



Learning loops in the public realm. Enabling social learning in communities to tackle the challenges of cities in transition

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New digital data collection and collaboration tools promise to enhance public participation. They can help to identify and monitor problems that contemporary cities and territories are facing through participatory sensing; citizens can indicate issues in the public realm by geotagging tools; digital visualisation platforms may contribute to a better understanding of the problems and can create awareness of significant challenges caused by climate change.

Online idea generation platforms provide a virtual space for citizens to propose and discuss ideas to improve their surroundings, while stakeholder-based multi-criteria analysis can improve their understanding of preferences of the stakeholders for each of the proposed solutions.

These tools, in combination with traditional methods (e.g. traditional community planning, design workshops) enable 'learning loops' i.e. new ways of decision-making that bring together citizens, stakeholders and policy-makers to iteratively learn how to address urban challenges in cities and neighbourhoods in transition.

It is, however, still unclear how these new tools can enhance the co-creation process in community-based practices and to what extent they can help people, communities and policy-makers 'learn' about this problem or solution.

This special session is organised by the partners of the LOOPER (Learning Loops in the Public Realm) project funded by JPI Urban Europe, which is developing a methodology and online platform for co-creation using the learning loop concept.

Papers are invited in the following topics: Experience with learning loops in co-creation and participatory design The application of digital and offline tools for co-creation that can enhance learning at different levels Using participatory sensing to collect data and for analysis in the co-creation process (e.g. about air pollution, noise, traffic, perception of public space etc.).

The potential role of multi-criteria analysis and stakeholder-based MCA to appraise and select co-designed options The proposed special session links to track 6 "Community-based planning and social innovation".