

Working group synthesis

CITIZENSHIP AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

2019 - 2020

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EDITORIAL

Inclusion: passport to a new governance of our cities

Today, more than half of the world's population is urban, and this phenomenon increases at exponential speed. Down to the smallest territories, dynamism and economic creativity come face to face with the explosion of social inequalities and other exclusion factors. The speed at which inequalities and exclusion develop seems to be multiplied by the power of the economy, by the return of great migrations on all the continents, by the explosion of peripheral divides, by the influence and the growing political contestation of social networks, by the significant progress in AI, etc. Everywhere, the organized representation we were used to is teetering; everywhere, also, classic forms of representation try to maintain a continuity of practices that do not take into consideration new social demands, and, more importantly, that do not draw the benefits from involving new citizens.

However, a diffuse feeling of community belonging arises everywhere, especially among the young generation willing to build a shared future, to realize the sustainable development goals, aware that the need to "save the planet" isn't just an option: it is an imperative of survival for the humankind as a whole.

To get there, we need to question our cities' governance models and rely on the participation of everyone. "Everyone" includes females as much as males, as they are too often kept away from positions of power, from decision-making processes, and are underestimated and contested.

Redefining participation, reinventing the social sector, facing new issues related to the climate emergency and to the destruction of biodiversity: all of it can only be done through thanks to efficient institutions, conditioned by the emergence of new social organizations, inclusive, democratic and feminist.

**Maud Lelièvre,
Les Eco Maires**

Co- Pilots



With contributions from





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PART 1

DEFINITION AND APPROACH

Today, cities face many issues: growing socio-spatial inequalities and segregations, increasing tensions and amplification of social revendication. A first answer can be brought through solid democratic governance locally, strengthening the action means of all urban actors.

Furthermore, the participation of all actors to the making of urban public policies is essential for these policies to function and be developed, in a context of growth and of increased transformations.

This also implies to insist on citizen participation, in particular of women, whose representation is often more limited within institutions of governance, and who get less granted room in the city. In this sense, it is important to make both the equality between women and men and women's participation to decision-making processes real

priorities of urban and territorial development. But this search for a balanced representation for women must also apply to the youth and the elderlies, whose positions need to be equally reinforced.

This vision of the city of which inclusion and social diversity are two cornerstones, and insisting on the promotion of equality for all in the governance system and in the ways we experience urban spaces, relies on the idea of a "right to the city". Each citizen must be granted equal access to equipment and infrastructures provided by the city, in a context of inclusive and sustainable urban development. This is a model in which the fight against segregation and inequalities must prevail, and in which user-centered processes adapted to each local context are key elements.



Many questions, however, remain. Which process should we implement to ensure citizen participation to the making of their city? How do they experience their city? How can they become active and take ownership of governance and of projects?

The cities of tomorrow must still answer many challenges to give priority to citizens' initiatives in their governance, including the informal ones, based on a bottom-up approach; they must also make individuals the drive of their innovation and development, which now intends to be sustainable.





PART 2

RECOMMENDATIONS AND EXAMPLES

Recommendation 1

Enhance citizens, key actors of governance and of urban planning initiatives powered by civil society.

Governance

Enable citizen participation based on a bottom-up approach, by raising awareness among actors (elected women and men, political leaders) about the importance of getting inhabitants involved.

Enhance and ensure that local authorities take into consideration the initiatives from inhabitants of informal neighborhoods, since they are true innovation pools. These neighborhoods answer the inhabitants' effective needs, so that the envisioned public policies answer real needs and rely on the citizens as actors of the city.



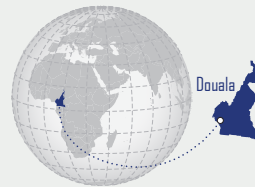
PROJECT

Informal and formal activities within an inclusive and attractive urban project

Following a demand from the local authorities, the “Ateliers de Cergy” organized an international urban planning workshop in Douala in 2013 and 2016. At the heart of this reflection was the answer needed to the economic crisis and to the population fluxes that induced strong demographic growth, with economic, environmental, functional and social consequences. The originality of the approach was to lean on the many solutions and informal activities produced by the citizens facing this crisis, and to think about how Douala could allow existing informal activities to participate to the urban economy and to maintain Douala’s role as the economic capital of Cameroon.

A complementary workshop, that followed the same approach, came to enrich the previous

works led to include the already established populations and include those who keep on coming, thanks to the development of new services, of new social offers and thanks to a landscape organized around multiple centralities. (Douala - CAMEROON)



www.ateliers.org/en/

Public policies and planning

Articulate participative urban projects with other urban projects. To do so, create a language and a vocabulary representative of the local population’s daily life, to strengthen the appropriation of the urban project by local authorities and inhabitants. Prefigure future uses, and potentially ensure the evolution of the design and conception of the urban project.

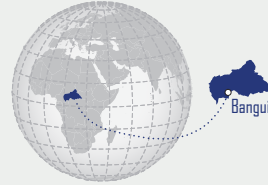




PROJECT

Reinvent Bangui

The Ateliers de Cergy organized an international workshop that brought together experts from the urban planning field from Central African Republic and from around the world, local cities, ministries and local actors, to produce a collective vision of the urban functions to be redeployed after the destruction of the social and urban networks, which happened after the conflicts. To strengthen the collective urban organization vision in a situation where the social balance



had to be found again, brainstorm sessions were led with the inhabitants. It enabled collective expression, and the creation of a city map based on how the city is used by the inhabitants.

(Bangui - CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC)

www.ateliers.org/en/

Economic models and funding

Dedicate a part of the local authorities' budget to concrete projects suggested by users, in order to implement projects in line with the effective needs of inhabitants. Turn inhabitants into co-funding actors, by allocating part of the budget to micro-projects led by them.

TOOL

Participative budget of the city of Paris (and of some other cities)

Each year, 5% of the Paris city budget is allocated to projects suggested by the inhabitants, on a dedicated platform

dedicated. This citizen organization exists in many French cities today, seduced by the Porto Allegre model in the years 2000.

www.paris.fr



Training and empowerment of actors

Use training programs as a key tool to successfully implement projects. The training of actors can happen through benchmark and feedback based on the experiences of other urban projects, but it must first and foremost happen on the field, during the implementation of such projects.

PROJECT

A domestic space odyssey («Odyssée de l'Espace Domestique»)

Through a research-action cycle, the organization called "New South" brings into question the expected housing type and the domestic conditions induced by it in terms of gender-based divides of usages and space. To do so, several actions were led to implement an educational project in Addis Abeba, a research about the domestic space in Alger, with an analysis of the role of women, or also an internship program in Paris intended for students who took part in the project.



These actions allow to involve local actors and networks and to enhance the work done by local students.
(Addis Abeba - ETHIOPIA, Algiers - ALGERIA, Dakar - SENEGAL)

www.txkl.fr





Recommendation 2

Encourage participative processes to guarantee a balanced representativity between local authorities and civil society.

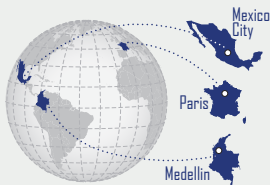
Governance

Give the priority to the local level and include civil society to decision-making processes. To do so, build partnerships between local authorities, NGOs and civil society.

PROJECT

Strategic urban development and exchanges of good practices

Together with the cities of Medellin and Mexico, the city of Paris organized at the end of 2018 an exchange of good practices



about the development of its public spaces and citizen participation, putting the place of pedestrians at the heart of the conversation between the three cities. The cities were thereby able to share their experiences about civil innovation, aiming to strengthen the dialogue with their citizens.

(Mexico City - MEXICO, Medellin - COLOMBIA, Paris - FRANCE)

www.paris.fr



Governance

Turn local authorities into central actors by building decisions that reflect the multi-culturalism of the territory's actors.

PROJECT

Building a dialogue between local authorities and community organizations

Powered by a local elected leader in charge of participative democracy, the Region organized a series of reunions on “How to transition to a territory where public policies are better shared between inhabitants and community organizations?”. Three types of demands emerged:

- a need for engineering, method and tooling to be able to participate;
- a need for spaces in which community organizations can meet and exchange;
- a need to give visibility to what is being done on the territory.

In answer to this, the local authority offered a few hundred days of expertise. Spaces



meant to exchange practices were created. A professional facilitator was also made available. The community organizations were in charge of the content. These processes didn't impose any specific type of interaction. (Hauts-de-France region - FRANCE)

www.hautsdefrance.fr

Planification

Encourage urban projects that trigger citizen-led innovations to engage citizens in a role of builders of their own city.





PROJECT

The urban incubator («La pépinière urbaine»): citizen-led initiatives lab

Implemented by the GRET and funded by AFD, this participative system must allow residents, users and civil society, in partnership with local authorities, to propose and to test temporary and evolutive urban projects that have a positive impact (social, cultural and

environmental), envisioned and sometime implemented by the inhabitants themselves. These workshops aim to boost the collective social dynamics and the inhabitants' creativity, and to encourage the interactions between all the actors of a neighborhood and the local authorities. (Ouagadougou - BURKINA FASO)



www.gret.org/?lang=en

Economic models and funding

Integrate participative or microcredit funding tools to put the users in a position of decision-makers and of actors of their own urban space. This tool can help local authorities to fund some projects for which they don't have enough money, and which could serve the community as a whole.

This methodology of participative co-design and co-construction allows for a quick and cheap implementation of transitory urban developments in the public space that answer the needs of quality improvement of public spaces.

TOOL

Les Co-citoyens ("the co-citizens"), civil crowdfunding website

A crowdfunding organization that supports local citizen-led initiatives focused on building sustainable and inclusive cities. It is a tool to

facilitate the empowerment of inhabitants' through amplifying local dynamics thanks to the digital environment.

www.co-citoyens.fr/en/





Recommendation 3

Grant women more space in the city.

The city, mirror of the prevailing social norms it inherits

In the public space, masculine spaces multiply and get renewed, and what's often praised as an innovation is often in fact nothing more than a new masculine culture. Sport urban practices (skate, roller, BMX, ...) first developed before having dedicated spaces in the city. Now, other cultures arise, such "parkour" (urban climbing) or street workout, meaning bodybuilding in fitness areas. Without an awareness of the homogeneity of sex, we keep on creating spaces that perpetrate a continuum of masculine spaces, in constant relation with the standards of the hegemonic masculine cultures, virile and heterosexual.

PROJECT

In Malmö, a girls-only day in the skate-parks and city parks

Given the tax equality, the Swedes considered that equipment can't be created without being equally visited and used by both women and men. We are far from this situation in France, even if cities like Lyon, Paris, Rennes and Bordeaux progressively implement systems and good practices to head toward egalitarian cities, a vital condition to improve urban ambiances. (Malmö - SWEDEN)




More women in the executive power of cities and local communities

A mobilization of the mayor of Paris, female president of the permanent commission of gender equality of UCLG, for the improvement of women's representation within the elected councils of towns and local communities, and for their access to the decision-making processes, including in Africa, through the interest given to REFELA-UCLGA, a federating framework for female mayors and local female leaders in Africa.

www.uclg.org/en/





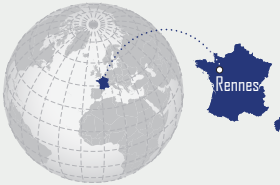
The composition of cities, coupled with the classic assignment of “feminine” tasks

Today, women are still the ones performing 75% of child-caring tasks and 60% of the house works. They are also the ones with the least hobbies. These habits contribute to street harassment and to the spatial divide induced by it. From the football field to the schoolyard, to the masculine domination on the street, this divide establishes a masculine centrality and a feminine periphery.

PROJECT

Non-gendered activities in the school yard to fight against stereotypes

To fight against the inequal use of spaces, the city of Rennes equipped its new schools



with “non-gendered” school yards. No more football field materialized with white lines on the ground; instead, more activities spread around the school yard, and less divided. Kids can play basketball but also play hide-and-peek, read, bike or study insects in the grass. (Rennes - FRANCE)

www.metropole.rennes.fr

Planning of urban spaces in favor of women

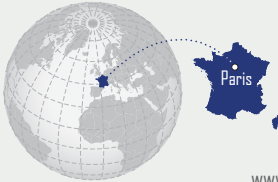
Build an egalitarian urban environment thanks to urban developments, for an integrated approach of the equality between men and women in public spaces.



PROJECT

Redevelopment and lighting in public spaces for women

The city of Paris published in 2016 its “gender and public space referential guide” in which the question is state of the equality between men and woman in the redevelopment program of seven big Parisian squares. (Paris - FRANCE)



www.paris.fr

Campaign to fight violence against women

A campaign to promote zero tolerance towards violence against women and girls. 22 African cities among which Banjul, Gambia's capital, joined the campaign to benefit from a counselling support from REFELA-UCGLA and to level up their city in order to evolve toward a zero tolerance policy towards violence against women and girls.

www.uclg.org/en/





Recommendation 4

Encourage the presence of marginalized actors within organizations of political decision.

Governance

Rethink the city services and their public function to grant access to these services to marginalized actors, the more fragile ones, the ones in precarious situations, or the disabled.



TOOL

The European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in the local life

A tripartite partnership to promote gender equality together, at the level of the cities and of the local authorities.

The world organization UCLG, Europe section, CCRE-Platforma and REFELA-UCGL Africa, work on the one hand to strengthen the commitment of local governments to support gender quality, in accordance with African

agendas (including the 2063 vision...) and international agendas (including the 17 SDGs, especially SDG 7: reach gender equality through the empowerment of women and girls by 2030); they also work, on the other hand, on capitalizing on the CCRE's experience to establish the "Charter of the local authorities for gender equality in Africa".

www.egalite-femmes-hommes.gouv.fr



Inclusion and consultation to make decisions

The classic participation offer generates a social selection between the ascendant middle class on the one hand, culturally and economically privileged, who invests in the movement of community organizations and takes charge of participative propositions to the point that they end up monopolizing them to their advantage; and on the other hand, lower classes that are socially, culturally and economically more deprived, populations with an immigrant background, or the youth, who only marginally respond to participative propositions. They consider themselves less capable of leading citizen initiatives in front of public authorities.

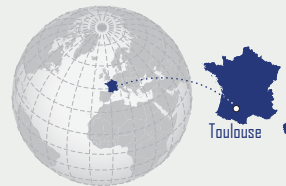
PROJECT

Toulouse : exemplary renovation of Cité Madrid

In the context of the energetic renovation of “cité Madrid”, a former housing project intended for workers located in the Sept Deniers neighborhood in Toulouse, this social housing operation (174 habitations in total) proved exemplary in its technical approach, due to the realization of a 3-year long research about the tenants’ real consumption needs, led among a representative sample of 25 habitations.

This concertation-based approach facilitated

the decision-making process and relied on the inhabitants’ needs before those of the financial backers. (Toulouse - FRANCE)



www.toulouse-metropole.fr

Inclusion and social link

Include the opinion of civil society, of users and more particularly of vulnerable populations into urban development projects. Rely on diagnosis tools (explorative hike, sensible diagnosis) to integrate inhabitants and marginalized populations. Promote cultural exchanges and activities that facilitate this approach.





PROJECT

Artistic creation as a trigger of social link

Through the creation of the New Paradise show, ACMUR collective and Lyon's based Là Hors De are collective let women and girls express themselves about religious pluralism, radicalization and about the tense context related to the fear of terrorist attacks. The show was created to get these voices heard,



putting together perspectives from Africa and from France about those issues.

Several actions were led, such as interviews of women community organizations in Ouagadougou, research-action residencies in Africa and in France, training of young female dancers and comedians from Mali and Burkina Faso, and participation to seminars and conferences with Ouagadougou's researchers.

(Ouagadougou - BURKINA FASO)

www.lahorsde.com

www.acmur-rdvcheznous.org

Economic models and funding

Improve the investment possibilities of people in a vulnerable situation by facilitating the implementation of micro-credit systems.

TOOL

Microfinance: which solutions are possible?

Since its creation, the GRET NGO facilitates FinDev, a platform of inclusive finance for development (findevgateway.org). This is an interactive platform meant to share knowledge, tapping into broader topics than solely traditional micro-finance. The GRET

NGO also administrates CERISE, which works on the research and diffusion of social performances in the field of micro-finance. To ensure a return on investment, GRET supports the professional training of small entrepreneurs, in particular of the youth.

www.findevgateway.org





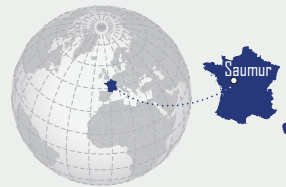
Better action through anticipation

Rely on expense anticipation to improve the integration of the most disadvantaged populations.

PROJECT

Propose models to plan out the benefits

A first study – done upfront – allowed to identify the most fragile household in the city by crossing the information about their revenue, their consumption and their debts. The observation is completed with the identification (done on the field by local organizations) of social situations, and then followed by a territorial diagnosis of energetic precarity in the city. This allows to identify families and offer them pro-active and anticipatory decisions, to break away from the logic of classic support by CCAS, forced



to intervene in cases of moratorium. The intention was to change the situation in the social sector and to empower citizens. (Saumur - FRANCE)

www.ville-saumur.fr





Recommendation 5

Elderlies: reinvest the right to consideration that they are due.

Inclusion and social link

Create third-party places in neighborhoods with a mission of autonomy to bring together services and inhabitants and especially elderlies.

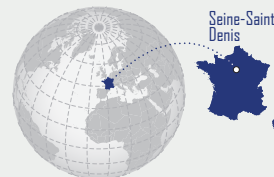
PROJECT

New strategies in favor of autonomy

The departmental council of Seine-Saint-Denis committed to implement a new scheme in favor of the autonomy of the elderly and disabled people. As part of the expected measures, the council plans to create 25 third party places to promote autonomy in the neighborhood.

Beyond just housing, the intention is to develop a local service offer at the level of the neighborhood, especially in the neighborhoods considered as a public policy priority, by creating such third-party places with the help of financial backers.

These dedicated spaces will be provided with a range of services targeting autonomy: social activities, office permanence for specialized services, home help services, nursing and paramedical care, grocery or mail delivery. (Seine-Saint-Denis - FRANCE)



www.seinesaintdenis.fr





Recommendation 6

Use system networks as a mean to facilitate exchanges and urban inclusion.

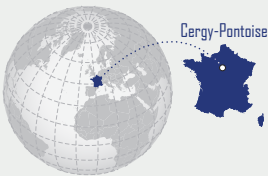
Networks of actors' cooperation

Facilitate international and regional exchanges between the youth to create cultural exchanges, educate the youth about solidarity and citizenship actions. These exchange practices enhance urban inclusion and put young citizens in a position of actors of their own territory. Lastly, they contribute to knowing the other, and therefor to strengthen social link.

PROJECT

International workshop for the command of urban planning works

This workshop, of which the field of study is the Greater Paris area, takes place each year and brings together about 20 young students about to finish their studies or young professionals under 30. For a period of 3 to 4 weeks, they work together on a subject and a territory chosen with our partners and elected leaders, and supervised by our partners, expert members and the teams of the Ateliers (“workshops”). At the end of this period, they present in teams the result of their work to a local and international jury.



These young people (urban planners, landscapers, architects, ecologists, economists, sociologists, geographers, etc.) come from all around the world and go beyond their cultural differences to bring answers to a territory that is new to them. This formative experience allows them to share with other youth a new vision of the city, more inclusive, focused on the inhabitants, and eco-friendlier. Thanks to this international experience, these young people join a global network that provides them with many opportunities at the end of the workshop, but also throughout their professional career, for numerous exchanges and sharing of experiences. (Cergy-Pontoise - FRANCE)

www.ateliers.org/en/





Inclusion and social link

Rely on the networks of cities to mobilize and gather a great number of actors in charge of governance, with the goal to build fairer and more inclusive territories.



TOOL

France Volontaires network

France Volontaires is a French platform of which the objective is to develop and promote international volunteer commitment. It aims to create partnership relations with other

countries to develop exchanges between the youth, with an objective of reciprocity with the partnering countries.

www.france-volontaires.org/en/

Recommendation 7

**Include the youth to the decision-making processes,
by hearing their new demands.**

Governance

Implement decision instances at the local and supra-local levels to allow the youth to take position and to drive decisions in the making of public policies.

Guarantee the institutional and constrictive impact of the decisions taken in the instances led by the youth to make sure these decisions become effective.





PROJECT

The Paris Youth Council

Since 2003, 100 Parisian youths (50 young women and 50 young men) come together throughout the year to formulate propositions about topics related to the political programs of the current year. This council allows to collect the members' opinions about diverse topics, opinions which are then presented to elected leaders during preparatory

commissions in the sessions of the Paris City Council. The objective of this mirroring instance is first and foremost to associate the youth to the elaboration of public policies and to take into consideration their expectations and revendications.

www.paris.fr

Inclusion and social link

Implement social, school and financial follow-ups to ensure a healthy social and urban integration of young people who are in a situation of severe poverty.

TOOL

African cities without kids on the street campaign

Initiated in November 2018 by REFELA-UCLGA in partnership with the Observatory in Morocco for children's rights, this campaign was led to make street children a priority of strategic policies of development of the cities and local authorities in Africa.

It aims to raise awareness and mobilize the leaders of the cities and local authorities in Africa to take into consideration this urban scourge, if not to significantly contribute to its eradication by 2030.

www.uclga.org/en/





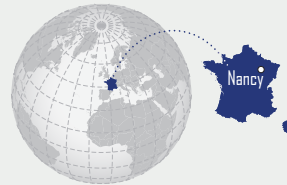
Inclusion and social link

Include the youth in urban development project and in the organization of activities taking place before and after school, thanks to concertation sessions dedicated to the youth to grasp their expectations.

PROJECT

The city of Nancy, member of the UN Inclusive cities network

The city of Nancy belongs to the UN Inclusive cities network in France. In line with this network and with the intention to improve the inclusion of the youth in urban creation processes, the city of Nancy created the “Nancy Jeunes” prize. It supports Through funding participation, innovating initiatives led by middle-school, high-school and university students, or by students who are members of a Nancy-based community organization.



The prize enhances the role of young people as actors of the city, and allows for local authorities to lean on citizen-led innovations so to answer their needs as accurately as possible. (Nancy - FRANCE)

www.nancy.fr/nancy-in-english-995.html





CONCLUSION

Key words

Citizen participation

○.....Democratic governance

Bottom-up approach

Social inclusion

Women.....○

Memo

In the face of growth and of the complexification of urban issues, the answers offered by public authorities appear to be insufficient. This shortcoming pushes inhabitants to come up with innovative solutions. This social innovation movement echoes little by little the inclusion challenges of marginalized populations, especially of women, of young people, of elderlies, of disabled people and of people in a situation of poverty. The integration question triggers a reflection to rethink public policy's governance systems and governance of urban spaces. Citizens are by definition and must be put indeed in a position of society actor.

that build the cities and impact society. The multiplication of programs centered around citizen participation must also be approached critically to ensure both a real positive impact and a real political intention. These processes shouldn't only imply political and territorial marketing. They call for decision-makers to delegate power, which would lead to a real revolution in the way policies and cities are built.

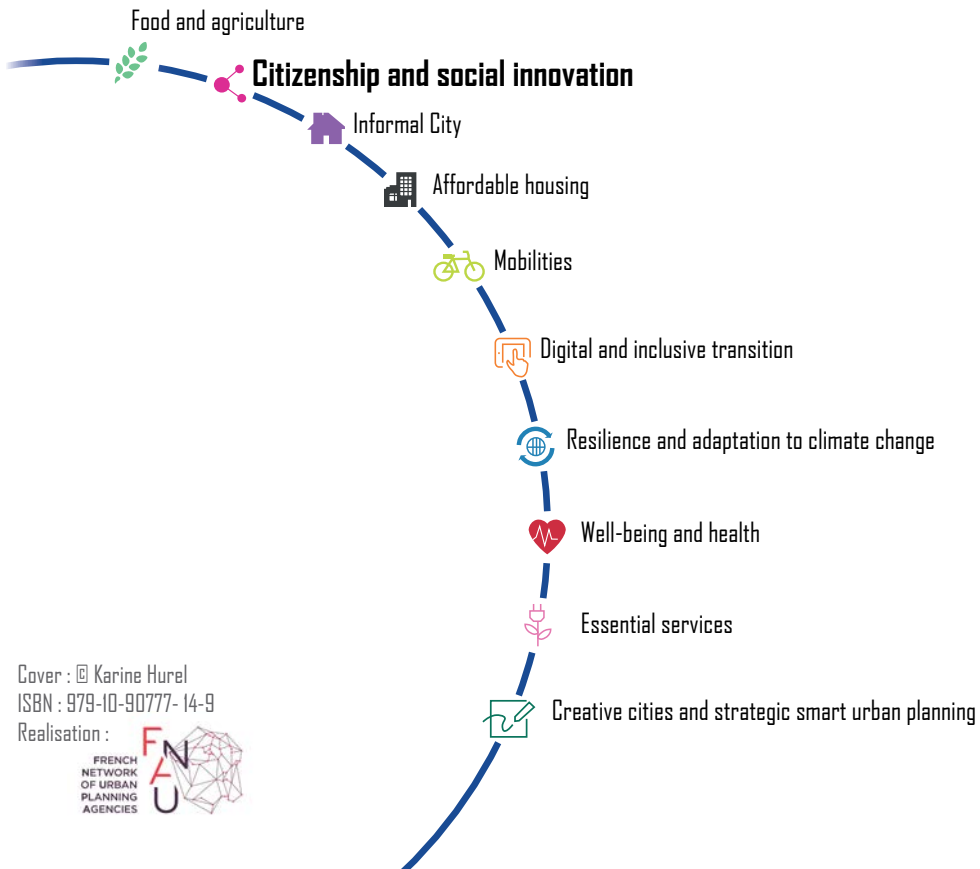
This work intends to raise awareness about the absolute necessity to integrate all citizens, in their diversity, to the construction of sustainable societies and of sustainable cities.

The goal of the reflections led by this working group is to put citizens at the heart of the debates and of public action





Started in 2011, the **French partnership for cities and territories (PFVT – Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires)** is a platform meant for the exchange and valorization of the French urban actor's expertise at the international level. It is a multi-actor partnership headed by Hubert Julien-Laferrière, Member of Parliament, supported by the Ministry of Europe and of foreign affairs, the Ministry of territorial cohesion, the Ministry of the ecologic and fair transition, and the Ministry of culture. It brings together close to 200 organizations representing the diversity of the French expertise, contributing to the construction of a shared French vision based on a capitalization of exchanges and of innovative and sustainable experiences.



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