

Data Justice Workshop

Harvest citizen knowledge and create a bottom-up dataset about an urban regeneration area



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Step 1: Bottom-up characterisation of the area

Divide the participants into groups, each representing a part of the site (e.g. a neighbourhood, or distinguish between residential, green and productive areas).

Provide each table with post-its of five different colours. In this step, they need to answer individually on post-its the questions below, each assigned a colour. You can customise the questions. Write them down in advance on a large sheet (recommended size: at least A0) that you will hang on the wall: this is your bottom-up dataset canvas.

Read each question aloud, then provide participants 2-5 minutes to answer. Facilitators pass among tables to collect answers. Then, they place the post-its on the bottom-up dataset canvas and group similar ones.

Ice-breaker questions:

- 1) Name at least two representative things of each area (places, activities, reputation...).
- 2) Which is the main population? (Elderly, immigrants...).
- 3) Who are the essential stakeholders? At least two (shopkeepers, associations, leaders...).
- 4) Which are the off the record activities/places? (improvised skate parks, market...).
- 5) Is there nature? Write where and characterise it (small park, trees, river, no nature...).

Reconvene in plenary and read out loud some of the answers, underlying commonalities.

Step 2: Shared identity

Groups have to brainstorm about what the different areas have in common, what they think makes the place a community, or what would help build a sense of community.

The task is to find five things that relate the table's area with at least one of the others and write them down. Their answers can include immaterial or material elements, social groups, practices, desires.

Once they are done, each group has to nominate a "representative" and a "mapper". The first reports to the plenary, motivates the group's selection, and notes the data points on an A0 sheet on the wall.

Suggested time: 2-3 hours, depending on the number of participants and space accorded to discussion. We tested it in 1 hour and it worked!

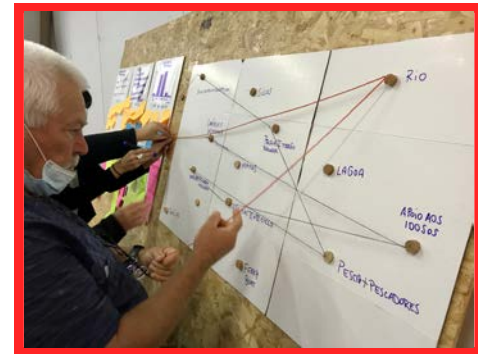
Equipment:

Post its & Markers of various colours
Printed Canvases (1 per group and 1 collective)
Sewing thread of different colours
Pins and slices of cork to anchor the data points
AO cardboards

The mapper creates a data string on the board connecting the different data points selected by the group with a sewing thread. Each group has a different colour. The board now shows a graph of what the groups detected as shared identity; the data points with more threads are the stronger identity elements.

Step 3: Comparison with official data and wrap-up

Before the workshop, prepare a canvas with demographic and urban data from various official sources. Include data such as demographics, employment rate and activity sectors. In the final step, disclose the canvas to participants and guide an open discussion on how official data and inhabitants/dwellers describe the place differently.



The act of building datasets is a political one: what counts? Who counts, and who stays out? Historical data perpetuate inequalities: data about disadvantaged groups embed and perpetuate their historical disadvantage but tell little about their everyday lives and desires. This data justice workshop aims to empower inhabitants' point of view in regeneration processes.

The Data Campfire Workshop was design by Marta Arniani and delivered in **Trafaria** on October 2021, to explore unmapped territories and local identity elements that can be connected to the redevelopment of **Trafaria's fortress** - currently the largest urban regeneration intervention in the town.

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