results. There might be perceived gaps in representation, given that 1.5% believe the TCCD is "not diverse enough" and 24.6% believe it is just "somewhat diverse". These disparities may be related to particular stakeholder groups that feel their voices are not sufficiently incorporated, such as minority groups, marginalised communities, or other under-represented sectors – nature representatives and future generations perhaps.

Data suggests that even though the TCCD has successfully outlined its goals and included a fair amount of diversity, continuous efforts are still required to further inclusivity and improve clarity. This could entail holding frequent assessments of the TCCD's membership to ensure it accurately represents the variety of communities it seeks to serve, as well as a dedication to honest and open communication that consistently brings all parties together around common goals.

It is possible to gain important insights into how participants view the priorities and aims of the TCCD by analysing the responses to the question, "What are the main objectives of

the TCCD?". The responses can be divided into significant themes: participatory planning and inclusive processes, ecological transition and sustainability, awareness and education, giving voice to different viewpoints and perspectives, facilitating dialogue between social groups, and other specific or unclear objectives.

The primary goals of the TCCD, according to a sizable portion of respondents, are inclusive practices and participatory planning. In order to promote inclusive, transparent, and democratic collaborative workplaces, this category places a strong emphasis on including a variety of stakeholders in planning and decision-making processes. Participant quotes emphasise the need to set clear goals, forming multidisciplinary teams, developing co-design procedures, and fostering communication among community members:

"Co-design a participatory process and do it inclusively, recognizing different points of view, welcoming conflict and taking the consensus method as a compass." (Bologna, Female, 29, Practitioner)

"Create an active and interdisciplinary working group that aims to debate what each one can offer and how they intend to promote it." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 37, Practitioner)

The focus on participatory planning implies that participants understand the value of organised procedures where different points of view are considered, and choices are reached collaboratively. Nevertheless, a few participants also said that the aims were unclear or confusing, which is consistent with the 30.8% who said the objectives were poorly stated:

"Keeping different subjects together as a collateral objective, I wasn't clear on what the result to achieve was." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGOs representatives)

A noteworthy subset of replies relates to goals centred around ecological transition and sustainability. Goals including encouraging sustainable practices, creating frameworks for resource management, and tackling environmental concerns through teamwork were noted by participants:

"Co-construct a working method around ecological transition issues that mobilizes all stakeholders." (Rouen, Female, 48, Practitioners)

"Develop a cross-border landscape management model with an emphasis on agricultural and livestock mosaics." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 49, Experts)

These goals align with the TCCD's emphasis on encouraging environmentally friendly policies and practices and show a solid commitment to environmental sustainability. A vital component of the TCCD's larger goal to include sustainability in municipal planning and policymaking is the emphasis on ecological transition. The replies imply that participants are dedicated to developing cooperative solutions and being aware of environmental issues. This supports the inclusion theme shown in the earlier data.

The third group strongly emphasises goals for public education and awareness-building on a range of subjects, especially those about social responsibility, civic engagement, and environmental sustainability. These goals are to educate communities and promote proactive engagement in tackling regional and worldwide issues:

"Raise awareness among the population." (CNDP, Female, 44, Citizens)

"Find out the Tartans' attitude towards improving food handling. Find the best way to influence the population towards improving food handling." (Tartu, Gender not specified, Age not specified)

The emphasis on education and awareness aligns with the TCCD's mission to empower communities and promote informed involvement. This theme further enhances the goals associated with participatory planning by emphasising the value of knowledge exchange and ongoing education as essential components of successful co-design procedures. In a co-design process, it is imperative to give voice to various opinions and perspectives, as several answers have emphasised. The necessity of inclusive conversations in which many viewpoints—particularly those of under-represented or marginalised groups—are heard and taken into consideration was emphasised by the participants:

"Recover the voice of residents. Bring this voice back to the state." (CNDP, Gender not specified, Age not specified)

"Give the community a voice." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizens)

This category presents as more evidence of the TCCD's dedication to inclusiveness and community involvement in planning. Additionally, it shows that participants want the TCCD to be a forum where different perspectives can impact decision-making processes. This is consistent with the opinions of participants regarding the diversity of the TCCD since most of them (72.3%) thought it was "very diverse" or "moderately diverse."

Promoting communication amongst various social groups was identified as an additional goal. This theme centres on encouraging positive dialogue among diverse stakeholders to enhance understanding and collaboration:

"Exchange of practices and consider how to develop these practices." (Rouen, Male, 32, citizen)

"Clarity between citizens and the public sector in goals and applications." (Tartu, Female, 40, practitioners)

To achieve consensus and guarantee that the co-design process is genuinely collaborative, discussion facilitation is essential. This goal is related to the information regarding the TCCD's perceived diversity, indicating that although there is a basis for discussion, more may be done to improve intergroup cooperation and communication.

Overall, a strong emphasis on inclusive discourse, ecological sustainability, participatory planning, and awareness-building is revealed by the thematic analysis of the TCCD's aims. These goals are consistent with the quantitative evidence about the perceived diversity and clarity of the TCCD's objectives. Although the TCCD's aim is widely supported, the data indicates that continual efforts to improve inclusivity, clarity, and communication are crucial to addressing the concerns of those who feel under-represented or unsure of the commission's objectives.

Although the TCCD has been considered quite diverse by many participants, it was essential to understand if its composition was adequate in light of the socio-environmental problems in the specific territorial contexts. The data highlights a crucial problem with the composition of the TCCD: 68%²³ of the participants thought that some groups were missing, which points to a gap in the dialogue's inclusivity. This result is consistent with earlier qualitative data, in which respondents stressed the need for more inclusive procedures and the representation of other points of view. The TCCD has to reevaluate and expand its stakeholder engagement practices to ensure that all relevant perspectives are heard, especially those directly impacted by socio-environmental concerns. Looking at this subject in more detail and considering participants' answers, the analysis highlights concern about inclusion, diversity, and comprehensiveness in addressing socio-environmental issues by identifying specific groups and stakeholders that participants feel are lacking from the makeup of the TCCD.

²³ *Missing values = 20

The participants observed that the TCCD lacked critical environmental experts and activist groups. These people are essential for adding advocacy and targeted knowledge to conversations. The lack of these voices raises the possibility that the TCCD lacks the specialised knowledge to address socio-environmental issues adequately.

"People with social vulnerabilities, activists for the environment and climate change, and critical communities (such as anti-tram and city 30 committees)" (Bologna, 50-year-old woman, practitioner).

"Specialists who have implemented international projects on this topic and act as strong specialists are not consistently involved" (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioner).

Targeted interaction with these stakeholders is necessary, as evidenced by the under-representation of environmental activists and experts. Their participation might improve the conversations' technical depth and legitimacy, leading to more effective solutions and support for ardent legislative initiatives. Other social groups that appear to be under-represented are the youngsters, linguistic minorities, individuals with impairments, and local ethnic minorities like the Roma, which concerned the participants. This divide may result in a narrow perspective on socio-environmental concerns, missing the unique challenges these groups encounter.

"Bolognese society is articulated and complex, jagged, rich in linguistic minorities, with communities of foreign origins worldwide. This wealth was not represented. There was also a lack of representation of people with disabilities" (Bologna, Prefer not to say, 29, Practitioner).

"Roma, minorities" (Szeged, Male, 36, Phoenix partner)

A lack of diverse representation could undermine the TCCD's inclusivity and representativeness, alienating certain community members and preventing them from gathering essential insights. Ensuring the equity and comprehensiveness of socio-environmental programs requires the proactive inclusion of diverse groups. The information also showed a dearth of parties involved in business, such as economic actors and representatives of regional companies. These parties directly impact sustainability initiatives and play essential roles in the local economy.

"I think a grocery store representative attended once, but not constantly. There was no representative of the catering companies at all. Both seem important" (Tartu, Female, 58, Practitioner).

"People directly in the profession, e.g., the sea, are fishermen" (CNDP, Female, 51, Citizen).

Incorporating business and economic stakeholders into the TCCD could promote adopting eco-friendly practices, partnerships for sustainable development, and valuable insights into the financial implications of environmental policies. The participants emphasised the necessity of government agencies and institutions being more consistently involved. These entities are essential for formulating policies and carrying out socio-environmental initiatives.

"The participation of government bodies in our TCCD is fundamental in the Spanish case since we are greatly affected in our problems by bureaucratic aspects related to the interpretation of laws that must be reformed or their interpretation adapted in the territory as soon as possible" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 40, Practitioner).

"The town councils have not been involved enough. They were invited, but they have not been constant in their participation. I think it is enriching for them to get used to participating in participatory processes" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Practitioner).

The involvement of government and institutional officials is vital for aligning TCCD projects with policy frameworks and ensuring that participative processes lead to practical policies. Building stronger ties with these players may enhance policy coherence and make it easier to implement socio-environmental strategies. No less important is the absence of the interests and viewpoints of future generations that are not considered in socio-environmental planning - there has been a strong need for their involvement.

"Representative of future generations: citizen councils of children, adolescents, students, etc." (Rouen, Prefer not to say, 35, Citizen).

Involving young people in the TCCD is essential to promoting accountability and ownership for environmental sustainability. Their engagement can contribute to dynamic and forward-thinking initiatives by bringing new perspectives and unique ideas. It can be said that there are gaps in the TCCD's composition, as indicated by the data, especially regarding the representation of youth, specialised groups, varied community segments, economic players, and activists. A more representative, inclusive, and prosperous participatory approach that can handle the complex socio-environmental issues that different territorial settings encounter will only be possible if these gaps are filled, although being aware of the difficulty of achieving it.

Similarly, a preliminary diagnosis made with the TCCDs implementers (Phoenix Local Partners) in 2023 revealed difficulties in integrating future generations and nature representatives in the TCCDs. Therefore, after the process, TCCD participants were asked to reflect on their TCCD composition, including those.

According to the findings, a sizable percentage of participants (66.7%²⁴) mentioned that future generations' representatives were included in the TCCD. This also implies, though, that 33.3% said that these representatives were left out. The significant percentage of missing replies (52.9%) indicates that respondents may not have known enough about this topic. Most cases show a commitment to taking long-term perspectives into account in the TCCD, as evidenced by representatives for future generations. However, the high percentage of missing answers suggests that there should be better documentation or communication regarding the participation of representatives of future generations. Resolving this ambiguity could improve openness and guarantee that the interests of future generations are regularly considered in the conversation. This integration's contributions are diverse and have much potential, as indicated by the participants. Introducing new and varied viewpoints is one of the main advantages of involving future generations. Young delegates bring fresh concepts and creative solutions, questioning preconceived notions and providing distinctive perspectives on socio-environmental problems. Their contributions encourage a more inclusive and active approach to problem-solving, adding depth to conversations with their unique perspective.

"A different perspective compared to the use of places in the city" (Bologna, Female, 45, NGO Representative).

"Different view" (Tartu, Male, 54, Citizen).

Future generations frequently emphasise long-term sustainability and prioritise sustainable practices and environmental preservation in their efforts. Their engagement guarantees that the group analyses the long-term effects of current actions, encouraging a focus on solutions that benefit both present and future generations.

"It helped us think more sustainably, putting environmental aspects to the fore" (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix Partner).

"He recently participated in the citizen assembly for the climate and conveyed to us his desire to create a transparent and inclusive participatory path" (Bologna, Female, 30, Practitioner).

²⁴ *Missing values = 37

Future generations' participation encourages diversity by guaranteeing that all groups are represented in conversations, as noted by TCCD participants. More equitable solutions that consider the demands and worries of younger populations are made possible by this more comprehensive representation, which produces more balanced and just results.

"That all audiences are represented" (CNDP).

"We have started to react to what is happening at sea, and the debate must lead them to a more serene future, and that is why they must give their opinion on the subject" (CNDP).

Young representatives frequently infuse conversations with energy and a sense of urgency, which can encourage and uplift other participants. Their presence gives the group energy and encourages a more proactive and dynamic approach to problem-solving.

"He was inspiring" (Szeged, Prefer not to say, 31, Other).

"Open mind and humour" (CNDP, Female, 66, Phoenix Partners).

Despite these advantages, the TCCD faces difficulties in successfully incorporating future generations. Some participants acknowledged problems motivating young people and needing more relevant engagement methods. There are also worries that local government employees might already be considering future generations when making decisions.

"I consider myself young (under 30). I think that young people have a lot to contribute to this co-construction but that the formats proposed are not suitable" (Rouen, Female, 56, Practitioner).

"The TCCD advocates the mobilization of young people, who are not yet associated" (Rouen, Female, 48, Practitioner).

Introducing people from future generations into the TCCD significantly improves debates by introducing fresh viewpoints, highlighting sustainability, boosting inclusivity, and giving motivational energy. Nonetheless, there are still issues in successfully enlisting and integrating young people. In order to properly utilise the contributions of future generations and guarantee that the TCCD maintains a dynamic and inclusive approach to socio-environmental issues, these challenges must be addressed.

Regarding nature representatives (non-humans), 48.8% said there was no representation of nature (non-human entities) in the TCCD, whereas 51.2% indicated that there were representatives, which shows that small advances were made considering the 2023

diagnosis. A notable degree of ambiguity or lack of knowledge is again indicated by the 41.4% of answers left out²⁵. The nearly equal distribution of respondents who reported and did not report about the presence of representatives from nature points to a mixed strategy for including non-human viewpoints in the TCCD. The large percentage of missing replies suggests a similar need for more explanations or supporting materials. Despite this, data indicates that adding nature representatives—non-human entities—to the TCCD adds numerous significant contributions to group discussions. These contributions guarantee that ecological factors are successfully incorporated into decision-making processes.

Representatives of nature play a significant role in society by offering specialised scientific and technical knowledge and experience on environmental challenges. These delegates provide in-depth analyses of ecological systems, preservation techniques, and plans for sustainable growth. Their technical know-how ensures that environmental health and biodiversity are given priority by providing the TCCD with scientific rigour and workable solutions.

"Technical knowledge" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 48, Practitioner).

"Representatives of community gardens, scientists who advocate organic farming, representatives of the education sector with their projects" (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioner).

During group debates, representatives of nature aggressively defend the rights of non-human creatures and the natural world. They ensure that ecological factors are considered appropriately, highlighting the inherent worth of biodiversity. Their arguments incorporate viewpoints from protected areas and environmental organisations, which helps to preserve natural resources and directs the conversation towards sustainable methods.

"Taking into account the representatives of the protected areas, the organizations identified as interested parties, the identification of the territory covered and the identified priorities, I believe so, as they act on behalf of the natural environment and its components" (Gata-Malcata Female, 57, Other).

"Ensure that the elements that make up this 'non-human' nature are considered in the process" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 45, Practitioner).

"He illuminated our emerging problems from a different perspective" (Szeged, Prefer not to say, 31, Other).

²⁵ *Missing values = 29

Representatives of nature are also essential in disseminating the best conservation and environmental management practices. They contribute to disseminating successful tactics and ideas for protecting natural resources and advancing sustainability by utilising their experiences and knowledge. Nature representatives give a comprehensive and ethical viewpoint to conversations in addition to their technical and advocacy duties. They encourage a broader knowledge of environmental challenges and ethical duties by highlighting the interconnectedness between humans and nature.

"In my experience, nature has no interests of its own other than through ourselves, our conscious response to the role we play within it and the permanent debate that this raises" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 40, Practitioner).

"The participants all seemed to be sincere enthusiasts for the protection of nature, and most of them, as members of the local government, had a significant insight into the problems and different priorities of people regarding the measures and organization of the highlands" (Iceland, Female, 64, Citizen).

Notwithstanding the noteworthy contributions, there are a few issues with the TCCD's formal depiction of nature. Concerns have been raised over the dearth of jobs specifically tasked with expressing nature and the requirement for more formal inclusion of these viewpoints.

"I do not consider that there is a commission member with this specific function. All elements consider the importance of preserving and conserving the natural resources of the area covered by the project at all times of discussion within the group" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizen).

Significant contributions are made by involving representatives of nature in the TCCD. These contributions include sharing best practices, advocating for animals, providing scientific knowledge, and offering a comprehensive ethical viewpoint. However, there are still issues with guaranteeing formal and consistent representation. In order to properly include the perspectives of nature and improve the overall efficacy of the TCCD's environmental deliberations and decisions, these difficulties must be addressed.

Developing sustainable and ecologically responsible solutions requires co-design methods to consider the interests of non-human species and the natural world. This integration ensures that ecological factors are secondary and integral to the design and decision-making processes (Alves & Vidal, 2024a; Epstein, 2022; Vidal & Alves, 2024). Co-design efforts can provide more balanced and successful results by recognising and addressing the requirements and effects on non-human entities and natural systems. The present analysis

delves into several approaches to integrating the interests of nature into co-design, emphasising crucial issues, including filling in knowledge gaps, the value of specialised expertise, the role of advocates, and the integration of particular ecological practices. It is essential to comprehend these elements to promote ideas that are creative, useful, considerate, and beneficial to the environment.

The co-design process has many potential obstacles, including the interests of non-humans and the natural world. The qualitative data indicates several strategies and factors to consider when incorporating these interests into the design and decision-making processes. A significant portion of participants indicated that they were unsure how to include the interests of non-humans and the natural world in the co-design process. This draws attention to a knowledge and skill gap that could prevent ecological factors from being successfully incorporated into project design and execution. On the other hand, some participants stressed the necessity for specialised expertise and representation to address nature's concerns successfully. It is believed that to effectively communicate the effects on nature and guarantee that these factors are considered when making decisions, including specialists or experts in the co-design process is essential.

"In general, it is important, and if there is no ad hoc component, an expert participant (individual or organization) must represent them. In the case of the TCCD of Bologna, the focus was closely linked to the network of houses; therefore, it would have been appropriate to have someone capable of expressing the possible impacts on nature that could be generated." (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners)

"Through specialized personnel." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)

"The process as it is now, with the introduction of the planning portal, is perfect. There, anyone interested can express their views on issues being worked on by the local authorities." (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts)

Another important subject is the necessity for committed spokespeople or spokespersons for non-humans and the natural world. Participants proposed a way to guarantee that the interests of nature are adequately articulated and considered during the co-design process: appointing advocates or representatives from pertinent organisations.

"With a spokesperson of nature." (Bologna, Female, 50, Practitioners)

"Associations such as Vettonia that represent nature and non-human species can join." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Practitioners)

"Through their (human) spokesperson, better defend those who do not speak and cannot express themselves." (CNDP, Female, 51, Citizens)

The participants also mentioned the importance of incorporating particular practices and solutions that put the interests of nature first. Examples include developing strategies that improve the relationship between urban areas and natural settings and creating solutions that prioritise life preservation and reproduction over profit.

"By proposing solutions prioritising the maintenance and reproduction of life, rather than profit generation. An example that came up in the Platform was the installation of bee pastures and pollinators in the city's public spaces." (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix Partner)

"The implemented good practices of the interaction between the city and nature will reach more of the population. Involved from children to the elderly." (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioners)

Integrating the interests of non-human and natural species into the co-design process entails some critical tasks, including resolving ambiguity and knowledge gaps, utilising specialised representatives and expertise, deploying spokespersons for advocacy, and putting in place particular practices that prioritise ecological considerations. By addressing these issues, co-design initiatives can provide more comprehensive and lasting results by ensuring that nature's interests are successfully integrated.

Some participants acknowledge the numerous benefits of integrating nature representatives in the co-design process. However, they are also aware that its integration poses numerous noteworthy obstacles, which mirror more general concerns like comprehension, morality, equilibrium, and correspondence. These draw attention to the difficulty of including ecological and non-human factors in decision-making frameworks. One of the main challenges noted is a lack of knowledge or clarity on successfully including non-human viewpoints. Responses from stakeholders who express ambiguity or bewilderment regarding the nature of non-human interests and how co-design processes can incorporate them are included in this category. These problems frequently result from a lack of understanding or consciousness of non-human organisms' ecological implications and requirements.

"Weak understanding." (Tartu, Male, 54, Citizens)

"Definition of terms." (Tartu, Female, 33, Practitioners)

"There is locally a deficit of organisms of this nature, possible radicalism." (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizens)

"I believe the challenge lies in being able to identify with the non-human perspective truly." (Bologna, Prefer not to say, 29, Practitioners)

It presents difficulties in addressing the philosophical and ethical aspects of non-human perspectives. Responses that emphasise the necessity of moving away from human-centred strategies and towards more inclusive, multi-species frameworks are included in this category. These difficulties frequently entail creating a framework that respects both human and non-human beings and balancing scientific understanding with humanistic ideals.

"I expect challenges that consider approaches to the problem that are simultaneously scientific and humanistic. Humanistic is a vision of things, open-mindedness, and a disposition not to think of oneself as the centre of things." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGO representatives)

"Succeed in establishing a multi-species democracy on new foundations." (Bologna, Female, 79, Citizens)

The practical challenge of striking a balance between the perspectives of humans and non-humans is putting philosophical or theoretical ideas into practical steps. These difficulties include balancing conflicting interests, handling sensitivity, and ensuring that design solutions balance the demands of the natural world and people.

"Mediation and balance between non-human and human perspectives." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 45, Practitioners)

"The right harmony of nature and innovation, without mutual harm." (Szeged, Prefer not to say, 31, Other)

Effective communication and lobbying are essential to guarantee that non-human concerns are sufficiently represented in co-design processes. This category covers difficulties in identifying suitable spokespeople, promoting non-humans' needs, and ensuring that these concerns are well expressed and understood.

"Find the right people to transmit the right information." (CNDP, Female, 56, Citizens)

"Through their spokesperson, better defend those who do not speak and cannot express themselves." (CNDP, Female, 51, Citizens)

To effectively integrate non-human viewpoints into co-design procedures, considerable obstacles concerning comprehension, moral dilemmas, pragmatic equilibrium, and correspondence must be addressed. A complex strategy that incorporates knowledge enhancement, integration of ethical values, balancing of varied interests, and effective lobbying and representation is needed to address these difficulties. By eliminating these hurdles, co-design processes can become more inclusive and sensitive to the demands of both human and non-human stakeholders.

A crucial aspect of participants' answers is that including non-humans in co-design processes is not without its ethical challenges, which should be further discussed. However, when we ask them to anticipate and reflect on ethical challenges, ambiguity and lack of knowledge around the moral implications of incorporating non-human viewpoints is a recurrent issue. Many respondents indicated that they were unsure of how to tackle these problems or that they could not offer comprehensive responses. However, several answers emphasised the moral obligation that people have to the natural world, stressing the need to respect non-human beings and prevent alienation:

"Alienation from nature leads to ethical problems in how nature." (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioners)

"It is necessary to explain more and more to each other and those involved that we have an ethical responsibility towards nature." (Tartu, Age 72)

"Ethics of respect for being. To be or not to be." (CNDP, Female, 66, Phoenix-partners)

Respondents also worried that non-human viewpoints would be eclipsed or reduced to mere extensions of human ideas, raising concerns about anthropocentrism and human superiority. These observations highlight the difficulties in overcoming prejudices centred on humans and ensuring that non-human viewpoints are considered.

"Yes, I believe there is a risk of anthropomorphizing 'non-human thought' by reducing it to an appendage of 'human thought.'" (Bologna, Prefer not to say, 29, Practitioners)

"Presuming to represent the interests of animals or plants would correspond to a heightened sense of superiority." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 40, Practitioners)

In addition, respondents talked about how hard it is to strike a balance between human and non-human interests, mainly when they can be at odds:

"There will always be the question of primacy, is it human or non-human? Do we have to consider it this way? Can't we put it in?" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Other)

"Yes, ensuring, without exaggerated fundamentalism, the healthy coexistence of the two perspectives, always with the pillars of respect." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 45, Practitioners)

"Yes, nature must be represented, but nature's needs do not always match human needs. So in this case, is man first or nature?" (Szegeed, Male, 36, Phoenix partner)

Additionally, the following practical difficulties about the socio-economic effects of incorporating non-human perspectives were brought up:

"In the event of a conflict of interests, the examination of counter-interests and the analysis of their socio-economic usefulness." (Szegeed, Prefer not to say, 31, Other)

"So that a given investment close to nature does not disturb the people living in its surroundings." (Szegeed, Male, 27, Phoenix partner)

Lastly, the significance of protecting the environment and making sure that natural resources are used sustainably was emphasised by the respondents:

"Sustainable use of natural resources is key to our survival. Nothing is more important." (Iceland, Male, 60, Experts)

"Care must be taken when planning untouched nature or deciding whether it will be used in any way or (universally) protected." (Iceland, Female, 64, Citizens)

It can be seen that the main ethical tension in integrating non-human perspectives into co-design processes lies in "Do humans come first or does nature?" This tension draws attention to the difficult task of balancing the demands of non-humans and humans. The dispute over whether human needs should take precedence over those of the natural world reflects a larger one regarding value and prioritisation in environmental ethics. In order to overcome this ethical dilemma and promote a more sustainable and equitable relationship between humans and the environment, co-design must aim to find solutions that respect and consider the interests of both humans and non-humans.

4.3.4. Satisfaction and Expectations

The section about satisfaction and expectations with the co-design process delves into the perspectives and encounters of participants concerning their participation in TCCD. It is crucial to comprehend participant expectations and satisfaction levels to assess these processes' effectiveness. Better practices and improvements to the co-design process can be made possible by implementing the evaluation's insights, making the process of tackling complex socio-environmental issues more egalitarian, responsive, and prosperous.

The results suggest that most participants were generally satisfied with the activities and tools employed during the co-design process. Specifically, 36.1% of respondents were "Somewhat satisfied," and 26.2% were "Very satisfied," indicating that over 60% of participants had a positive experience (Table 20).

Table 20 – TCCD participants' satisfaction with activities and tools during the co-design process

| Satisfaction level | N* | % |
|-------------------------|----|------|
| Very satisfied | 16 | 26.2 |
| Somewhat satisfied | 22 | 36.1 |
| Neutral | 13 | 21.3 |
| Somewhat unsatisfied | 2 | 3.3 |
| Very unsatisfied | 4 | 6.6 |
| Don't know/Can't answer | 4 | 6.6 |

*Missing values = 9

A smaller percentage, about 21.3%, continued to be "Neutral," indicating some ambivalence. Participants' levels of dissatisfaction were comparatively low, with only 6.6% expressing "Very unsatisfied" and 3.3% expressing "Somewhat unsatisfied." Furthermore, 6.6% of respondents responded, "Don't know/Can't answer," indicating some ambiguity or disagreement. Overall, the findings show that the co-design approach was well-received, but they also point out specific areas that still need work.

Based on the justifications provided by participants regarding their satisfaction with the activities and tools used during the co-design process, the analysis reveals a range of feedback spanning positive experiences, neutral or mixed feelings, and negative criticisms. Many participants reported the overall pleasure with the co-design tools and processes. They valued how well the tools were used, how well the meetings were run, and how inclusive and interactive the process was. Remarks show that the sessions were lively, the organisers were well-prepared, and the tools helped raise awareness and participation. For example, consider:

"The entity responsible for conducting the meetings effectively applied the co-design instruments and tools and guided the meetings in a correct manner and schedule..." (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizens)

"The process was quite participatory and all proposals and ideas were analyzed and discussed..." (Gata-Malcata, Male, 49, Experts)

A few individuals expressed gratitude for being included and heard, highlighting transparency and the exchange of information as significant advantages. For example:

"We were involved." (Tartu, Female, 69, Practitioners)

Some participants believed that the process was still in its early phases or ongoing, making it difficult for them to give the tools and approaches a thorough evaluation. When participants could not yet see specific results or thought additional time was needed, this resulted in indifferent responses. Other participants gave conflicting accounts of their experiences, pointing out both the tools' promise and certain drawbacks or areas for development. They emphasised problems including insufficient planning, inappropriate scheduling, or a deficiency in support that hindered creativity. For example:

"Some co-creation methodologies were interesting, in other cases I found the comparison not very facilitated..." (Bologna, Prefer not to say, 29, Practitioners)

A few participants expressed dissatisfaction because they thought the co-design process had not advanced or been completed. They observed incomplete journeys, biases, and a lack of exposure to various experiments, all of which contributed to their discontent. As an illustration:

"The process was interesting but seemed biased to me. Only part of the journey has been completed..." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGO representative)

Criticism also surfaced regarding alleged biases or a lack of clarity in the process. Some participants thought the process's efficacy and inclusivity were diminished because it aimed to achieve specific predetermined goals. As an illustration:

"Do the group's managers feel that they are too eager to steer the group into the path that suits them..." (Iceland, Female, 48, Other)

Many participants found it difficult to participate or offer insightful comments fully because they thought the process, or its components were too complicated or unclear.

"The questions are sometimes complex." (CNDP, 51-year-old female citizen)

Several participants cited the absence of in-person interaction as a significant disadvantage, emphasising that the depth of conversation and participation was constrained during online meetings. . As an example:

"At this moment, the only thing I miss is the potential for increased in-person interactions. Online assistance significantly diminishes the depth of communication..." (Practicians, Male, 40, Gata-Malcata)

Some participants believed the procedure was too brief, preventing them from using the tools more profoundly and interactively. A summary of these reasons associated with the pilot is presented in Table 21. Rather than criticising or punishing any person or group, the analysis linking participant feedback to particular pilots is a positive tool to improve the co-design process. We can gain a deeper understanding of the strengths and weaknesses that surfaced in various circumstances by recognising patterns in the feedback and connecting them to certain places or stages of the process. The association indicates some patterns in how participants experienced the co-design process. Positive feedback is typically linked to pilots where participants felt heard, involved, and satisfied with the methods employed, such as Tavira, Tartu, Gata-Malcata, CNDP, and Szeged.

Table 21 – TCCD participants feedback about the co-design process by pilot

| Feedback | Reason | Pilots |
|-----------------|---|---|
| Positive | Global Satisfaction with Tools and Methodologies | Tavira, Tartu, Gata-Malcata, CNDP, Szeged |
| | Being Heard and Involved in the Process | Gata-Malcata, CNDP |
| Neutral | Initial or Ongoing Phases | Bologna, Rouen |
| | Mixed Experiences | Bologna, Tavira |
| Negative | Lack of Progress or Completion | Bologna, Rouen |
| | Ineffective or Biased Process | Bologna, Iceland |
| | Complexity and Lack of Understanding | Iceland, CNDP |
| | Unbalance of Face-to-Face and Online Interactions | Rouen, Gata-Malcata |
| | Short Duration | Szeged |

On the other hand, participant satisfaction was negatively influenced by pilots like Bologna, Rouen, and Iceland, who encountered issues with process completion, perceived bias, and a lack of clarity. The method may be improved and modified to better satisfy the expectations of various stakeholders by learning from both triumphs and setbacks. This will ultimately result in co-design results that are more fruitful and significant.

Assessing participants' initial expectations and the degree to which they were fulfilled offers essential information about how successful the process was. The data collected indicates a wide range of expectations among the participants, from not having explicit expectations to expecting significant consequences or life-changing experiences (Table 22).

Table 22 – TCCD participants' expectations about the co-design process

| Expectation | N* | % |
|---------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| Exceeded my expectations | 7 | 11.5 |
| Met my expectations | 21 | 34.4 |
| Partially met my expectations | 18 | 29.5 |
| It did not meet my expectations | 2 | 3.3 |
| I had no expectations | 13 | 21.3 |

*Missing values = 9

A noteworthy segment of the participants (34.4%) reported that the TCCD fulfilled their expectations. This shows that the process went very well with the expected results, most likely due to the facilitator's skilful facilitation, the participants' clear communication, and the pertinent activities that matched their original objectives. 11% of participants expressed that the TCCD went above and beyond their initial expectations. This suggests that there were times when the process yielded unanticipated advantages like improved educational prospects, more inclusive dialogues, or a stronger feeling of community involvement. Notably, though, 29.5% of participants said that the TCCD somehow fell short of their expectations. This group probably consists of those who thought that while certain parts of the procedure were satisfactory, others could have been done better. It suggests a possible area where the co-design technique could be improved, maybe by ensuring a better match between participant expectations and process outcomes or addressing more specific community needs.

Just 3.3% of respondents said the TCCD fell short of their expectations. This low number suggests that most participants had a generally favourable experience. However, it also highlights the need for ongoing development to guarantee that involvement is valuable to all parties. Remarkably, 21.3% of participants said they had no expectations at first. This group probably included people who were new to civic participation or the process itself,

emphasising how crucial it is to give clear instructions and support to encourage deeper involvement right away. Most participants found that the TCCD process met or even surpassed their expectations, highlighting its general good reception.

Since understanding participants' expectations, a bit better was necessary, they were invited to justify their answers. The answers are organised around three main categories that summarize different expectation types: No or Low Expectations, Desire to Contribute, Curiosity, Open to Learning, and Expectations for Practical Outcomes or Specific Actions. A significant part of the participants entered the co-design process without specific expectations or with minimal expectations. This could be due to a lack of information about the process, unfamiliarity with civic engagement or the TCCD, or being new to participatory processes.

"I didn't have any." (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens)

"Initially none." (Bologna, Female, 79, Citizens)

"There were no expectations as I didn't really understand what it was all about." (Iceland, Female, 49, Phoenix-partners)

These participants' lack of expectations points to a need for more orientation and communication regarding the goals, procedures, and possible results of the TCCD. Participants are less likely to engage meaningfully or feel motivated if they are unaware of the objectives or have incomplete information. This lack of expectation may also be a symptom of more general problems with accessibility and inclusion in civic involvement; if people lack the self-assurance or knowledge to set expectations, there may be obstacles to participation that need to be removed.

However, many participants were driven by a sense of curiosity, a desire to learn, or an intention to contribute to the process. Even while they might not have had exact expectations, they were willing to share their viewpoints, learn from others, and comprehend the process.

"Curiosity." (Bologna, Female, 81, Citizens)

"To get to know other points of view." (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix partner)

"When I get involved in a new process the expectation is to understand what we have to do and where we want to go. Then secondly, the expectation is that all this is interesting to me,

makes sense and allows me to learn and make a useful contribution." (Bologna, Female, 72, NGOs representatives)

"The desire to contribute to change, personal development, expansion of the cooperation network." (Tartu, Female, 53, Social/environmental movements)

They may not have set expectations, but their curiosity and willingness to learn indicate that they are valuable members of the TCCD community who can support the development of an inclusive, dynamic, and reflective environment. These individuals can be beneficial in igniting debates, boosting group learning, and motivating others to get involved. Such individuals' presence emphasises how crucial it is to establish an environment where different points of view are accepted and where the emphasis is on group learning and participation.

Finally, some participants brought specific, realistic expectations to the co-design process. They preferred concrete outcomes and practical methods, and they expected organised activities, precise actions, or direct contributions to the project's objectives.

"The structuring of a successful participatory path that is following the possibilities and opportunities that the territory itself offers us." (Bologna, Female, 30, Practitioners)

"More applied activities, possibly financing of activities." (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioners)

"So that we can find more practical ways to educate the population on the topic, not just research." (Tartu, Female, 54, Business people)

These expectations imply a need for a methodical procedure that entails discussion and produces tangible, quantifiable results. In order for the TCCD to fulfil these goals, planning and carrying out particular projects must be balanced with discussion and consideration. Maintaining participants' involvement and happiness can be facilitated by making sure the process is not unduly abstract and that it assigns defined roles and attainable goals.

It is essential to comprehend how participants feel their perspectives are considered when assessing the efficacy and inclusivity of participatory processes like the TCCD. The answers to the question, "Did you feel that your opinions were considered during the co-design process?" are examined in this analysis (Table 23).

Table 23 – TCCD participants perceptions of their opinion consideration during the co-design process

| Response | N* | % |
|----------|----|------|
| Yes | 54 | 88.5 |
| No | 8 | 11.5 |

*Missing values = 9

The fact that 88.5% of participants thought their ideas were considered points to a generally favourable opinion of the inclusivity of the TCCD. This high degree of felt inclusion is consistent with the objectives of participatory processes, which are to include a range of perspectives and give participants a sense of agency and ownership. The outcome also emphasises how successful facilitation strategies and tactics are in ensuring that a wide range of viewpoints are sought out, acknowledged, and considered when making decisions. Building trust in the process and its results, such as positive feedback, is crucial for sustaining participant engagement and promoting future civic activity. Nonetheless, there is room for improvement, as evidenced by the 11.5% of respondents who felt their comments were not considered. Even if this is a small percentage, it matters in the context of a collaborative process. People who experience exclusion or lack of voice may lose faith in civic engagement initiatives, leading to a decline in their future involvement or a change in their readiness to support the results. This impression could result from several things, including unclear decision-making processes, inadequate facilitation to guarantee fair participation or a discrepancy between participants' expectations and their actual level of influence.

One key measure of the efficacy, inclusivity, and conformity of the process with participants' expectations is the willingness of participants to stay involved in the co-design process. The information on participants' opinions on possibly discontinuing the TCCD process provides essential context for understanding the participants' levels of commitment, satisfaction, and perceived value (Table 24).

Table 24 – TCCD participants consideration of leaving the co-design process

| Response | N* | % |
|---|----|------|
| Occasionally - I occasionally ponder the possibility of pursuing different collaborative endeavours | 10 | 16.7 |
| Rarely - I am committed to this co-design process and seldom consider quitting | 17 | 28.3 |
| Never - I am fully devoted to the co-design process and have no intentions of quitting | 33 | 55.0 |

*Missing values = 10

16.7% of respondents said that they periodically considered starting a new creative project apart from the TCCD process. Some participants might believe that their professional or

personal goals are not entirely aligned with the TCCD process. They might find solutions that fit their goals, hobbies, or abilities better. While expressing a high dedication to the TCCD process, 28.3% of participants also mentioned that they didn't often consider leaving. Even if they are generally happy, these people may occasionally experience worry or annoyance that makes them want to leave. These might have to do with communication, process dynamics, or their perceived amount of influence. Fifty-five per cent of participants said they are dedicated to the co-design process and have never considered stepping away. This is a reliable sign of how engaged and satisfied participants were with the TCCD process. Those who never gave it much thought would view their participation as worthwhile, significant, and essential, adding to their sense of accomplishment and purpose during the co-design process. A cross-analysis by the pilot is presented in Figure 5.

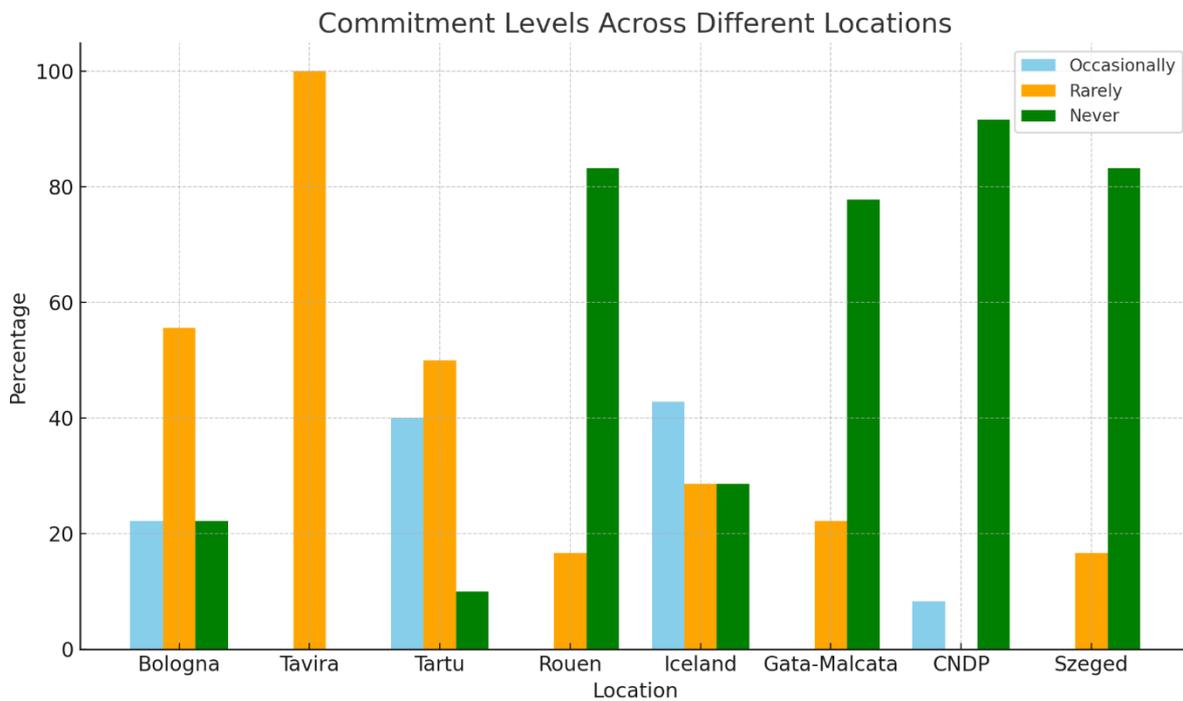


Figure 5 – Commitment level to the co-design process across pilots²⁶

Pilots such as CNDP, Rouen, Gata-Malcata, and Szeged exhibit high levels of commitment, with a significant proportion falling into the "Never" category, signifying a strong sense of dedication and little thought given to giving up. Conversely, Tavira exhibits consistent dedication in the "Rarely" category, implying a moderate level of commitment without complete dedication or contemplation of giving up. More disparate commitment levels are shown by Iceland and Tartu, which may be due to a combination of attitudes and various influencing circumstances. These results point to the need for customised tactics to

²⁶ Chi square = 32.821; df=14; $p= 0.002$

increase involvement in places with lower commitment levels, indicating that local characteristics substantially impact commitment levels.

The balance between internal motivation and external rewards in cooperative endeavours is examined by the topic of monetary compensation in co-design processes (Figure 6). Co-design, in which participants and stakeholders actively participate in the design process, frequently depends on voluntary participation motivated by a desire to make an impact, a feeling of purpose, or a personal passion. However, the question remains: Should participants receive payment for their time and effort? Comprehending the impact of remuneration on motivation and involvement is crucial to developing inclusive and efficient systems that maintain engagement and encourage significant contributions from all stakeholders.

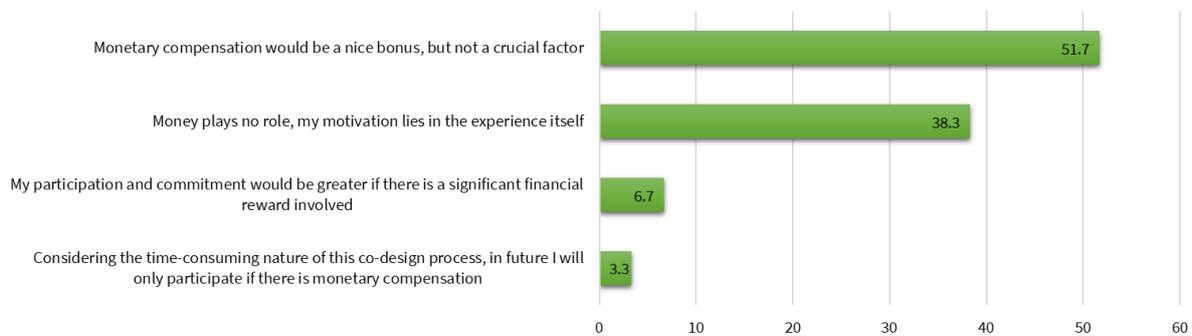


Figure 6 – TCCD participants' perceptions about monetary compensation in co-design participation

Financial incentives are valued but not the primary element influencing participation, as indicated by the majority of respondents (51.7%) who view money as a pleasant bonus but not a crucial component of their involvement. 38.3% are intrinsically motivated, meaning they value the experience more than financial gain. Fewer people (6.7%) said they would participate more if they received large financial rewards, indicating that some people are very motivated by money. A much smaller subset (3.3%) demands to continue only if they receive cash compensation, indicating that they are not overly dependent on money. **Overall, the evidence indicates that while many people value financial incentives, involvement and commitment in the co-design process are not primarily driven by it. For most participants, the event and intrinsic motivation appear more significant.**

Nonetheless, actively participating in these processes can be difficult, particularly for women and carers who may encounter obstacles, including childcare obligations, rigid work schedules, and even financial difficulties. To guarantee varied and equal participation, it is crucial to recognise and remove these obstacles, enabling everyone to

contribute significantly without jeopardising their personal or professional lives. The research highlights key elements that facilitate participants' engagement in co-design processes (Figure 7), with remote work alternatives or schedule flexibility emerging as the most appreciated indicator (37.5%). This highlights how crucial it is to balance work and life, especially for carers who require flexible schedules to participate in time-consuming activities fully. Similarly, participants place a high value on trustworthy childcare options (31.3%), highlighting their need to concentrate on the procedure without worrying about their kids' welfare.

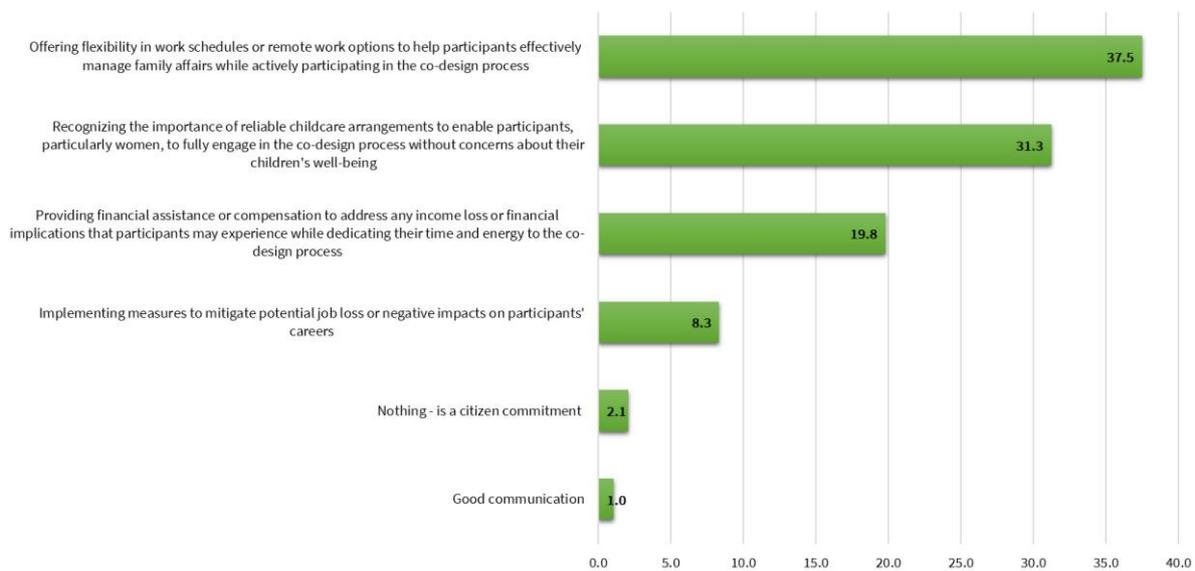


Figure 7 – TCCD participants' perceptions on the support for enabling participants in the co-design process

Though to a lesser degree, financial support or pay (19.8%) is also acknowledged as significant. It emphasises that while time commitment to co-design initiatives may cost some participants money, logistical support is considered more important. A lesser percentage of participants (8.3%) voiced concerns about job loss or detrimental career repercussions, indicating that while pertinent to some, this is not a common problem. A small percentage of participants (2.1%) think support is not required because they see their engagement as a civic duty rather than something that must be compensated for or adjusted. The lowest ranking for good communication is 1.0%, suggesting that most participants believe communication is either already sufficient or not a significant obstacle.

Overall, the data point to the importance of participants receiving practical, family-centred support—like flexibility and childcare—while financial and career-related

worries come in second. It demonstrates that allowing for personal obligations is essential to guaranteeing fair and significant involvement in co-design processes.

The data shows that the co-design process was generally effective, as most participants expressed (65.7%) a willingness to participate again in the future (Figure 8). This implies that the process has been received favourably overall. However, it is crucial to investigate why a few participants said they wouldn't return or are unsure. 15.7% of respondents said they "don't know/can't answer," indicating that they may be unsure about continuing to participate in the future or may have conflicting emotions. Clarifying the advantages of this process may be necessary to address this ambiguity.

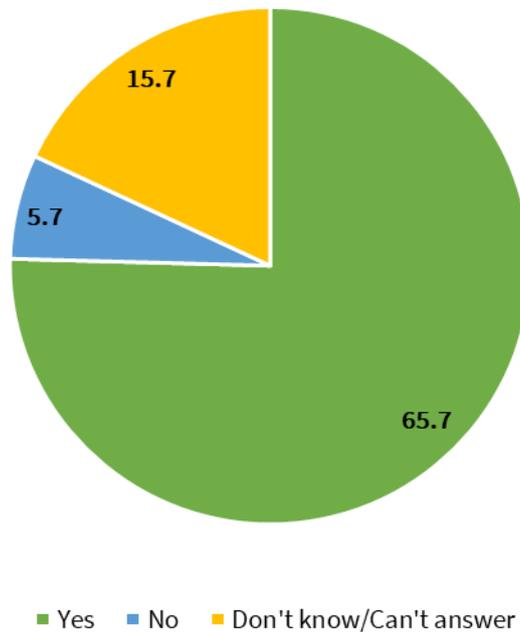


Figure 8 – TCCD participants' perceptions about the possibility of participating in a similar co-design process in the future

Of the total participants, only 5.7% said "No," which suggests that a tiny number of people are unlikely to participate again. By considering their worries, future processes may be improved. When participants were asked to reflect on the possibility of applying this particular co-design process in other contexts in the future, 64.3% perceived the process as generally beneficial and adaptable (Figure 9). In regard to uncertainty, a more significant proportion of respondents—20.0%—answered "Don't know/Can't answer," in contrast to the previous question. This could indicate a lack of understanding regarding the process's potential adaptability or suitability for different contexts. Only 2.9% of the participants said "No," meaning that very few think the process should not be used in other situations. This

implies that there isn't much discontentment. In comparison to the previous question (Figure 8), the majority of respondents to both this and the preceding question give positive feedback. Yet, those who are willing to participate in the process in the future (65.7%) think it should be used in different situations (64.3%) slightly more than those who disagree. Also, the participation (15.7%) is less specific than applying the approach to other situations (20.0% "Don't know/Can't answer").

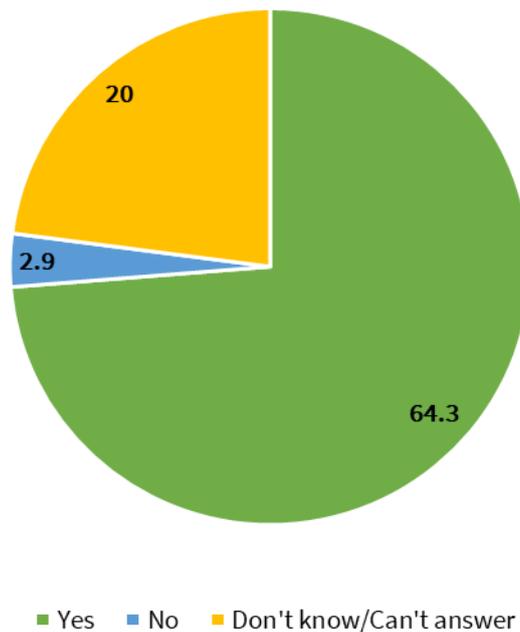


Figure 9 - TCCD participants' perceptions about the possibility of this particular co-design process being applied in other contexts in the future

One participant from Iceland's TCCD left a message of scepticism about the co-design process's sustainability and long-term effects in political contexts:

"I'm not sure that this will result in anything but another piece of clothing that will end up in a drawer. There are always new ministers every 4 years with different priorities and rarely want to use the work of their predecessors, even if that work is good. Politicians cannot recognise other politicians' excellence, let alone take advantage of their ideas." (Iceland, Female, 49, Phoenix partners)

One major issue facing co-design processes including governmental or political players is the respondent's worry about frequent political turnover and shifting priorities ("new ministers every 4 years with different priorities"). This may strike a chord with other participants who are unsure about the process's long-term effects because political cycles tend to break continuity. Even if the co-design process appears to be preferred by most

participants, uncertainties regarding its long-term effects may arise due to the volatility of political settings, which may explain why a sizable minority is reluctant or uncertain about further collaboration.

An important aspect that needs to be assessed is whether this co-design process impacted TCCD participants' communities (Figure 10).

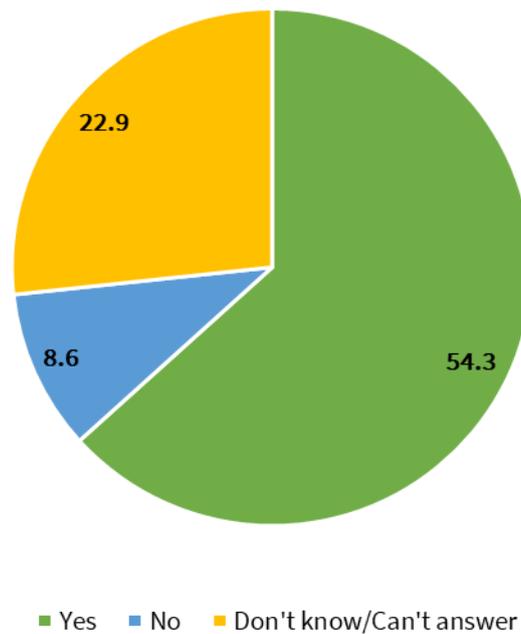


Figure 10 - TCCD participants' perceptions about the impacts of the process on their community

Most participants (54.3%) stated that taking part in the TCCD positively affected them or their community. This suggests that the process effectively engaged people and delivered results, at least to most participants. However, at the time of this survey (which differs from pilot to pilot and from TCCD stage) it was difficult to gauge the actual influence of co-design processes, as seen by the sizeable number of participants who answered "Don't know" (22.9%). It can be an indication of a problem interpreting indirect or longer-term effects. In certain situations, the effect might not be felt right away or might differ greatly depending on the individual and the dynamics of the society. Based on the findings, it may be necessary to do additional research or analysis to understand how participants react to the process' conclusions. For example, individuals who gave the "Don't know" response can offer insightful criticism regarding the need for more transparent outcomes or clearer communication.

In summary, the data shows that while a sizeable percentage of participants are still unsure, over half of the participants felt that the TCCD had a good influence. This implies that many people benefited from the co-design process, but that not everyone involved may have been instantly aware of these benefits or the nature of the impact itself. Reducing uncertainty and increasing participant engagement could be achieved by conducting more thorough evaluations or by giving examples of successful outcomes.

To better understand participants' answers, their narratives were analysed. The participants generally noted three main areas of positive impact: professional and practical advantages, communal and social benefits, and personal learning and development.

Many participants expressed notable improvements in their comprehension and personal development due to their participation. An example of a positive and instructive response is provided by a citizen from Bologna who summed the experience up as "Positive, informative" and highlighted its importance in expanding one's knowledge. One participant said, "I learnt more about food-related topics. My goal is to influence the community positively" (Tartu, 72). These views are consistent with the 54.3% of participants who reported feeling positively impacted, indicating that the co-design process successfully promoted individual growth and understanding.

The advantages for communities were also noteworthy. Some individuals saw a rise in awareness and community involvement, highlighting the observable advantages of the co-design approach to neighbourhood projects.

"Personal and neighbourhood impact since the objective is to implement food gardens in the neighbourhood where I live," (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizens)

"Most likely, I was able to influence the result with my participation in such a way that the population still becomes more aware of the functioning of my field of work," said another, emphasising the impact on the larger community (Tartu, Female, 54, Business persons).

Participants acknowledged gains in their knowledge and practical abilities on a professional level. As an example of the process's usefulness, one participant said:

"It made me understand that processes can be co-designed with different types of stakeholders" (Bologna, Prefer not to mention, 29, Practitioners).

A second person emphasised the professional development component by noting:

"Better knowledge of some cross-border entities" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 49, Experts).

Despite several complaints, positive comments regarding the process's dynamism and inclusivity were made. One person said, "It was my first time taking part. I was comfortable in the group and with the facilitators, who enabled us to have a constructive debate and proceed" (CNDP, Female, 67, Citizens). Another said, "The tools made everyone's participation and dedication possible. They permitted a certain level of ownership over the topics and the significance of each person's participation (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Other). A generally good attitude toward the process's interactive character may be seen in these comments.

The qualitative data did, however, also highlight issues and critiques that contribute to the explanation of the 8.6% who felt no impact and the 22.9% of participants who were unclear about the impact. Problems including vague project goals, poor planning, and the limited efficacy of instruments were often brought up. Concerns with the process's organisation and clarity were expressed by one participant, who said:

"Not a sufficiently well-defined project and what was expected of the group was sometimes unclear" (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts).

Furthermore, the reasons why some participants might not have felt that the co-creation techniques had a beneficial influence are explained by criticisms of them, such as:

"Some co-creation methodologies were interesting... limited by the tools used" (Bologna, Prefer not to say, 29, Practitioners).

The statement "Not a sufficiently well-defined project and what was expected of the group was sometimes unclear" was made by another participant (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts). Such feedback emphasises the need for more precise goals and useful instruments.

Challenges like "Positive because it helped us unite two paths... Negative because it was physically difficult" (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners) reflect the complexities and varied experiences within the process, supporting the idea that participants had diverse and sometimes conflicting experiences. Another important reason, which has been mentioned

previously, is the process's stage. A few participants believed that the process was still in its early stages or lacking. One participant said, for example, "We are just not really operational and are still in the early stages of thinking. We don't have enough time to devote to such a complex process", as said by a 45-year-old woman from Bologna who represents NGOs. Another said, "We are still in the co-planning phase" (Practitioner, 30, female from Bologna). This comment suggests that although the participants appreciated the process, they were also aware of its limitations in terms of progress. Several participants requested better planning and clarification. According to one:

"Perhaps it would have been necessary to do more preparatory work in advance so that those invited to participate would have already become more familiar with the fields of other representatives" (Tartu, 54-year-old woman, businessperson).

A few others voiced their uncertainty regarding the project's objectives, saying, "The questions are sometimes complex" (CNDP, Female, 51, Citizens). This emphasises the necessity of more careful planning and more transparent communication. While most participants reported improvement on a personal, professional, and communal level as well as favourable outcomes, there were some noticeable issues with the project's clarity, methodology, and the early stages of the process. Improving readiness, making project goals clear, and boosting tool efficacy are a few ways to address these problems, which may assist in increasing overall satisfaction and lowering uncertainty in upcoming co-design projects. The thorough feedback emphasises how crucial it is to adjust and develop participatory procedures to benefit from their advantages and consider the wide range of participant experiences.

The final topic of this survey section was to understand what can be done differently to improve the process, considering TCCD participants' experiences. Participants in the recent feedback have identified some critical areas that need attention to improve the co-design process. Improving preparation and communication are essential to these advancements. Co-design that works requires that all parties involved are aware of the project's goals and procedures from the beginning. To avoid misconceptions and guarantee that all participants agree with the project's objectives, provide concise explanations and steady facilitation.

"Explain the issue better" (Bologna, Female, 26, Citizens).

"Better illustrate objectives and methods" (Bologna, Prefer not to state, 29, Practitioners)

Improved preparation—which includes comprehensive briefings and specific information—is essential to helping participants develop a common understanding and commitment. The comment made by Tartu (a 54-year-old female businessperson) in which she calls for "more thorough information and preparation of the participants by the facilitators", emphasises this. Efficiency in the workplace and time management are also essential. Responses indicate that projects benefit from having a more defined goal and organised schedule.

"More time and a clearer focus from the start" (Iceland, Male, 60, Experts).

Enhancing the process can be as simple as reducing the session's length without sacrificing substance, setting up meetings more efficiently, and providing more detailed task definitions. For example, a participant stated "Fewer participants, maybe one from each municipality. Fewer but better-organized meetings" (Iceland, 36-year-old female expert). Additionally, flexibility is necessary because outside variables like finance and schedule restrictions may impact the project's progress. This is evidenced by the following comment, "Unfortunately, the variables that would allow improvement are external to the process (financing, timing, etc.)" (Bologna, 31-year-old female practitioner). Proactively addressing these limits and making necessary adjustments can help maintain momentum and effectiveness.

Participation and engagement are essential to the success of co-design initiatives. Facilitating an atmosphere that encourages proactive engagement and cooperative efforts can bolster cooperation and guarantee that various viewpoints are considered.

"Increase the promotion of teamwork." (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizens)

It is crucial to balance in-person and virtual contacts. Although virtual meetings are more convenient, in-person gatherings can strengthen bonds and create deeper connections among attendees.

"While they make it easier to be available, online meetings hinder the development of deeper connections and closer relationships" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Other)

More inclusive practices and the involvement of wider range of stakeholders can generate more thorough and productive results. As one participant recommended, "Perhaps a first

large face-to-face meeting to explain the project and start from a broader community" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Practitioners); first larger meetings can help gauge interest and adjust participant lists to optimise involvement.

Finally, it's critical to acknowledge the influence of outside variables and the project's early phases. It's possible that some people won't be able to offer comprehensive input until the project has advanced.

"I can't answer right now, we're still at too early a stage," said one respondent (a 45-year-old female representative of an NGO from Bologna).

Recognising this and being ready to modify the procedure as the project progresses might aid in effectively handling new problems as they arise. To summarise, augmenting the co-design process entails better communication, making the most of time and organisation, encouraging involvement, and being flexible in response to external limitations and the project's changing nature. These issues can be addressed to make the process more inclusive and productive, eventually providing better and more creative results.

4.3.5. TCCD and the future

Examining how TCCD might affect participants' ability to think creatively is crucial when examining the possible paths for these projects and their significance in influencing future practices. Our recent report's "TCCD and the Future" section asks readers to imagine how co-design processes will develop going forward and how they will affect innovation and creativity. The ability of co-design approaches to foster creative thinking becomes increasingly more important as they develop. By definition, co-design involves a variety of stakeholders in cooperative processes with the goal of developing original answers to difficult problems (Sanders & Stappers, 2008). This collaborative method fosters an environment where participants can exercise and enhance their innovative powers and facilitate the co-creation of solutions.

Encouraging TCCD participants to reflect on how these cooperative frameworks might evolve in the future can help enhance their ability to envision and prepare for future possibilities. Participants were encouraged to think of ways that TCCD processes and structures should be modified to encourage more innovation and forward-thinking. This

contemplation highlights a crucial query: can the very nature of TCCDs—rooted in collaborative and participatory methodologies—catalyse imaginative processes? ´

The degree to which co-design processes are organised and supported is directly related to the level of imagination that can be exhibited during the process. Effective co-design environments foster participants' creative potential through openness, inclusivity, and iterative feedback, as Brown (2009) highlighted. The degree to which participants feel included and supported during the co-design process is intrinsically linked to their capacity to envision future situations and possible solutions.

TCCD participants were invited to an exercise where they imagined they are in the year 2050. Looking back at the ecological transition that has taken place, the objective was to understand the role that previous generations played in shaping the future of today (2050). As a member of the future generation, TCCD participants should reflect on the actions and contributions of the present generations (up to 2023) towards the ecological transition. It was suggested to identify specific actions and roles that the present generations (2023) play in the transition to a more equitable and environmentally conscious society. Numerous themes surfaced, highlighting the process's achievements as well as its shortcomings. The participants' perspectives provide a complex picture of how different policies and programs have aided in creating a more ecologically conscious and egalitarian society.

The emphasis on environmental education is one of the noteworthy accomplishments. The importance of incorporating ecological awareness into educational programs and public outreach was emphasised by the participants.

"Environmental education in schools, financial support in the transition to renewable energy" (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizens)

"Environmental education proposals and projects" (Bologna, Female, 81, Citizens).

This reflects the general understanding that introducing the next generation to environmental issues increases awareness of, and interest in, sustainability. A different participant noted that there was a knock-on impact from educational activities when she said:

"The environmental education that some young people have received at school or in associations has repercussions within families" (CNDP, Female, 56, Citizens).

Innovation has sparked workable answers to environmental problems. As stated by Gata-Malcata, Male, 45, Practitioners, "perseverance in the search for solutions that can be put into practice in a world still designed under the principles of the Industrial Revolution" is noteworthy. This demonstrates a dedication to creating and applying methods and technology that promote sustainability. Somewhat related is the development of new values in the next generation, which is a crucial component of the shift.

"Raising a new generation who is more concerned regarding ecological transition," (Iceland, Male, 47, Citizens).

This highlights the importance of adopting a proactive strategy to ensure that future generations are equipped to continue advancing ecological goals.

Infrastructure development and public policies have also been quite important. The ecological transition has advanced (the exercise of imagining) mostly through the development of sustainable urban settings and effective policymaking. According to Bologna, a 45-year-old female representative of an NGO, and Rouen, a 55-year-old male citizen, public policies in 2050 have involved citizens in all stages of a project for nearly 20 years, "efficacy of public spaces which play a socio-recreational-cultural role and which are capable of becoming climate 'refuges' for the most vulnerable." These remarks emphasise how crucial it is to include sustainability in public infrastructure and guarantee that citizens actively participate in public policy formulation. It has become essential to make efforts to reduce the use of non-renewable resources and control their effects. Participants cited important initiatives like:

"Coal-fired power station shutdowns. Waste management and battery recycling for electric vehicles" (CNDP, Female, 67, Citizens).

This change is part of a more significant trend that aims to improve waste management techniques and lessen dependency on fossil fuels, both of which are crucial for minimising environmental damage. Participation from the community and grassroots initiatives have been essential in accelerating the ecological shift.

"They managed to generate awareness-raising actions and start a discussion on the topic that had never really been touched on before" (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners)

"Assume an educational and awareness-raising role within the community between generations" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 37, Practitioners)

These realisations highlight the importance of public participation and local initiatives in building a sustainable culture. Despite advancements, problems and inconsistencies still exist. As one participant put it:

"There was a lot of talk about the topic, but not much real action was achieved yet. Environmental awareness began to grow rapidly" (Tartu, Female, 58, Practitioners)

Another person made the following observation regarding the unforeseen effects of some policies:

"The widespread use of renewable energy has had enormously detrimental effects on biodiversity" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizens)

These observations reveal that while knowledge has advanced, significant obstacles and unforeseen consequences have emerged in the implementation of solutions. Additionally, the intersection of social justice and environmental sustainability has become a critical area of focus. A respondent highlighted the need to align these objectives, saying that:

"ecology without class struggle is just gardening." (Bologna, 72-year-old female representative of an NGO)

We must simultaneously create a sustainable and equitable society. This emphasises how important it is to make sure ecological transformations promote social justice and equity rather than reproducing existing disparities. A vital component of the ecological transition has been the effort to reduce economic and generational gaps. One participant noted that "economic and social factors influence the preservation of environmental values, and environmental awareness varies from continent to continent" (Szeged, Prefer not to mention, 31, Other). This emphasises how critical it is to redress inequalities and promote a sense of global environmental stewardship. Finally, the media has played a vital role in promoting sustainable practices and increasing public awareness. In other words, as Szeged (Prefer not to say, 31, Other) said, "Social media draws more attention to these problems."

Several important themes emerge from examining participant responses to the question of how TCCDs can support an inclusive ecological transition. Each of these themes emphasise a different aspect of the difficulties and possibilities associated with guaranteeing an equitable strategy for climate action. These observations offer helpful guidance on creating and applying participatory processes like TCCDs in a more effective, inclusive way sensitive to context.

One of the main issues is the necessity of inclusive and plural participation processes. According to participants, a broad range of stakeholders from different sectors of society must be included to ensure that no group is left behind in the ecological transition. Numerous participants emphasise that inclusivity is crucial for the process's legitimacy and ability to produce new knowledge and consensus. The goal needs to be "designing a participatory path that effectively guarantees inclusivity," as one participant puts it, making sure that a wide range of stakeholders are included (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners). As another respondent mentioned:

"the transition can become more equitable and encompassing by including everyone directly or indirectly concerned by the subject" (CNDP, Female, 51, Citizens)

Respondents highlighted the vital role of education in promoting ecological transition, particularly in the second theme: educational and awareness efforts. By actively engaging in educational communities and raising awareness across all sectors of society, TCCDs can help cultivate a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved. According to Tavira (Female, 49, Citizen):

"it must be applied in all regions, seeking to involve the greatest number of partners and citizens in congestion processes."

This illustrates the idea that promoting inclusive, long-lasting change requires a strong emphasis on educational programs. It is also believed that involving multiple sectors is essential to guaranteeing an inclusive ecological transition, especially for local governments and economic actors. To ensure meaningful engagement, one respondent stressed the significance of enlisting the help of political officials and business players, saying:

"We must succeed in enlisting more elected officials and actors from the economic world" (Rouen, Female, 48, Practitioners).

This emphasises the need to incorporate TCCDs within official governance frameworks to guarantee that all pertinent parties participate in decision-making procedures.

The need to build trust in institutions is another important theme. **Building public trust in the political institutions responsible for climate action is believed to require transparency, accountability, and inclusive decision-making processes.** One participant explicitly brought up the need for "increasing public trust in government, politicians" (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts). People may feel alienated from the process and

TCCDs' ability to facilitate an inclusive transition may be compromised in the absence of this trust.

The participants also emphasized the importance of territorial and context-specific approaches, recognizing that while implementing models flexible enough to function in various settings, local dynamics and unique characteristics must be respected. One respondent (Bologna, Female, 45, NGO Representative) highlighted the significance of "implementing models that are replicable in different contexts, while also taking into account the specificities of places and territories," underscoring the need for a flexible strategy that fosters scalable solutions while respecting regional circumstances.

Lastly, respondents stressed the importance of integrating digital and local presence to ensure comprehensive participation. To reach a broader audience while fostering meaningful engagement, one respondent noted that "it should definitely be digitised, but at the same time, it should also be present locally" (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix Partner), emphasizing the need to balance digital inclusion with on-the-ground involvement.

Based on participants' perceptions, a final survey question was to understand what is lacking in TCCDs in order to foster an ecological transition encompassing all regions and ensuring inclusivity without leaving anyone behind. Several critical areas need to be addressed, as highlighted by the qualitative responses. First and foremost, organizational and financial resources are essential. Many respondents emphasized the importance of adequate organizational infrastructure and sufficient financial support.

"Economic and organisational resources" was mentioned by a Bologna practitioner (Bologna, Female, 50, practitioners).

"Dedicated people, monetary support and persistence!" was emphasised by another Gata-Malcata reply. (45-year-old male practitioner Gata-Malcata).

Additionally, a respondent from Bologna highlighted the importance of the "Economic sustainability of the route" (Bologna, Female, 31, Practitioners). Other critical factors include political will and government involvement. Political leaders need to demonstrate greater commitment, and the government must take a more proactive role in providing support. The statement "We don't have the will, we don't have a plan, we need resources, and we need to expand the number of subjects available to take charge of the process" was emphasised by a Bologna respondent (of 72 NGOs). A participant from Iceland voiced their dissatisfaction, saying:

"The government does not want/ignore to listen to them" (Iceland, Female, 36, Experts).

Furthermore, as one Tartu respondent pointed out, "The inertia of everyone, but especially of politicians and officials" (Tartu, 72, Practitioners). Involvement and interest from the community are essential for success. It is vital to cultivate a sense of ownership and increase community involvement. "Greater community interest" is crucial, according to a Tartu practitioner (Tartu, Female, 33, Practitioners). The suggestion from another Rouen was to "create a context of massive mobilisation, to include this volunteering as natural in our society" (Rouen, Prefer not to mention, 35, Citizens). Moreover, one respondent (Iceland, Male, 47, Citizens) mentioned the importance of "People with a deep interest in ecological matters." To drive meaningful change, awareness and education initiatives are crucial. Respondents underscored the importance of integrating ecological topics into school curricula and promoting general awareness across society.

"Introduce co-construction approaches into teaching"(Rouen, Female, 74, Citizens).

"Better understanding of TCCDs, transparency from the political community, particularly local ones, and working on the concept in schools to develop effective citizenship education," (Tavira, Female, 49, Citizen).

Furthermore, a CNDP respondent (a 51-year-old female citizen) suggested "More awareness through flyers for example." Cultural shifts and mindset changes are also necessary to drive progress. Overcoming resistance to consumerism and embracing change is a significant challenge. As a Tartu respondent (Tartu, Female, 64, Practitioners) noted, "The pain points of the consumer society and staying at the comfort level." Another Szeged resident (Szeged, Male, 27, Phoenix Partner) emphasized the importance of "Changing people's perspective." Additionally, there is a clear disconnect between planning and execution when it comes to practical implementation and follow-through. Effectively carrying out action plans is essential.

"Actual implementation of the action plan and effective implementation of change" (Tartu, Female, 69, Practitioners).

"Let the theory come to fruition" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 56, Citizens).

Broader participation and representation are necessary for all-encompassing ecological projects. It is essential to diversify the group of stakeholders and make sure that different opinions are heard. "An even wider circle, more staff" was stressed by a Szeged responder (Szeged, Prefer not to say, 31, Other). Furthermore, one of the Rouen participants proposed:

"These interactions, and more participants to be representative" (Rouen, Male, 55, Citizens).

Transparency in communication and information sharing is also essential. Better communication techniques are needed to spread best practices and experiences more broadly. According to a Gata-Malcata practitioner, "the process is slow and it is necessary to increase dissemination and create a specific communication channel to share experiences" (Gata-Malcata, Female, 57, Practitioners). "Effective communication strategies need to be implemented to facilitate better information sharing," proposed a different Tartu respondent (Tartu, Female, 69, Practitioners). Finally, legal and societal sectors must change for the necessary shift to be supported. More precise legislation and policies, customised to each area's unique circumstances are required. As stated by a citizen from Gata-Malcata, "everything from legislation to the design of the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors" (Gata-Malcata, Male, 56). "More legal clarity to implement projects" was another Gata-Malcata statement (Gata-Malcata, Male, 37, Practitioners). To put it briefly, for TCCDs to effectively support the ecological transition, they will need to address the following areas: financial resources, political will, community engagement, education, cultural shifts, practical implementation, wider participation, clear communication, and legislative changes.

Based on the findings of the two previous questions – (i) *"In your opinion, how can TCCDs contribute to fostering an ecological transition that encompasses all regions and ensures inclusivity without leaving anyone behind?"* and (ii) *"What is lacking for this purpose to become a reality?"* a conceptual map illustrating how key themes and factors interrelate to enhance TCCD for fostering an inclusive ecological transition was developed (Figure 11).

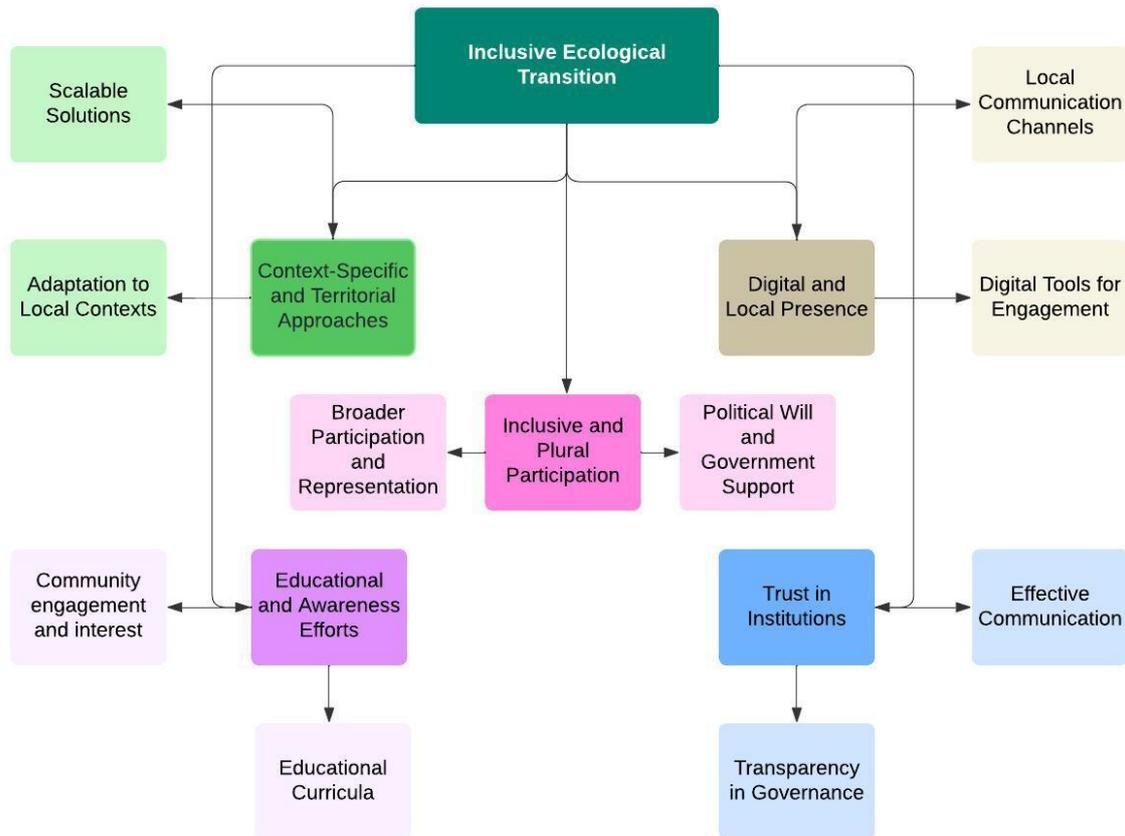


Figure 11 - Conceptual map of the key themes and factors for an inclusive ecological transition through TCCDs

The concept of a “Inclusive Ecological Transition” is at the heart of the map, ensuring that all relevant parties—citizens, communities, governments, and economic actors—are involved in creating a sustainable future. Five interrelated elements surround this central theme: (i) Digital and Local Presence, (ii) Educational and Awareness Efforts, (iii) Trust in Institutions, (iv) Context-Specific and Territorial Approaches and (v) Inclusive and Plural Participation.

The first element “Inclusive and Plural Participation” highlights the value of including a range of viewpoints in the decision-making process. Broader engagement and representation are necessary to achieve this, with active participation from all groups, especially marginalised ones. Political will and government involvement are also critical to success; they require securing the backing of influential economic players and political leaders for participatory procedures. The transition becomes more egalitarian and representative of the diverse interests of the population by involving more stakeholders. The second element “Educational and Awareness Efforts, ” centres on raising awareness of ecological issues and the role that communities play in finding solutions. These initiatives

hope to increase citizens' comprehension by incorporating ecological issues into the public discourse and school curricula. However, while community involvement is essential to advancing these educational programs, this process depends on community engagement and interest. By raising awareness, communities can better participate in co-creating solutions and take control of the shift.

The third element, “Trust in Institutions”, is fundamental to TCCD success. Individuals must have confidence that their opinions will be considered, and this is closely related to political will and government involvement. To earn this trust, governments need to operate responsibly and publicly. Furthermore, transparent communication and dissemination are essential to preserving this confidence. People feel more connected to the process and are therefore more likely to participate and commit when information is offered freely.

The fourth element, “Context-Specific and Territorial Approaches”, emphasises the need to adjust ecological transition plans to regional biophysical and sociocultural conditions. Although broad models can offer basic guidelines, their effectiveness depends on their adaptability to the local context. To ensure that action plans are both scalable and flexible enough to handle regional or territorial difficulties, thorough practical execution and follow-through are necessary. This flexibility enables the creation of reproducible models that respect local demands while operating in a variety of environments.

The last element, “Digital and Local Presence”, deals with balancing the use of digital tools and the preservation of a robust local presence. It is crucial to reach a larger audience through community participation and interest; digital platforms can aid in this. However, a clear communication and dissemination plan that integrates digital and face-to-face contact is also needed to guarantee the accessibility of information. This equilibrium assures that all sections of the populace, irrespective of their level of digital access, remain informed and engaged.

Together, these themes and factors create an integrated framework for enhancing TCCDs. The map shows how a holistic approach can support a fair and comprehensive ecological transition by focusing on inclusion, education, trust, contextual awareness, and communication. The relationships between the themes underscore that fostering an inclusive ecological transition is a multi-faceted challenge that requires concerted efforts across various dimensions, from participation to trust-building, education, and local adaptation. These elements and themes form an integrated framework for improving TCCDs.

4.4. TCCD Internal evaluation session

4.4.1. Sociodemographic characteristics of participants

Following individual reflection on the overall TCCD co-design process through a qualitative survey, participants were given the opportunity to engage in a collective evaluation during internal sessions facilitated by local partners. A total of eight internal evaluation sessions (8 Pilots) were conducted, involving 69 participants. The session with the highest attendance occurred during the Tartu pilot, with 16 participants, while the smallest session was held in Odemira, with 4 participants. The sociodemographic details are presented in Table 25. The data encompasses participants from a variety of regions, with diverse backgrounds, educational levels, and experiences. Participants range from 15 to 74 years old; the majority are middle-aged (40-60), with a few younger and older outliers. There is a clear representation of both genders, with slightly more female participants than male. Most participants reside in the area where the session took place.

Table 25 – TCCD internal evaluation session participants sociodemographic characterization

| Pilot | Age | Gender | Occupation | Nationality | University Degree | Prior experience in evaluation sessions or focus groups | Category | Whether they represent the interests of a specific cause or group |
|----------------|------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Tavira | 45 | M | Environmental Engineer | Portuguese | Yes | No | Expert | Municipality Tavira |
| | 48 | F | Senior Technician City Council | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Expert | - |
| | 47 | M | Director Department | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Decision makers | Municipality Tavira |
| | 48 | F | Employee | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 61 | F | Teacher / Activist | Portuguese | Yes | No | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | Sustainability causes environmental and civic, in the school and community context |
| | 38 | F | Farmer/ Biologist | Portuguese | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 51 | F | Senior Technician Cultural Heritage | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Citizen | - |
| Odemira | 42 | F | Businessperson in Individual Name | Portuguese | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| | 49 | F | Teacher and consultant | Portuguese | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| | 48 | F | Project Manager social and cultural | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Entrepreneur | Local Community |
| | 71 | M | Retired | Portuguese | Yes | No | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | - |
| CNDP | 53 | F | Director of Social Centre | French | No | No | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | - |
| | 55 | F | Social Animator | French | No | Yes | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | - |
| | 54 | F | - | French | No | No | Citizen | - |

| Pilot | Age | Gender | Occupation | Nationality | University Degree | Prior experience in evaluation sessions or focus groups | Category | Whether they represent the interests of a specific cause or group |
|-------|-----|--------|--|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | 64 | M | Merchant | French | No | No | Citizen | - |
| | 33 | M | - | Romanian | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| | 66 | F | Reformed | French | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| | 44 | F | Cleanings | Algeria | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 15 | F | Student | French | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 50 | F | Unemployed | French | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 52 | F | - | Kosovar | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 46 | M | - | French | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 28 | M | Animator Multimedia | Belgium | Yes | No | Citizen | Pierre Hamet Factory |
| | 45 | F | - | French | No | No | Citizen | - |
| | 66 | M | Unemployed | French | No | Yes | Citizen | - |
| | 34 | M | | French | No | Yes | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | - |
| Rouen | 51 | F | Urban planner | French | Yes | Yes | Expert | Metropole Roen Normandie |
| | 74 | F | Reformed | French | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| | 44 | M | | French | No | No | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | President of an association policy in the DARNETAL area |
| | 35 | M | Responsible by the studies budgetary | French | No | No | Citizen | - |
| | 48 | F | Head of Participation Department Council Citizen Metropolitan from Rouen | French | Yes | Yes | Expert | Advice Rouen Metropole |

| Pilot | Age | Gender | Occupation | Nationality | University Degree | Prior experience in evaluation sessions or focus groups | Category | Whether they represent the interests of a specific cause or group |
|---------|-----|--------|---|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | 30 | F | Librarian | French | Yes | No | Citizen | NIA |
| | 46 | F | Trainer | French | No | Yes | Citizen | NIA |
| | 28 | F | Project Manager in a design office | French | Yes | Yes | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | Member of the Conseil de Développement Durable de la Métropole/ Zero Rouen Dechet |
| Szeged | 32 | M | Urban planner | Hungarian | Yes | Yes | Expert | NIA |
| | 38 | M | Waste manager and administrator environmental | Hungarian | Yes | Yes | Citizen | Waste managers and environmental protection specialists |
| | 36 | F | Maternity leave | Hungarian | Yes | No | Citizen | NIA |
| | 45 | M | NGO leader | Hungarian | Yes | Yes | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | NGO |
| | 49 | M | Senior Technician City Council | Hungarian | Yes | Yes | Decision makers | Szeged Municipality |
| Iceland | 35 | F | Specialist | Icelandic | Yes | No | Expert | Prime Minister 's Office dealing with land public |
| | 59 | M | Team leader | Icelandic | Yes | Yes | Expert | - |
| | 48 | F | Farmer | Icelandic | No | No | Citizen | Residents of the municipality |
| | 47 | F | Farmer | Icelandic | Yes | Yes | Agriculture sector | NIA |
| | 46 | M | - | Icelandic | Yes | No | Expert | NIA |
| | 23 | M | Trainee | Icelandic | No | No | NIA | NIA |

| Pilot | Age | Gender | Occupation | Nationality | University Degree | Prior experience in evaluation sessions or focus groups | Category | Whether they represent the interests of a specific cause or group |
|--------------|-----|--------|--|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | 63 | F | Performer of household chores | Icelandic | Yes | No | Citizen | - |
| Gata-Malcata | 38 | F | Senior Technician | Portuguese | Yes | No | Decision makers | CCDR Center, IP |
| | 36 | M | Businessperson | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Business | Nature Tourism |
| | 57 | F | Subject Matter Technician European and Cross-border | Spanish | Yes | Yes | Expert in cooperation cross-border | Initiatives Office Cross-border |
| | 49 | M | Senior Technician | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Citizen | Sabugal City Council |
| | 40 | M | Agriculture, livestock, guesthouse, accommodation, rural development | Portuguese | No | Yes | Business | NIA |
| | 57 | M | Senior technician/Cooperation Cross-border | Spanish | Yes | Yes | Professional | NIA |
| | 45 | M | Senior Technician City Council | Portuguese | Yes | Yes | Citizen | Tourism sector of the Sabugal City |
| Tartu | NIA | F | Specialist | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Practitioner | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Expert | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Scientist | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Civil servant | Estonian | yes | NIA | Citizen | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Civil servant | Estonian | yes | NIA | Citizen | City Administration |
| | NIA | M | Project manager | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Project manager | City Administration |
| | NIA | F | Specialist | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Expert | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Expert | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Expert | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Practitioner | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Member of movements social / environmental | NIA |
| | 51 | F | Phoenix partner | Estonian | Yes | yes | Expert | Phoenix project |



D5.4 | Evaluation of the pilot co-design process

| Pilot | Age | Gender | Occupation | Nationality | University Degree | Prior experience in evaluation sessions or focus groups | Category | Whether they represent the interests of a specific cause or group |
|-------|-----|--------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|
| | 46 | M | Phoenix partner | Estonian | Yes | yes | Expert | Phoenix project |
| | NIA | F | Civil servant | Estonian | Yes | yes | Citizen | City Administration |
| | NIA | F | Activist | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Specialist | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Business | NIA |
| | NIA | M | Activist | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Activist, Member of movements social / environmental | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Specialist | Estonian | Yes | yes | Decision makers | NIA |
| | NIA | F | Head of institute | Estonian | Yes | NIA | Scientist | NIA |

*NIA = No information available

Regarding occupation, the participants work in various fields, including social animation, farming, environmental engineering, and decision-making positions. While some members work as professionals in the social, cultural, or environmental spheres, others are involved in politics. Many participants are employed in highly specialised fields including environmental management, legal consulting, and urban planning. In terms of education, a sizable portion of the participants have degrees from universities in disciplines including history, design, mechanical engineering, sociology, communication, environmental science, and law (Advanced degree holders are frequently present). The length of study varies, ranging from four years for intensive professional training to more than twenty years for comprehensive academic work. Participants from Estonia, France, and Iceland reported having a high level of formal education.

In terms of previous experience in co-design and focus-group, many participants had attended comparable sessions in the past, and some have even taken part in up to ten evaluations. This implies that there are both new and seasoned members in the group. Both formally and informally, a sizable percentage of participants represent certain causes or groups, especially in the field of environmental and civic sustainability. Representatives from social movements, environmental NGOs, and local government organisations were in attendance. Particularly in cities like Szeged, Rouen, and Gata-Malcata, there are activists and members of social or environmental groups who actively promote sustainability or local issues.

In conclusion, all the participants have a good education level, and many have expertise in the social, legal, and environmental sciences. The group includes professionals, activists, decision-makers, and community members, ensuring a diverse range of perspectives during evaluation sessions. Many individuals were already interested in governance, social activism, and environmental protection, resulting in a proactive and engaged group. Diverse regions exhibit distinct areas of attention, ranging from environmental advocacy in Szeged to sustainable tourism in Gata-Malcata and municipal government and urban planning in Rouen.

4.4.2. Adequacy of TCCD Composition and Diversity²⁷

The first question to be discussed collectively by the TCCDs participants was: Does the composition of the TCCD reflect the socio-cultural diversity of your territorial context, and has it been able to address the main socio-environmental problems?

²⁷ No data is presented for the Tartu pilot on this question.

While socio-cultural variety is somewhat represented in the TCCD, most pilots acknowledged that complete representation is frequently absent. The most obvious example of this constraint is the **absence of voices from under-represented groups**, including young people, individuals living in rural areas, and people in specific socio-professional categories (Table 26).

In Bologna, while the territorial diversity of the area is partially reflected in the composition of the TCCD, responses show that this is not the case, especially when it comes to the representation of neighbourhood house representatives. While important structures were portrayed, many participants believed that Bologna's complexity and depth of diversity were not adequately addressed, especially regarding socio-environmental issues. Participants also pointed out that **some key voices, such as private sector representatives, were missing.**

In the French case, CNDP TCCD participants agreed that, despite some diversity in terms of age and geography, the group was relatively homogeneous in practice as it did not fully represent all socio-professional groups, limiting the range of perspectives. However, the gender imbalance in the Rouen TCCD was progressively addressed, and the TCCD was recognized as representing a variety of stakeholders, including community members, elected officials, and municipal workers. While age diversity was present, broader socio-professional representation remained limited.

Although the TCCD was thought to cover a large portion of the geographical variety in the cross-border pilot Gata-Malcata, **environmental sectors were not well-represented.** It was thought that this absence was essential to solving some of the major socio-environmental problems in the area. In Iceland, although **there was a conspicuous dearth of participation from young people and persons who were born abroad**, participants thought that the TCCD composition reflected the local population to some extent. **This disparity was perceived as impeding the group's capacity to reflect the variety of the community accurately.** Particularly in terms of age (no young participants), nationality (no foreign nationals), and geographic scope (rural parishes were under-represented), **the group in Odemira was deemed to be inadequately diversified. Participants gradually withdrew, making the early attempts to involve a larger group ineffective.**

While some social variety was reflected in the TCCD, **participants in Szeged expressed worry about the absence of younger generations.** The composition **tended to draw**

wealthier and more educated people, which might have influenced the conversation and results.

It was believed that the **TCCD in Rouen represented a range of stakeholders**, including members of the community, elected officials, and municipal workers, and that the gender gap was gradually resolved. Though there was age diversity, **there was not as much wider socio-professional variety**. All participants believed that the TCCD did not sufficiently represent the socio-cultural variety of the territory. The absence of younger community members, individuals from other countries, and rural representation in the group hindered its ability to tackle the problems encountered by these groups.

Table 26 – Reflection of TCCD sociocultural diversity and challenges in addressing socio-environmental problems

| Pilot | Sociocultural Diversity | Addressing Socio-Environmental Problems |
|--------------|--|--|
| Bologna | Partial reflection via neighbourhood house representatives, but full diversity not achieved. | It is too complex to address the current composition fully, and private-sector involvement is lacking. |
| CNDP | Geographic and age diversity are present, but composition is socio-professionally homogeneous. | The main problems were addressed: the impact of human activity, biodiversity and the need to protect it, the climate, pollution, etc. However, the relationship between land and sea and its impacts were not fully addressed. |
| Gata-Malcata | Significant diversity present, but certain sectors (environmental) underrepresented. | Fire risk management covered, but water use and environmental sector representation lacking. |
| Iceland | Representation of local community present, but youth and foreign-born residents underrepresented. | Group addressed many key challenges but lacked diversity for comprehensive solutions. |
| Odemira | Limited representation due to lack of young people, foreign nationals, and rural parish representation. | Focus on food gardens limited broader engagement on environmental issues. |
| Szeged | Social diversity partially reflected, but concerns raised about missing younger generations and imbalance. | Addressed socio-environmental issues but concerns about inclusivity and representation affecting outcomes. |
| Rouen | The TCCD reflects a variety of stakeholders (citizens, elected representatives, municipal employees), but lacked male participants initially, though this was addressed later. | Focused on transition, primarily addressing composting across the metropole. Broader socio-environmental issues were less emphasized. |
| Tavira | Participants felt the group was not representative enough, especially in terms of age, nationality (no | The narrow focus on food gardens limited discussions to a subset of the socio-environmental issues, neglecting broader |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | foreign nationals), and geographic representation (rural areas were missing). | environmental concerns like sustainability and climate change. |
|--|---|--|

Examining the TCCDs in several pilots highlights a serious issue with how socio-cultural diversity is portrayed in these programs. Despite attempts to capture the diversity that exists within the territorial contexts, the results indicate that complete representation is still elusive. **The effectiveness of the dialogues in resolving complex socio-environmental concerns is limited by the frequent absence of important voices from under-represented groups, such as young people, rural areas, and certain socio-professional categories (Baggio et al., 2022; Vidal & Alves, 2024).** A gap in the composition of the TCCD was often cited as the absence of representation from younger generations in several pilots (e.g., Iceland, Szeged, Odemira). Younger individuals are frequently thought to be more willing and capable of enacting change (Falanga, 2024), so this was seen as a lost opportunity.

Although socio-cultural variety is acknowledged, it is frequently only partially reflected, as mentioned in the evaluations. Numerous participants stated that the TCCDs' existing makeup falls short of fully capturing the complexity of the communities engaged. Gata-Malcata and Szeged pilots have brought attention to the need of involving a wider range of stakeholders and sectors, particularly private industry, environmental organisations, and younger people. Even with attempts to decentralise meetings to boost participation, the Odemira pilot revealed that the lack of diversity remained. For instance, having representatives from neighbourhood houses or community organisations present adds to the diversity of viewpoints; however, not all pertinent socio-professional groups or age demographics are represented, especially young people who could provide novel perspectives and creative solutions. The under-representation of rural populations, which face environmental and social concerns that need focused attention, exacerbates this imbalance (Mittenzwei et al., 2023). The absence of these voices may make it more difficult for TCCDs to completely comprehend and address the interests and goals of the public, which may lead to the adoption of decisions and actions that are not well-received by or beneficial to the community as a whole. Several individuals highlighted their responsibilities as internal stakeholders instead of citizens, drawing a division between the population at large and those who are 'within' the process, such as municipal employees or representatives. This suggests an intriguing dynamic in which institutional actors may control the discourse even in a participatory situation. So, a main question emerges in this reflection: How can institutional stakeholders, who might have more access to resources and knowledge, not eclipse public voices through participatory processes? Do further power-balancing mechanisms inside the participatory framework become necessary? The

data also suggest that a homogenous decision-making environment may result from the dominance of specific socio-professional categories within the TCCDs. In addition to limiting the variety of viewpoints, this uniformity could also tilt the conversations in favour of the interests of better-off or better educated demographics. Ultimately, this would make it harder for TCCDs to solve the complex socio-environmental concerns they are designed to address because they run the risk of missing important issues pertinent to under-represented groups.

The participatory approach used by the TCCD offers a microcosm of the larger difficulties associated with citizen participation in socio-environmental governance. The approach is not fully inclusive and representative, even though it shows some progress in terms of individual learning and early engagement. The structural constraints imply that these processes run the risk of becoming performative rather than transformative in the absence of major adjustments. These constraints range from a narrow focus on a theme to an excessive dependence on internal, institutional players. This is a main challenge for the democratic innovations that need to be adapted. Only then can participatory processes like the TCCD become not just mechanisms of engagement but also vehicles for systemic change.

4.4.3. Perception of Collective Management in the Co-Design Process

Another critical question collectively discussed was: Were your opinions heard and acted upon during the co-design process? The responses of TCCDs participants show that opinions are generally favourable across several pilot locations. Most participants said that the co-design framework allowed them to have their opinions acknowledged and considered. However, there are differences in how seriously different viewpoints were considered and how much time was available for a deeper discussion of all points of view.

Participants in all the pilots strongly expressed feeling that they were heard during the co-design process. This feeling is consistently expressed, as many participants noted that they were allowed to voice their opinions. In the Gata-Malcata, Tartu, and Iceland pilots, for instance, when asked if their ideas were heard and taken into consideration, every participant said "yes" without exception. In the Bologna pilot, participants acknowledged the limitations imposed by time, even though they felt they were listened to. Many participants observed that although they were able to voice their thoughts, some topics were only partially discussed due to the complexity of the subjects and the time constraints.

Although there was a sense of being heard, the sessions' format prevented them from going into further detail in some areas.

Participants in certain pilots, like Odemira, reported feeling a great deal of autonomy in making decisions throughout the co-design process. The local municipality offered institutional and logistical support without becoming involved in the decision-making process, and participants felt that they had full support from them in this case. This promoted a sense of empowerment and ownership by enabling participants to act on their beliefs without restriction. Similarly, in Tavira, participants highlighted that they believed their ideas were respected and acted upon and that the co-design process was horizontal. A sense of shared responsibility and respect was fostered by the participation of outside facilitators, who worked to guarantee a fair and level playing field between residents and municipal representatives.

On the other hand, a few CNDP pilot participants voiced doubts about the long-term effects of their efforts. Although they felt heard throughout the process, there were doubts about whether these viewpoints would be considered in the broader public discussion. This indicates a disconnect between being heard and observing concrete action, particularly when the results rely on outside agents like government institutions.

Although most of the comments were encouraging, there were some criticisms. For example, in the Szeged pilot, participants acknowledged the value of the co-design process but thought that the scope of the topics covered was too limited, preventing wider contribution. Furthermore, a few participants believed that the process's dispersion over time and frequent participant turnover hindered its continuity. This created a sense of irritation among those who had engaged from the beginning and made it challenging to build on earlier conversations. Similar to this, participants in Rouen thought that while their ideas were considered, the process may have been expedited by the lack of many participants in the later phases, providing everyone with a voice but possibly restricting the variety of perspectives accessible. The small group size, however, made sure that everyone could voice their opinions without feeling left out.

Another important aspect highlighted in this reflection was the key role of facilitation. Participants at Tavira commended the outside facilitators for establishing a vibrant and welcoming environment where residents and local officials could contribute equally. To preserve equilibrium and guarantee that all viewpoints were given equal weight, this outside assistance was deemed necessary. While facilitation was well received in Szeged, participants asked for more time to talk about difficult topics. In several instances, the

process's structure—particularly its application of techniques like the Lotus technique—was viewed as restrictive. Although it worked well to structure the conversation, it also limited the depth of discussion on some subjects, which left some disappointed about how much input was included in the final choices. Different pilots perceived different effects of participant perspectives on decision-making. Participants in Odemira and Tavira experienced a great sense of agency since they felt highly invested in the project and saw their ideas implemented directly. Though they were heard, participants in Bologna and Szeged voiced concern that not all their input could be completely incorporated into the decision-making process due to the complexity of the issues and time and structure constraints.

In conclusion, the qualitative analysis shows that **most participants expressed satisfaction with the process's inclusivity and felt that their perspectives were heard during the co-design process** (synthesis of this analysis is presented in Table 27). The extent to which these viewpoints were implemented varied, nevertheless.

Table 27 – Perception of Collective Management in the Co-Design Process and Key Insights by Pilot

| Pilot | Opinions Heard and Acted Upon? | Key Insights |
|---------------|--|--|
| Bologna | Partial representation (e.g., neighbourhood houses present, private sector missing) | Opinions are generally heard, but time constraints limited deeper discussion and action |
| CNDP (French) | Some geographic and age diversity, but socio-professional diversity lacking | Opinions were heard, but doubts remain about whether they will influence broader policy decisions |
| Gata-Malcata | Significant geographic diversity but underrepresentation of environmental sectors | All participants felt heard, with opinions incorporated into the co-design process |
| Iceland | Local population well-represented, but young people and foreign-born residents missing | Opinions were expressed and considered |
| Odemira | Strong representation, but rural and younger voices underrepresented | Full autonomy and support to act on opinions, high level of participant satisfaction |
| Szeged | Some social diversity but lacked younger generations and wider community representation | Participants felt heard, but fragmentation and turnover hindered continuity and action |
| Tavira | Limited socio-cultural diversity (e.g., no young participants, rural areas underrepresented) | Participants felt their opinions were heard and acted upon due to a horizontal and inclusive process |
| Rouen | Represented a range of stakeholders but limited socio-professional variety | Participants felt heard, though fewer participants in later stages streamlined discussions |

It was determined that participant turnover, facilitation methods, and time constraints affected the breadth and depth of the discussions. In general, it was felt that the horizontal approach and the involvement of outside facilitators enhanced the feeling of equity and inclusivity, especially in Tavira and Odemira. Nonetheless, worries about the **long-term impact of opinions and the timeliness of addressing complicated issues draw attention to the necessity of ongoing efforts to guarantee that co-design procedures are both inclusive and practical.**

4.4.4. Participation in Implementation of Activities and Strategies

Beyond the importance of TCCD composition and the perception of collective management, other important questions were: Were you given sufficient support to participate in the activities? Which activities did you enjoy? Which did you not enjoy? Why? The objective was to collect information on the support, satisfaction, and engagement that developed during the co-design processes across various pilot projects. Overall, while the type and level of support varied among the pilots, participants in all of them reported feeling motivated and encouraged to engage in the co-design activities.

In the Bologna TCCD, participants noted a sense of vagueness and uncertainty in understanding the activities' aims, which hurt their sense of operational progress and clarity. Nevertheless, support was acknowledged. While feeling encouraged, a few participants said they were unsure of what was expected of them. One participant pointed out that the exercises lacked clarity, which made it hard for them to operationalise what they had learned. This feeling of bewilderment indicates that the co-design process needs more organised supervision and clearer communication. In Odemira, participants said that the local municipality provided ample financial and logistical support, including resources for organising and running the events. **Participants emphasised the municipality's unwavering support, which included space provision, logistical support, and even cash reimbursement for time spent in the workshops.** The fact that the municipality was only made aware of the action plan after it was finished highlighted the participants' sense of autonomy and had a major role in their capacity to participate fully in the process. Gata-Malcata TCCD participants believed that the process was generally well-organised, but they would have preferred shorter and more targeted online meetings. **While there was plenty of financial and logistical assistance in Odemira, participants in Gata-Malcata asked for additional time for face-to-face meetings to foster deeper conversations and a sense of camaraderie among participants.**

Feedback from Iceland was mixed. While some participants expressed satisfaction with the overall support they received, others highlighted a lack of clarity at the outset, which left them uncertain about the project's goals and their specific responsibilities within it. **This emphasises how crucial it is to provide participants with clearer instructions and expectations to make sure they feel supported and informed at every step of the way.** All the participants in Tavira agreed that they received plenty of support. The meetings were designed to be comfortable, and the facilitator was complimented for her neutrality and flexibility. **Snacks, informal settings, and conversational dynamics created a positive atmosphere for participation, which participants found effective in ensuring engagement.**

Regarding the most enjoyable activities, TCCD participants said they encouraged dialogue, interaction, and learning. If we zoom in on some pilots, some themes are evident. In Bologna, **participants enjoyed group activities that promoted deeper confrontation and exchange of ideas, especially those involving interaction between the Neighbourhood Houses and the Climate Mission.** The opportunity to collaborate and share perspectives within groups allowed participants to clarify certain ideas and objectives. - In Odemira, participants particularly valued working with young people, which underscores the novel and invigorating viewpoints that the younger participants offered. Participants also appreciated the sense of purpose and the opportunity to contribute to meaningful discussions that helped bridge the gap between citizens and policymakers. In Gata-Malcata, participants found the cross-border events productive and appreciated the sense of progress and mutual respect developed during the face-to-face contact. **They especially valued the regions' common solidarity and purpose, and they looked forward to potential future cooperation events.**

In Szeged, participants relished the opportunity to learn about unique approaches, such as the Lotus method, which was unfamiliar to many. Even though it was a serious task, the method's visual component helped focus talks and break difficult concerns into smaller components, **making the process refreshing and playful.** Finally, Tavira participants commended the innovative and uncomplicated approaches employed, especially the informal strategy that featured participatory dialogues, decentralised sessions, and the moderator's adaptability. **The decentralised format, which facilitated meetings in several locations, was perceived by participants as enabling greater direct community involvement.**

While most participants found the co-design processes to be enjoyable in many ways, there were some complaints voiced, mostly related to clarity, communication, and

timing. Several participants in Bologna noted a lack of clear direction and operational focus, which contributed to a sense of disconnection. While they appreciated the learning opportunities, they felt the sessions lacked sufficient structure to progress toward concrete actions and remained too vague. **The main complaint at Odemira concerned the slow pace of the procedure.** A few participants expressed frustration with the duration needed to organise and carry out the activities, stating that it took too long for noticeable outcomes to materialise. The difficulty in handling information and dealing with unforeseen problems made this attitude even more intense.

Participants in Iceland expressed disappointment at the meetings' one-sided discourse and lack of defined objectives. While some voiced unhappiness with the mismatch between their early expectations (e.g., land restoration initiatives) and the project's final direction, others thought that inviting more different opinions would have enhanced the conversation. **The main source of annoyance for participants in Szeged was the administrative burden.** Although they valued the innovative and participatory elements of the meetings, they were irritated by the protracted questionnaires and surveys, which they said took away from the primary activity. Some participants were deterred from continuing their involvement due to this administrative overload.

Tavira participants generally expressed satisfaction with the process but expressed a need for more participation in several sessions, especially the parish meetings. **The communication challenges and the belief that certain people were unequipped to participate in conversations were cited as the reasons for the absence of greater community engagement.**

Participants reported usually receiving enough assistance to participate in the activities throughout the co-design processes, although their satisfaction with this support depended on the methodological structure and clarity of objectives. While financial aid, provision of space, and meeting facilitation were deemed necessary and largely adequate, they were not sufficient on their own to guarantee participant satisfaction. Participants emphasized that clarity of expectations and the quality of guidance played a critical role in how effectively they felt supported. **In conclusion, this topic was internally discussed among TCCD participants, and it seems that clear, actionable objectives, creative and inclusive methodologies, and comprehensive support are all necessary for participatory co-design processes to be effective.** To guarantee that participants feel completely involved and empowered, **logistical support is crucial**, but it needs to be combined with efficient communication and organised direction. **Meaningful involvement can be fostered through activities that prioritise**

conversation, interaction, and creativity, but caution must be used to prevent overwhelming participants with administrative work or ambiguous goals. Participatory projects have the potential to yield more meaningful and fulfilling experiences for all parties involved by implementing **methods that are adaptable, inclusive, and action-oriented.**

4.4.5. Evaluation of TCCD Success

The final topic discussed in this collective moment of reflection focused on the satisfaction of the results achieved with the TCCD and some areas of improvement that should be considered in the future. Diverse satisfaction levels are reflected in the findings, which are mostly related to how inclusive, actionable, and clear the process was. Important recommendations for enhancement were also made by the participants, who emphasised the need for better communication, concreteness of outcomes, and more engagement.

Regarding the co-design process, the majority of participants indicated satisfaction overall; however, the degree of satisfaction differed between pilots based on how successfully the process translated into concrete outcomes and the level of participant engagement throughout. The co-design method yielded real results that satisfied many participants, particularly when the talks resulted in clear, actionable results. For example, in Tavira, participants expressed great enthusiasm for the consensus-building process that produced a final agreement on food gardens that considered the aspirations of various stakeholders. They viewed the co-created regulation as a successful solution that addressed both municipal and community issues and promoted a feeling of satisfaction and ownership. In a similar way, participants in Gata-Malcata thought that cross-border exchanges were beneficial, fostering a common understanding and forward-thinking plans. A further factor contributing to satisfaction was the learning opportunities that the process offered. Participants in CNDP valued the program's inclusivity and the opportunity to learn about environmental issues, especially the sea, which increased their awareness of and engagement with areas that they hadn't given much thought to before. This illustrates how co-design procedures that combine education and practical outcomes can raise participant satisfaction by giving them a feeling of advancement and involvement.

Nevertheless, in a number of TCCDs, participants acknowledged the limitations of the process in addition to the benefits attained. **Although the participants in Iceland were generally happy with the outcome, many believed that the process could have been more productive if internal conflicts and regulatory obstacles hadn't gotten in the way.** Depending on how they would be handled by outside actors (such as the academic

community), several participants voiced concern about the usefulness of the final outcomes and believed that the group discussions lacked focus. Considering this, a number of areas for improvement in the co-design process were pointed forward by the participants.

The main recommendations that came out of this were communication, engagement, and clarity of objectives. The requirement for clearer objectives from the start was one of the areas that needed improvement most often. Participants in Iceland and Bologna reported that they were initially unclear about the course of the process, which caused confusion and inefficiencies. For instance, in Iceland, some participants believed that the process's beginning was not clearly stated, which led to delays in comprehending the current task. Participants in Szeged also had a similar opinion, with some believing that the talks might have been shortened to save time and were redundant. This means that clear goals and streamlined workflows should be established early on in future co-design processes.

Another major area for improvement was the desire for more tangible outcomes. In several pilots, participants expressed the need for clearer, more concrete actions to come out of the co-design process. In Gata-Malcata, for instance, participants emphasized the importance of translating the discussions into concrete actions and decisions that have a direct impact. They suggested that more opportunities for face-to-face meetings could help strengthen the process and lead to more actionable outcomes. **A number of participants emphasised the necessity of sustained and more inclusive community engagement during the undertaking.** While the process in Tavira was constructive, participants pointed out that only a small number of community members were participating, implying that greater community participation could have enhanced the process. Similar to this, Szeged participants stressed the value of including more young people and citizens, believing that new viewpoints may have enhanced the conversations and produced original ideas.

Communication gaps were often cited as an area in need of improvement, particularly with regard to results distribution. Participants in Odemira reported challenges in coordinating with the municipality's communication department, resulting in postponements in disseminating and publicising the process outcomes. More prompt and proactive communication was requested by participants in order to inform them and encourage continued participation in the process. Similar to this, participants in Rouen saw a dip in attendance from the first meeting to the last, and they proposed that improved communication and motivation tactics could help minimise participant dropout. **Another**

critical issue that was seen throughout the pilots was that a significant number of participants had concerns regarding the sustainability of the outcomes and how to keep involvement going after the co-design phase. While the co-design conversations were helpful, Bologna participants thought there was a chance the process would not result in tangible follow-up measures. They stated that they wanted the process to progress from theoretical conversations to real operational efforts. This emphasises how crucial it is to make sure co-design processes are linked to implementation strategies in order to maintain participant engagement and translate the outcomes into significant action.

Table 28 presents a synthesis of these internal evaluation sessions with the main findings of the pilot. Overall, only a portion of crucial groups—such as young people and rural communities—were represented in the majority of the pilots, which had an effect on the diversity of viewpoints. In spite of this, most participants felt that their comments were heard; nevertheless, the degree to which those recommendations were implemented varied, frequently due to a lack of clarity in the objectives and time restrictions. Strong logistical support providers, like Odemira and Tavira, reported better participant autonomy and defined outcomes, which led to more satisfaction; pilots with less productivity and unclear goals, like Bologna and Iceland, saw tempered contentment. Participants in every pilot appreciated innovative and participatory approaches, but they were unhappy with procedures that were overburdened with paperwork.

Table 28 – Synthesis of the Internal Evaluation Session made by the TCCD participants

| Pilot | Representation & Diversity | Opinions Heard & Acted Upon | Support Provided | Activities Enjoyed | Activities Disliked | Satisfaction with Results | Areas for Improvement |
|--------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Bologna | Partial representation; some private sector voices missing. | Participants felt heard, but time constraints limited action on opinions. | Logistical support was sufficient, but objectives and clarity were lacking. | Group discussions with Neighbourhood Houses and Climate Mission. | Vague direction, lack of operational focus, inability to apply lessons. | Satisfaction tempered by lack of concrete outcomes. | Clearer objectives; more actionable outcomes; focus on concrete steps. |
| Odemira | Strong representation, but rural and younger voices underrepresented. | Full autonomy and support; opinions fully acted upon. | Strong logistical and financial support from the municipality; autonomy in decision-making. | Working with young people, bridging citizens and policymakers. | Slow pace of progress; time delays caused frustration. | High satisfaction due to autonomy and practical outcomes. | Faster results; better communication and follow-up with the municipality. |
| Gata-Malcata | Significant geographic diversity, but environmental sectors missing. | Opinions were heard, but participants sought more face-to-face interaction. | Support was adequate but desire for more structured, in-person meetings. | Cross-border events, building solidarity, and mutual respect. | Online meetings were too long and unfocused. | Satisfaction high with cross-border cooperation. | More face-to-face meetings; more concrete and actionable outcomes. |
| Iceland | Local community represented, but young people and foreign-born residents missing. | Mixed feelings—some opinions acted upon, others limited by regulatory challenges. | Mixed: Some felt supported, others noted lack of clarity about objectives. | Learning from diverse perspectives, expanding knowledge. | One-sided discussions, unclear objectives, process felt unproductive. | Satisfaction tempered by limited productivity due to internal issues. | Clearer goals from the start; streamlined discussions for efficiency. |

| Pilot | Representation & Diversity | Opinions Heard & Acted Upon | Support Provided | Activities Enjoyed | Activities Disliked | Satisfaction with Results | Areas for Improvement |
|---------------|---|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| Szeged | Some social diversity but younger generations underrepresented. | Participants felt heard, but fragmentation and repetition affected the process. | Support was adequate, but participants felt overburdened by administrative tasks. | Learning the Lotus method, interactive problem-solving activities. | Administrative overload (surveys), repetitive discussions. | Mixed satisfaction; participants appreciated learning but wanted clearer focus. | More diverse participation (youth); reduce administrative burden; clearer direction. |
| Tavira | Some representation but limited by lack of young members and rural areas. | Opinions respected and acted upon due to horizontal process. | Strong support, neutral facilitation, and informal, decentralized sessions. | Interactive methodologies, creative and decentralized sessions. | Lack of broader participation in some sessions (parish meetings). | High satisfaction with consensus-building and actionable outcomes. | Broader community engagement; improved communication for wider involvement. |
| Rouen | Represented a range of stakeholders but limited socio-professional variety. | Opinions were heard, though reduced participation over time impacted engagement. | Well-organized meetings with support materials and reports. | Small group discussions, diversity of participants. | Decline in attendance affected group dynamics. | Satisfaction generally high but affected by participant dropout. | Better communication strategies; more consistent participation. |
| CNDP (French) | Geographic and age diversity present, but socio-professional diversity lacking. | Felt heard, but uncertain about long-term impact of opinions on public policy. | Logistical support was adequate; emphasis on learning and inclusiveness. | Learning opportunities about environmental issues, particularly the sea. | Uncertainty about whether opinions would influence broader policy. | Satisfied with the learning experience, but concerned about policy follow-up. | More clarity on how opinions influence long-term decision-making. |



D5.4 | Evaluation of the pilot co-design process

| Pilot | Representation & Diversity | Opinions Heard & Acted Upon | Support Provided | Activities Enjoyed | Activities Disliked | Satisfaction with Results | Areas for Improvement |
|-------|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Tartu | Representation seen as adequate, with smooth and effective engagement. | Opinions fully heard and acted upon, with smooth process. | Sufficient support, smooth and efficient process. | Meeting experts and learning from their knowledge. | No major dislikes were mentioned. | High satisfaction with process and expert involvement. | Sustain engagement and expand community involvement further. |

4.5. Cross-TCCD Evaluation

Based on the findings of the qualitative survey, the purpose of this session was to use participant experiences to identify the primary advantages, disadvantages, risks, and opportunities associated with the TCCD co-design process, updating the initial SWOT analysis made individually. Recommendations for the TCCD co-evaluation procedure will be created in light of this. The session ran from 11:30 to 13:00 on April 2nd, 2024, during the consortium meeting in Tartu, Estonia.

The facilitators of this session were Fátima Alves (Task 5.2. leader from CFE-UC) and Diogo Guedes Vidal (Researcher from CFE-UC). The following 17 representatives²⁸ from the TCCDs/Pilots were present in this discussion:

- Piret Emily HION (Tartu, EST)
- Fernando PARREIRA (Odemira, PT)
- Sónia ZICA (Tavira, PT)
- Carmen BOULEY-DE-SANTIAGO and Gaëlle MAUBERT (CNDP, FR)
- Nelly TOCQUEVILLE and Pierre-Emmanuel BRUNET (Rouen, FR)
- Hugo JOIA and Daniel Gonzales GOMES (Gata Malcata, PT/SPAIN)
- Vittoria AFFATATO and Sergi VERAPONTE (Bologna, IT)
- Jón Forni SNÆBJÖRNSSO and Eyþór Kári INGÓLFSSON (Iceland)
- Tünde KISS and András SZKALISITY (Szeged, HUNG)
- Nándor Zoltán TRÁSER and István HEGEDŰS (Transdanubia, HUNG)

In order to provide suggestions for enhancing the TCCD co-evaluation process, a SWOT analysis (Figure 12) was collaboratively developed during the conversation to evaluate the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats associated with the TCCD co-design process. It is important to note that this exercise does not aim to homogenize viewpoints or reach consensus to formulate solutions. Instead, the aim was to explore different possibilities and provide space for diverse perspectives that reflect the diversity within Europe. The diversity of opinions and ideas that resulted from the partnership is one of the main **STRENGTHS**. Despite the participants' diverse backgrounds and situations, the approach promoted constructive communication and exchanges that allowed stakeholders to share knowledge and work towards a common goal. The TCCD's non-hierarchical structure encouraged honesty, trust, and transparency by facilitating equality

²⁸ Emilia Romagna TCCD representative was not present since the TCCD was not consolidated and formed.

in conversations and decision-making. This transparency made it possible for participants to network internationally and learn from one another's experiences by creating a debate culture and motivation. These kinds of elements are crucial in a co-design framework that greatly depends on the trust and varied contributions of its members.

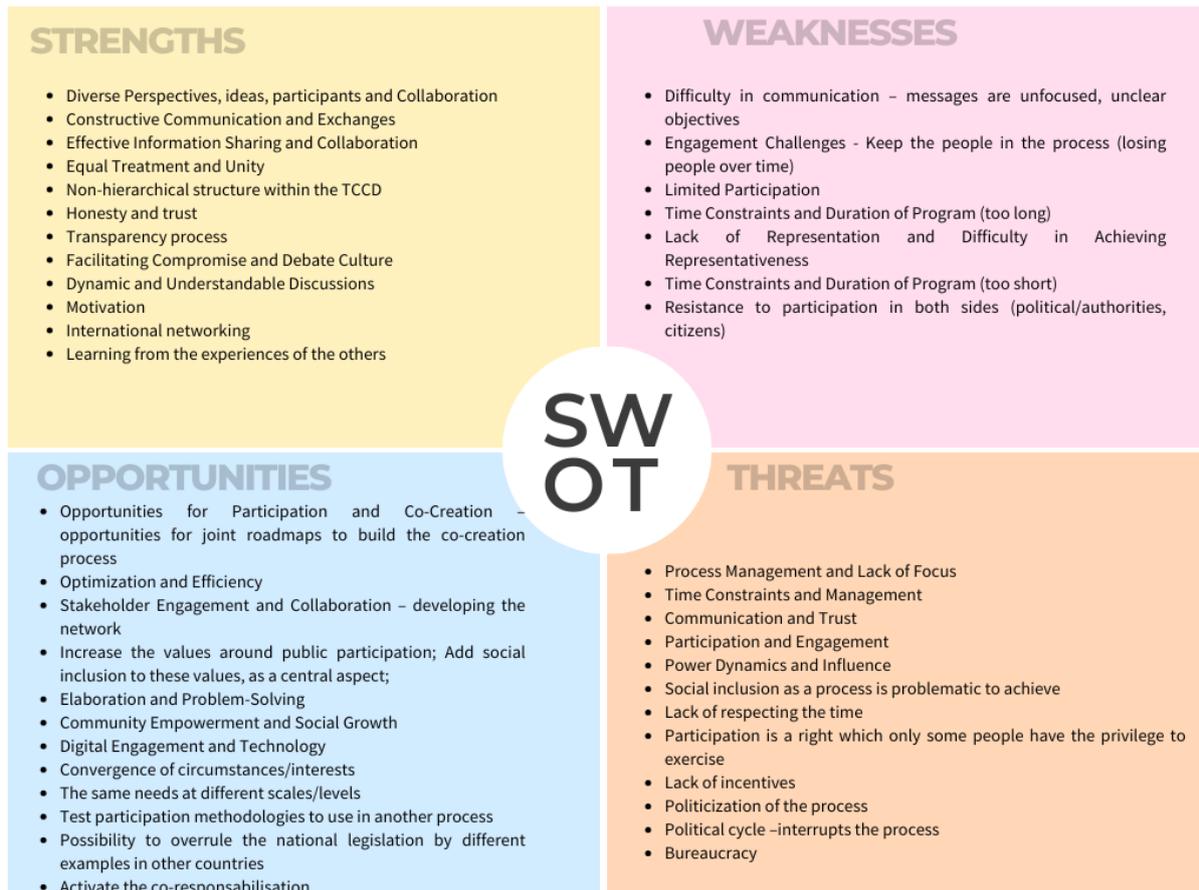


Figure 12 – SWOT analysis of the TCCD co-design process co-created by the participants

On the other hand, **WEAKNESSES** were observed, especially with regard to communication challenges. There were instances when unfocused or imprecise objectives hampered the co-design process, leading to engagement difficulties. One persistent problem was keeping participants engaged for the duration of the process, which resulted in limited participation and, occasionally, a lack of representation. The program's time constraints—whether it was too lengthy or too short—had an impact on the level of participation. Additionally, resistance to participation was observed from both residents and political officials, indicating underlying difficulties in promoting long-term cooperation.

OPPORTUNITIES-wise, broader participation and co-creation have a great deal of promise. Collaborative roadmaps that enhance involvement and guarantee a more inclusive co-

design would be beneficial to the process. Efficiency optimisation and collaboration among stakeholders are possible, especially through the creation of networks and digital engagement technologies. Moreover, empowerment of the community and the capacity to address the values of public participation became crucial opportunities for TCCD participants. These could result in elaboration and problem-solving models, convergence of interests, and social growth. Furthermore, there are ways to overrule hurdles in national legislation and activate co-responsibility within the process by experimenting with participation methodologies and drawing on international experiences.

Ultimately, a number of **THREATS** were identified by the TCCD participants, with process management and lack of focus standing out as persistent problems. Participation may be hampered by time constraints as well as challenges sustaining communication and trust. There was also a warning about the possibility of power dynamics and influence inside the process, which could restrict participation's equity and inclusion. Furthermore, social inclusion, a major objective, was viewed as problematic due to questions about who is privileged enough to participate and whose perspectives are actually heard. The sustainability of outcomes is in danger due to the politicisation of the process caused by bureaucratic obstacles as well as political actors. When political agendas, rather than the long-term needs of communities or the environment, become the driving force behind decision-making, the focus shifts away from sustainable solutions. The process being interrupted by the political cycle raises more questions regarding long-term commitment and co-design follow-through.

To sum up, the SWOT analysis shows that the **TCCD co-design process is full of potential and diversity, but it also has some challenges with representation, communication, and participation**. Although the process has a **solid base of cooperation and non-hierarchical structures**, in order to fully use its potential for stakeholder engagement and community progress, it has **to overcome flaws like ambiguous aims and low participation**. The challenges presented by scheduling and political restrictions emphasise the necessity of thorough planning and flexible approaches that can handle the difficulties of multidisciplinary, cooperative initiatives.

Based on some weaknesses and threats identified in the SWOT analysis, TCCD participants were identified to co-create a set of recommendations to address them and improve future co-design processes:

- Incentives and compensations for the citizens to participate: compensation in services (taking care of children), accessible mobility, catering support,

complementary activities (for children, cultural), compensation for the day of work with money;

- Improve communication to specific target groups – tailored design and adapt the language (be understandable for all):
 - Make relevant information accessible to all participants by providing materials in multiple formats and languages and ensuring that information is easy to understand and navigate;
 - Use plain language and avoid jargon or technical terminology;
- Arrange meetings during working hours – family-friendly;
- If meetings are held during work hours, they should be money compensated;
- Increase the values around public participation – Add social inclusion to these values as a central aspect:
 - Implement online platforms and tools to facilitate participation from individuals facing geographical or logistical barriers to attending in-person meetings. This can include virtual town hall meetings, online surveys, and interactive workshops;
 - Conduct targeted outreach efforts to ensure that all stakeholders are included. This may involve contacting community organizations, advocacy groups, and individuals from diverse backgrounds;
- There is a need to respect time, space, and culture:
 - Implement structured facilitation techniques to ensure that all participants have an equal opportunity to contribute and that no single voice dominates the discussion;
 - Encourage open dialogue and active listening to foster mutual respect and understanding;
 - Develop a detailed project timeline with clear milestones and deadlines for each stage of the co-design process;
 - Ensure that timelines are realistic and achievable, considering the complexity of the project and the availability of resources;
 - Provide comprehensive training and support for facilitators to ensure they have the skills and tools to manage and animate the co-design process effectively;
- The TCCD should regularly test/evaluate how inclusive and accessible they are:
 - Establish mechanisms for collecting participant feedback throughout the co-design process. Use this feedback to evaluate the process's effectiveness and identify areas for improvement;
 - Regular evaluations should be conducted to assess progress towards project goals and objectives and adjust strategies as needed;

- Implement structured decision-making processes that allow for meaningful input from participants while ensuring that decisions are made transparently and with accountability;
- Use consensus-building techniques to reach an agreement on critical issues;
- Self-assessment and feedback should be implemented regularly:
 - Foster a culture of continuous learning and adaptation, where participants are encouraged to experiment with new approaches and solutions and learn from successes and failures;
 - Be open to feedback and willing to adjust the process to meet the participants' needs better;
- Changing the places where the meetings are held;
- The need to share the results with the public – doing efficiently to reach everyone (diversity) – generate a system to share the process development among the TCCDs;
- Share common problematics and solutions (practical and specific ones) between different TCCDs:
 - Create a collaborative environment where participants feel empowered to collaborate and generate innovative solutions to complex problems;
 - Foster a culture of cooperation and mutual respect, and recognize and celebrate contributions from all participants;
- Development of platforms to communicate with each other (the TCCD members):
 - Provide multiple channels for communication, such as email updates, social media platforms, and dedicated project websites;
 - Foster open and constructive communication channels where participants feel comfortable sharing their ideas, concerns, and feedback;
 - Encourage active participation and provide opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas;
- Make the information accessible and simplify the information:
 - Develop a comprehensive communication strategy that outlines how information will be shared, feedback will be collected, and decisions will be made.

Considering all these crucial recommendations, a matrix of the key recommendations to address the main weaknesses, threats and opportunities is available in Table 29.



D5.4 | Evaluation of the pilot co-design process

Table 29 – Matrix of the key recommendations to address the main weaknesses, threats and opportunities co-created by TCCD participants

| Recommendation | Weaknesses Addressed | Opportunities Leveraged | Threats Mitigated |
|---|--|--|---|
| Incentives and compensations for participation (childcare, mobility, meals, etc.) | Limited Participation Engagement Challenges | Increased participation through compensation strategies. | Power Dynamics Participation and Engagement |
| Improve communication through tailored messages and accessible language | Difficulty in communication Resistance to participation | Increased inclusion through understandable communication channels. | Communication and Trust |
| Make relevant information accessible in multiple formats and languages | Difficulty in communication Limited Participation | Facilitates public inclusion Optimization of digital tools | Bureaucracy |
| Arrange meetings during working hours and compensate time lost | Time Constraints and Duration Lack of Representation | Increased participation through tailored scheduling and fair compensation. | Participation and Engagement Time Constraints |
| Use online platforms and virtual engagement to reach wider audiences | Limited Participation Engagement Challenges | Leveraging digital engagement tools for inclusivity and co-creation. | Participation and Engagement Politicization of Process |
| Targeted outreach for diverse stakeholders (community orgs, advocacy groups, etc.) | Lack of Representation Resistance to participation | Increased community empowerment More social inclusion in public participation | Politicization of Process |
| Structured facilitation for equal contribution and mutual respect in discussions | Resistance to participation Power Dynamics | Social inclusion and collaborative problem-solving. | Process Management Power Dynamics |
| Develop a detailed project timeline with clear milestones | Time Constraints and Duration Engagement Challenges | Convergence of stakeholder interests through better time management. | Process Management Time Constraints and Management |
| Regular evaluations and feedback collection to ensure inclusivity and effectiveness | Limited Participation Resistance to participation | Opportunities for continuous learning and adaptation. | Lack of Focus Participation and Engagement |
| Create cross-collaborative platforms to share common solutions across TCCDs | Lack of Representation Difficulty in Communication | Shared problem-solving between different TCCDs to increase social capital. | Bureaucracy |



D5.4 | Evaluation of the pilot co-design process

| Recommendation | Weaknesses Addressed | Opportunities Leveraged | Threats Mitigated |
|---|---|--|---|
| Implement structured decision-making and consensus-building techniques | Power Dynamics Limited Participation | Enhances decision-making transparency and ensures participant satisfaction. | Power Dynamics Politicization of Process |
| Increase the focus on social inclusion as a core value in public participation | Lack of Representation Limited Participation | Expands the scope of engagement through values of inclusion, accessibility, and mobility. | Politicization of Process |
| Encourage open dialogue and mutual respect | Resistance to participation Communication Challenges | Builds trust among participants and fosters a culture of understanding and co-creation. | Communication and Trust Power Dynamics |
| Provide comprehensive facilitator training to ensure effective co-design management | Lack of Representation Process Management and Focus | Empowers facilitators to manage the process efficiently and fosters innovation in co-design practices. | Lack of Focus Time Constraints |
| Simplify processes and reduce bureaucratic barriers | Difficulty in Communication Limited Participation | Enhances efficiency and digital engagement through the reduction of unnecessary processes. | Bureaucracy |
| Create flexible and adaptable structures for project implementation | Engagement Challenges Time Constraints and Duration | Responds to complex project dynamics while ensuring inclusivity. | Process Management Time Constraints |
| Foster a culture of continuous feedback and adaptation to improve engagement | Engagement Challenges Resistance to participation | Ensures project responsiveness to participants' needs, allowing for regular process improvement. | Participation and Engagement Politicization of Process |
| Ensure multiple communication channels between participants (online, email, social media) | Difficulty in communication Limited Participation | Expands engagement through various means of communication, fostering innovation and problem-solving. | Communication and Trust |
| Share common problems and solutions between TCCDs through collaborative platforms | Limited Participation Difficulty in Communication Engagement Challenges | Enables cross-learning and enhances problem-solving capabilities across TCCDs. | Bureaucracy |

The cross-TCCD evaluation draws attention to the complex interactions that exist between risks, opportunities, and weaknesses. In the context of citizen engagement, similar changes can be found, although some of those nuances can be explained by the different sociocultural and political contexts. **Analysing the recommendations makes it clear that fixing particular shortcomings—such as poor communication and low involvement—opens doors to make use of benefits that are already there, including improved public participation and community empowerment. Moreover, the recognition of possible hazards, such as political opposition and administrative hindrances, emphasises the necessity of anticipatory tactics that promote cooperation and diversity.** In the end, this assessment not only offers a path forward for enhancing participatory processes but also highlights the significance of ongoing input and flexibility in building a more efficient and just system for all parties concerned. TCCDs may foster a culture of trust, responsiveness, and cooperative problem-solving by giving priority to these suggestions, which will open the door to meaningful and sustainable civic engagement.

5. Discussion

5.1. Participation and Engagement Dynamics

A prominent issue that emerges from the evaluation outcomes of the TCCD is the difficulty of promoting meaningful and long-term engagement in co-design processes. The evaluation approaches, including surveys, internal sessions, and cross-TCCD sessions, are characterised by recurrent issues regarding participation barriers, engagement drop-off, and process inclusivity. It is clear from the surveys and internal assessments that practical and logistical barriers usually impede citizen engagement. Participants frequently cited obstacles like inconvenient meeting times, poor pay for their time, and unclear procedure explanations. These concerns echo long-standing critiques in the literature on participatory governance, which often point to the challenges of aligning the needs and constraints of diverse stakeholders with structured decision-making processes (Cornwall, 2008). Furthermore, the findings show that although attempts were made to incorporate the perspectives of the marginalised, these attempts were not always effective in reality. This may have to do with participation-affecting cultural factors as well as structural constraints (such as resource availability or scheduling problems). Internal evaluations, for example, have shown how certain cultural norms around voice and hierarchy may deter certain people from actively participating in discussions, even when they are present. This can be somewhat related to what Fung (2015) states about the impact of power dynamics in

participatory settings, where implicit hierarchies can undermine the egalitarian ideals of co-design.

On the other hand, the TCCD evaluation also points to opportunities for enhancing participation through targeted strategies. The cross-TCCD sessions, in particular, highlighted how digital tools and platforms could play a critical role in overcoming some of these barriers. Several TCCDs reported success in using online town halls, surveys, and interactive workshops to engage participants who could not attend in person, particularly those in rural or geographically isolated areas. This move towards digital participation is indicative of larger patterns in civic engagement, where technology is being used more and more to increase the accessibility and inclusivity of participatory processes (Benkler, 2006; Reinsalu, 2023). The TCCD results also highlight the necessity of striking a balance between the use of these tools and initiatives to guarantee that all participants—especially those who are less accustomed to using digital tools—feel involved (Reinsalu, 2022). In this sense, providing technical assistance and training might be a wise tactic for upcoming co-design procedures.

One important takeaway from the evaluations is how hard it is to keep participants engaged in an ongoing manner. High levels of initial enthusiasm were observed by several TCCDs, but they diminished as the process got more time-consuming or as participants thought their contribution was not producing tangible results. The concept of "participation fatigue" seems to be useful in understanding this challenge to describe the phenomenon in which people stop participating because they feel overburdened or incompetent (Cornwall, 2008). In order to mitigate this, the evaluation's findings indicate that co-design procedures should provide more instantaneous feedback channels and guarantee that contributors understand the significance of their work. This could entail providing participants with more frequent updates on the status of the project, being more transparent about the decision-making process, and explicitly recognising their contributions, which entails the need for accountability and openness in maintaining participation (Harrison & Sayogo, 2014). Numerous participatory governance theoretical frameworks are consistent with the involvement opportunities and constraints identified in the TCCD evaluation. Fung's (2015) "democracy cube" concept, for instance, provides a helpful framework for considering how various participation methods (such as deliberation, consultation, and co-design) might be modified for usage in various situations. The ability to alternate between in-person and digital interaction in the TCCD case may be viewed as a means of increasing participation's "breadth" and guaranteeing a more inclusive procedure.

Moreover, the TCCD evaluations provide empirical backing for theories of adaptive governance that contend that ongoing feedback loops and the capacity to modify plans in response to real-time participant input are necessary for successful co-design (Dietz et al., 2003). This implies that the TCCD's long-term viability will largely depend on its ability to maintain adaptability and responsiveness to participant input.

5.2. Communication and Inclusivity of Information Sharing

A recurrent motif in the TCCD assessments is the function of communication in promoting inclusivity during the co-design phase. Even though a number of TCCDs worked to improve their communication strategies, problems remained, especially with clarity, accessibility, and the inclusivity of information sharing. The evaluation's findings highlight how ineffective communication frequently served as a deterrent to participation. Participants frequently expressed feeling cut off from the process as a result of the language's complexity or the absence of specific communication techniques for certain groups. This echoes long-standing criticisms found in the literature on participatory government, where it is believed that communication plays a crucial role in facilitating or impeding meaningful citizen participation (Irvin & Stansbury, 2004). Transparent and easily understood communication is essential, especially in co-design environments, to enable people with different backgrounds to make significant contributions. Evaluations conducted in the framework of the TCCD show that although materials were made available, they were frequently not disseminated in a variety of languages or formats, which restricted the information's accessibility. This problem can be associated with information asymmetry in participatory processes, wherein participants who possess greater knowledge or technical proficiency may control the majority of talks, excluding others who can feel marginalised because they are unfamiliar with the topic (Cornwall, 2008). Positively, the cross-TCCD evaluations demonstrate that the use of digital platforms and simplified communication by a number of pilots improved inclusion. For instance, using online platforms and polls, as well as adopting plain language in meetings, allowed participants who were unable to attend in-person sessions to communicate with each other. TCCDs can further improve inclusion by customising communication strategies to the unique needs of participants, for example, by providing more visual aids or translation services. This strategy is an example of "deliberative inclusivity," as defined by Fung (2015), in which the process design itself adjusts to participants' communication needs to guarantee fair participation (Vidal & Alves, 2024).

5.3. Cross-TCCD Comparative Insights

The chance to discover shared challenges and context-specific strategies among the many pilots was made possible by the cross-TCCD meetings. A number of important lessons that can guide co-design procedures in the future are revealed by contrasting the experiences of TCCDs in various geographical areas. Upholding participant engagement over time is one of the biggest shared challenges amongst TCCDs. Numerous pilots reported a high level of initial enthusiasm, followed by a slow decline in involvement. Disengagement develops when participants believe their ideas do not have an immediate impact, and the co-design process loses its freshness. According to the evaluations, this difficulty may be lessened by establishing more frequent feedback loops, which would guarantee that participants are informed about the project's advancement on a regular basis and understand the concrete results of their contributions.

Notwithstanding these common difficulties, the assessments also emphasise the importance of context-specific solutions. For instance, in-person meetings were shown to be more beneficial than digital interaction in certain rural TCCDs, whereas online platforms facilitated higher participation in larger metropolitan contexts. This difference emphasises how crucial it is to modify the co-design approach to fit the unique logistical and sociocultural circumstances of each community. According to the literature, participatory processes are rarely one-size-fits-all and must instead be customised for a certain local environment in order to be successful (Krenjova & Raudla, 2013; Parlee et al., 2021; Safari et al., 2024; Vidal et al., 2025). This assertion is empirically supported by the cross-TCCD evaluations, which show that adaptability and flexibility are essential for effective participatory governance.

Additionally, the TCCDs' diversity of experiences presents chances for comparative learning. Through the analysis of successful techniques in one context and reasons why they might not have worked in another, TCCDs are able to exchange best practices and create more comprehensive participatory initiatives. This is consistent with participatory governance theories of "scaling up" (Baiocchi & Ganuza, 2014), wherein innovative local solutions are disseminated and modified for wider application (Baiocchi & Ganuza, 2017). A promising method for this kind of cross-learning and adaptation are the cross-TCCD sessions, which guarantee that the insights gained from one context influence behaviours in other contexts.

As identified in the previous D2.3 "Research Report on Society and Nature" (Alves, Vidal, et al., 2023), these findings emphasize the need for adaptable, inclusive, and context-sensitive approaches to participatory governance and underscore the potential for innovation in overcoming traditional barriers.

5.4. Research Scope and Methodological Reflections

The evaluation's conclusions are strongly context-specific and grounded in the unique geographic and socio-political circumstances of each TCCD. The cross-TCCD sessions facilitate comparative analysis; however, the insights generated may not be fully applicable across broader participatory governance frameworks due to the diversity of local contexts, including urban versus rural settings, varying levels of technological access, and varying socio-political and cultural climates. While offering depth, this specificity reflects a core aspect of qualitative research, which focuses on rich, context-bound data. Another observation concerns the variation in data gathering amongst various TCCDs. Because each local partner was in charge of conducting surveys, interviews, and sessions, there were variations in the techniques used, the quality of the translations, and the general amount of data gathered. This diversity may have led to discrepancies in the collection, interpretation, and translation of qualitative data, but it also reflects the project's decentralised structure and reliance on Local Partners. In order to assess changes in engagement, involvement, and outcomes over a longer period of time, a longitudinal perspective would be helpful since the evaluation only offers snapshots of the TCCD process at different periods in time. This research scope limitation reflects the project's time constraints, but it also shows that further research on the evolution and adaptation of co-design processes could be beneficial for future studies. Nevertheless, the findings clearly demonstrate that TCCD participants and their sessions facilitated critical reflection on the co-design process itself, offering valuable insights into areas for future improvement and innovation.

7. Conclusions

The TCCD co-design evaluation system, conducted under Work Package 5 (WP5), was designed to be flexible to the local context specificities of all pilots involved. The intention was not to provide an evaluation of what was good or wrong – or penalising and rewarding the good and the bad – but rather to highlight the opportunities and difficulties associated with establishing inclusive, cooperative decision-making processes in a variety of sociocultural contexts and the challenges associated with promoting meaningful participation while working within technological, cultural, and logistical limitations.

One of the key findings from the evaluation pertains to the engagement strategies implemented in each of the pilot projects. Various techniques were used to encourage the participation of women and historically under-represented groups, ranging from open invitation processes to random selections. Although the qualitative data revealed encouraging outcomes regarding the participation of marginalised communities and gender diversity, it is still difficult to guarantee these groups' long-term commitment. **A key element in removing participation obstacles was the implementation of tailored, context-specific engagement strategies, which highlights the necessity of adaptability when implementing the Tangram (WP3) technique in various socio-political contexts.** Another crucial topic was the impact of the co-design process on individual attitudes, specifically in relation to perceived efficacy and trust. All of the TCCD participants reported feeling more empowered and having more faith in the process. However, maintaining this effect over time is still difficult, particularly since early enthusiasm might be weakened by disengagement or participation weariness.

The evaluation also demonstrated a measurable impact of the co-design process on the participants' civic skills, such as participatory skills and civic knowledge. The deliberate emphasis on communication, problem-solving, and group decision-making gave participants the chance to learn new skills and expand their comprehension of public policy procedures. This result is noteworthy because it shows how TCCDs support long-term civic capacity building in addition to facilitating quick policy outcomes. The impact of the co-design process on public policy is further highlighted by the findings. **The involvement of various stakeholders, including policymakers, was a good sign of the co-design process's capacity to impact policy results, even though the degree of influence varied throughout pilots.** A number of pilot projects showed how inclusive and responsive policies may result from participatory processes, especially when stakeholders from marginalised groups are given the opportunity to participate. **Lastly, the potential of TCCDs to advance the European Green Deal transition pathway was evaluated in terms**

of its overall applicability. The findings show that although the methodology offers a strong framework for participatory governance, its applicability to particular circumstances will determine how successful it is. This flexibility will be essential for the methodology's future uses, especially for expanding its application across various industries and geographical areas.

In conclusion, WP5's TCCD co-design evaluation provides important new information about the methodology's efficacy, inclusivity, and flexibility. The results confirm that co-design processes can be transformative in empowering communities and forming more equitable governance structures if they are designed thoughtfully, are continuously reflected upon, and are committed to inclusivity.

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Appendices

Appendix A – TCCD qualitative survey

You are invited to participate in the project PHOENIX – The rise of citizens’ voice for a green Europe. PHOENIX is a 42-month research and innovation action funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme, Grant Agreement n° 101037328. It began in February 2022 and will come to end in July 2025 (more information about the project and to help you decide whether you would like to participate in PHOENIX project activities can be found at https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ig3KtnR0eTZL_F819_FZJfE11c07jcEE/edit?usp=sharing&oid=105039828406974423400&rtpof=true&sd=true). It is developed within an international consortium, coordinated by the Centre for Social Studies, at the University of Coimbra. PHOENIX Principal Investigator is Giovanni Allegretti.

This survey aims to gather your opinions and reflections on your participation in the Territorial Commission for Co-Design (TCCD). Completing this survey is completely voluntary, we will not record your name, and the survey will be coded to ensure the anonymity of answers. All personal information you provide will be kept confidential, anonymous, and treated in accordance with the EU regulations on personal data protection. Your decision whether to participate or not will not affect your current or future relationship with the researchers or anyone else involved in the PHOENIX project. You can stop the questionnaire at any time and refuse to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. If you decide to participate in this survey but later change your mind, you can request to withdraw your survey transcript from the study by contacting the researcher responsible (contact information at the end of this information).

We value your participation in our research and are committed to ensuring transparency and effective communication throughout the entire process. You now have the opportunity to authorize us to contact you via email during and after your participation, even if you decide to drop out of the study. This will enable us to gather valuable feedback and evaluate the co-design process more comprehensively. By choosing to leave your email address and authorizing us to contact you, you agree to the following: We will only contact you regarding matters directly related to the research study you participated in. This includes seeking feedback, addressing any concerns or questions you may have, and informing you of any relevant updates or findings.



By providing your consent, you are agreeing to allow us to collect personal information about you for the purpose of this study.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation. Your participation is very important for us!

If you have any questions, you can address them to Fátima Alves (fatimaa@uab.pt) and Diogo Guedes Vidal (diogo.vidal@uc.pt), from Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet (CFE), University of Coimbra, Portugal.

Informed consent:

I agree to participate in the research study. I understand the purpose and nature of this study and I am participating voluntarily. I understand that I can withdraw from the study at any time, without any penalty or consequences.

Yes

I agree to authorise the project to contact me via email during and after my participation, even if I decide to drop out of the study to give feedback and evaluate the co-design process more comprehensively.

Yes

No

If yes, please leave your email here: _____

PART A

The CO-DESIGN

1. What is co-design for you?

2. Was this your first time participating in a co-design process?

Yes [1]

No [2]

3. Can you share with us some words that translate your experience in this co-design process?

3.1. From your description of this co-design experience, can you please identify which are:

- A. The main strengths:** _____
B. The main weaknesses: _____
C. The main opportunities: _____
D. The main threats: _____

PART B

The Territorial Commission for Co-Design (TCCD)

4. Could you please briefly explain what the Territorial Commission for Co-design is?

5. Do you consider that the objectives of the TCCD were clear and well-defined?

- Yes [1]
 No [2]

5.1. Is it possible to identify some of the objectives of the TCCD?

6. How did you feel about the composition of the TCCD in terms of the diversity of participants and stakeholders involved?

- Not diverse enough [1]
 Somewhat diverse [2]
 Moderately diverse [3]
 Very diverse [4]
 Don't know/Can't answer [5]

6.1. Did you feel that any individual or group was missing from the TCCD's composition, in light of the socio-environmental problems of your territorial context?

- Yes [1]
 No [2]
 I don't know [3]

6.1.1. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, please identify who was missing from the TCCD's composition and explain why their presence would have been

important.

6.2. Did the TCCD include a representative of future generations?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- I don't know [3]

6.2.1. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, can you please explain the main contribution of this integration to the group discussion?

6.3. Did the TCCD include a representative of nature (non-human)?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- I don't know [3]

6.3.1. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, can you please explain the main contribution of this integration to the group discussion?

6.3.2. In your opinion, how to consider nature and non-human species interests in the co-design process? _____

6.3.3. What challenges do you anticipate in incorporating non-human perspectives in co-design processes? _____

6.3.4. Do you anticipate any ethical considerations that should be considered when incorporating non-human perspectives in co-design processes? Can you please justify?

PART C
SATISFACTION AND EXPECTATIONS

7. How satisfied were you with the activities and tools used during the co-design process?

- Very unsatisfied [1]

- Somewhat unsatisfied [2]
- Neutral [3]
- Somewhat satisfied [4]
- Very satisfied [5]
- Don't know/Can't answer [6]

7.1. Could you please justify your previous answer?

8. What were your initial expectations regarding your involvement in this co-design process?

9. Concerning your initial expectations, do you consider that the TCCD:

- Met my expectations [1]
- Exceeded my expectations [2]
- Partially met my expectations [3]
- Did not meet my expectations [4]
- I had no expectations [5]

10. Did you feel that your opinions and feedback were considered during the co-design process?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- Don't know/Can't answer [3]

10.1. If you answered "No" to the previous question, could you please explain how you felt and the possible reasons why your opinions and feedback weren't considered during the co-design process?

10.2. Did you participate in all meetings?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- I don't know / Prefer not to say [3]

10.3. Have you ever entertained the idea of embarking on a different creative journey and parting ways with this TCCD co-design process?

- Frequently - I often contemplate exploring alternative avenues of creativity [1]
- Occasionally - I occasionally ponder the possibility of pursuing different collaborative endeavours [2]
- Rarely - I am committed to this co-design process and seldom consider quitting. [3]
- Never - I am fully devoted to the co-design process and have no intentions of quitting [4]

11. Do you consider that participating in this co-design processes and the commitment in this participation would be worthy of monetary compensation?

- Money plays no role, my motivation lies in the experience itself [1]
- Monetary compensation would be a nice bonus, but not a crucial factor [2]
- My participation and commitment would be greater if there is a significant financial reward involved [3]
- Considering the time-consuming nature of this co-design process, in future I will only participate if there is monetary compensation. [4]

12. Do you consider that the participation in these co-design processes could greatly benefit from providing support to participants in the following areas, as needed:

- Recognizing the importance of reliable childcare arrangements to enable participants, particularly women, to fully engage in the co-design process without concerns about their children's well-being [1]
- Offering flexibility in work schedules or remote work options to help participants effectively manage family affairs while actively participating in the co-design process [2]
- Implementing measures to mitigate potential job loss or negative impacts on participants' careers [3]
- Providing financial assistance or compensation to address any income loss or financial implications that participants may experience while dedicating their time and energy to the co-design process [4]
- Other. Please specify [5]

13. Would you participate in a similar co-design process in the future?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- Don't know/Can't answer [3]

14. In your opinion can this particular co-design process be applied in other contexts in the future?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- Don't know/Can't answer [3]

14.1 - If you answered "no" to the previous question, could you please specify why?

15. Did your participation in the TCCD have any impact on you or your community, whether positive or negative?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]
- Don't know/Can't answer [3]

15.1. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, could you please describe the type of impact? _____

16. What could have been done differently to improve the co-design process? _____

PART D

TCCD AND THE FUTURE

17. Imagine you are in 2050. Looking back at the ecological transition that has taken place, we would like to understand the role that previous generations played in shaping the future we live in today (2050). As a member of the future generation, please reflect on the actions and contributions of the present generations (up to 2023) towards the ecological transition. In your opinion, what specific actions and roles did the present generations (2023) play in the transition to a more equitable and environmentally conscious society?

18. In your opinion, how can TCCDs contribute to fostering an ecological transition that encompasses all regions and ensures inclusivity without leaving anyone behind?

18.1. What is missing for this purpose to become a reality?

19. Do you have any additional comments or feedback about the TCCD or the co-design process?

PART E

SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

20. What is your gender?

- Female [1]
- Male [2]
- Other/s [3]. Please, specify: _____
- Prefer not to say [4]

21. What year were you born (yyyy)? _____

22. What is your nationality? _____

23. Do you have a university degree?

- Yes [1]
- No [2]

23.1. If yes, can you please tell us the field of study: _____

24. How many years did you study? _____

25. Which of the following categories do you fall in the most?

- Citizen [1]
- Practitioners [2]
- Decision-makers [3]
- Phoenix partners [4]
- Experts [5]
- Activists [6]

- NGOs representative [7]
- Social/environmental movements [8]
- Business people [9]
- Other [10]: _____

26. Please, describe as objectively as possible your occupation or, in the case of being unemployed, the last one performed:

Appendix B – Informed Consent for Internal Evaluation Session

This study is part of the PHOENIX project, a consortium coordinated by Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra, Portugal, and formed by: Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (FGF, Italy), University of Florence (UNIFI, Italy), Res Publica (France), French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, France), The Good Lobby (TGL, Belgium), Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos (CSIC, Spain), University of Southampton (SOUTHAMPTON, United Kingdom), University of Szeged (USZ, Hungary), University of Groningen (RUG, Netherlands), e-Governance Academy (eGA, Estonia), Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação (OFICINA, Portugal), ONESOURCE (Portugal), University of Coimbra (UC, Portugal), University of Iceland (UoI, Iceland). It is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme, Grant Agreement nº 101037328 and started on February 2022 and ends in July 2025.

The purpose of the study is enriching Democratic Innovations for Green Deal pathway for which interviews will help understand the local territorial, social, cultural, and political context of pilots' territories for PHOENIX project. It is coordinated by Fátima Alves (fatimaa@uab.pt), who you can contact if you wish to clarify doubts or share comments.

Your participation in the study consists of participating in an TCCD internal evaluation session that is expected to take no longer than 1 hour and 30 minutes and has no expected associated risks.

If you agree, your participation will be recorded in video and audio format. If you allow it, the recording will remain accessible exclusively to the team for transcription and subsequent analysis of information. If you agree, this register may also include research dissemination materials, accessible to a wider audience through (project website, social media, archives, etc.). This disclosure may be made anonymously or with disclosure of your identity, according to your wishes.

Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to provide any justification. The collected data will be stored securely in researchers' professional device protected, password-protected during the research and removed at the end of the project. From this moment to the next five years, the data will be stored on a server or a specific device intended for this purpose at CES. When necessary, the transference of sensitive and personal data to other project partners involved in the work, researchers will exclusively use the project platform, which offers different provisions for security against unauthorised access.

You have the right to access the registration of your participation at any time, by contacting the CES Data Protection Officer (epd@ces.uc.pt) or the [partner short name] data protection officer [name and email]

This informed consent is necessary to ensure that you understand the purpose and conditions of your participation in the study.

Yes No N.A.

1. I declare that the objectives of the study and the conditions of my participation have been clearly explained and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about them.
2. I authorize my participation to be recorded in audio format (voice).
3. I authorize my participation to be recorded in video (image) format.
4. I authorize my identity to be revealed.
5. I would like to receive an unedited digital copy of my entry.
6. I agree to participate in this study, under the conditions described above.

Any participant in this study may change the conditions for granting the use of the sound and/or image recording, if he/she so wishes, and must request it in writing to the project coordinator.

Name and signature of participant

Name:.....

Date:

Signature: Name and signature of the researcher

Name:.....

Date:

Signature:.....

Appendix C – Participant Identification Form

1. Age: _____

2. Gender:

Female [1]

Male [2]

Other/s [3]. Please, specify: _____

Prefer not to say [4]

3. Occupation: _____

4. Are you a resident of the area where the session will be conducted?

Yes [1]

No [2]

4.1. If “No”, please indicate where you reside: _____

5. Nationality: _____

6. Do you have a university degree?

Yes [1]

No [2]

6.1. If yes, can you please tell us the field of study: _____

7. How many years did you study? _____

8. Have you participated in an evaluation session (or focus group) before?

Yes [1]

No [2]

8.1. If “Yes”, how many times have you participated in an evaluation session (or focus group)? _____

9. Which category do you most fall into?

Citizen [1]

Practitioners (urban planners, architects, environmental experts. among others) [2]

Decision-makers [3]

Activists, Social/environmental movements [4]

NGOs [5]

Business people [6]

Other [7]. Please specify: _____

10. Are you representing the interests of someone, something, some cause or some specific group?

Yes [1]

No [2]

10.1. If “Yes”, please specify who/what: _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. Your information will be kept confidential and will only be used for the purpose of identifying the participants for the evaluation session.

Appendix D – Informed Consent for cross-TCCD focus group

This study is part of the PHOENIX project, a consortium coordinated by Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra, Portugal, and formed by: Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (FGF, Italy), University of Florence (UNIFI, Italy), Res Publica (France), French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS, France), The Good Lobby (TGL, Belgium), Instituto de Políticas y Bienes Públicos (CSIC, Spain), University of Southampton (SOUTHAMPTON, United Kingdom), University of Szeged (USZ, Hungary), University of Groningen (RUG, Netherlands), e-Governance Academy (eGA, Estonia), Associação Oficina de Planeamento e Participação (OFICINA, Portugal), ONESOURCE (Portugal), University of Coimbra (UC, Portugal), University of Iceland (UoI, Iceland). It is funded by the European Commission under the Horizon 2020 programme, Grant Agreement nº 101037328 and started on February 2022 and ends in July 2025.

The purpose of the study is enriching Democratic Innovations for Green Deal pathway for which interviews will help understand the local territorial, social, cultural, and political context of pilots' territories for PHOENIX project. It is coordinated by **Fátima Alves** (fatimaa@uab.pt), who you can contact if you wish to clarify doubts or share comments.

Your participation in the study consists of participating in a cross-TCCD focus group that is expected to take no longer than 1 hour and 30 minutes and has no expected associated risks.

If you agree, your participation will be recorded in video and audio format. If you allow it, the recording will remain accessible exclusively to the team for transcription and subsequent analysis of information. If you agree, this register may also include research dissemination materials, accessible to a wider audience through (project website, social media, archives, etc.). This disclosure may be made anonymously or with disclosure of your identity, according to your wishes.

Participation is voluntary and you can withdraw from the study at any time, without having to provide any justification. The collected data will be stored securely in researchers' professional device protected, password-protected during the research and removed at the end of the project. From this moment to the next five years, the data will be stored on a server or a specific device intended for this purpose at CES. When necessary, the transference of sensitive and personal data to other project partners involved in the work, researchers will exclusively use the project platform, which offers different provisions for security against unauthorised access.

You have the right to access the registration of your participation at any time, by contacting the CES Data Protection Officer (epd@ces.uc.pt) or the [partner short name] data protection officer [name and email]

This informed consent is necessary to ensure that you understand the purpose and conditions of your participation in the study.

| | Yes | No | N.A. |
|--|-----|----|------|
| 1. I declare that the objectives of the study and the conditions of my participation have been clearly explained and I have had the opportunity to ask questions about them. | | | |
| 2. I authorize my participation to be recorded in audio format (voice). | | | |
| 3. I authorize my participation to be recorded in video (image) format. | | | |
| 4. I authorize my identity to be revealed. | | | |
| 5. I would like to receive an unedited digital copy of my entry. | | | |
| 6. I agree to participate in this study, under the conditions described above. | | | |

Any participant in this study may change the conditions for granting the use of the sound and/or image recording, if he/she so wishes, and must request it in writing to the project coordinator.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Name and signature of participant</p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Signature:</p> | <p>Name and signature of the researcher</p> <p>Name:.....</p> <p>Date:</p> <p>Signature:.....</p> |
|---|---|

Appendix D – Ethics Approval

Da: ergo2@soton.ac.uk <ergo2@soton.ac.uk>

Data: giovedì, 31 agosto 2023, 22:42

A: Marco Meloni <M.Meloni@soton.ac.uk>

Oggetto: Approved by Faculty Ethics Committee - ERGO II 85579

Approved by Faculty Ethics Committee - ERGO II 85579

 Immagine rimossa dal mittente. UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

ERGO II – Ethics and Research Governance Online <https://www.ergo2.soton.ac.uk>

Submission ID: 85579

Submission Title: PHOENIX project - Territorial Commissions for Co-Design evaluation

Submitter Name: Marco Meloni

Your submission has now been approved by the Faculty Ethics Committee. You can begin your research unless you are still awaiting any other reviews or conditions of your approval.

Comments:

-
-

[Click here to view the submission](#)