

Session 3C - Co-governance for the co-creation of nature-based solutions

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Co-creating nature-based solutions (NBS) on a scale appropriate to urban regeneration requires a particular focus on the opportunities for citizens to participate at all stages of co-creation, from co-diagnostic to co-monitoring. Furthermore, the collaborative approach between a multiplicity of actors playing different roles is at the heart of increasing the impact of social cohesion for the communities involved. From the perspective of municipal governance, enabling this environment of co-creation requires innovations in urban planning practices which deepen the role of citizens in urban governance processes and increase understanding of the socio-political and socio-economic atmosphere. However, citizen participation in urban locations is quite complex, with several overlapping layers. The heterogeneity of the social, cultural and organizational dimensions of participatory culture challenge the materialisation of new interactions among municipal decision-makers, citizens, civil society, public and private stakeholders, NGOs, informal organizations and community initiatives. Moreover, consolidation of participation channels implies dealing with the complexity of decision-making processes, involving aspects that can hinder the advancement of innovation in co-governance, such as political, technical and administrative issues that are complex and variable. The extent to which structures and initiatives of participation actually contribute to the needs and ambitions of citizen well-being, influence political processes and transform urban policies is at the center of assessing the meaning and success of citizen engagement in governance processes. It also means that opportunities for citizens to develop the capacity to engage in collective initiatives must be taken into consideration. This includes expanding active citizenship, social inclusion and integration and opening up possibilities for the empowerment of citizens in accordance with their demo-diversity, providing opportunities for debating, influencing, negotiating and deliberating between different options, according to different interests, agendas and needs. Finally, it is also important to measure the contribution made by encouraging the building of collective imaginaries and wills relative to the integration of nature into the daily lives of cities, as well as providing opportunities to contribute towards improving the uses of the territory, the development of vulnerable areas, protection and valuing of ecological systems, environmental justice, etc. This session is dedicated to the challenges, opportunities and good practices involved in urban regeneration, focusing on the co-creation of NBS and initiatives related to biodiversity and ecosystem protection. Proposals that come from different governance realities and participatory cultures are expected to identify enabling environments and good practices for NBS co-creation, including limitations in governance in terms of NBS processes and products, different types of governance collaboration at different stages of the progress of NBS and guidelines for public policies in the context of urban regeneration.