



BEST PRACTICE IN ADULT EDUCATION FOR A JUST TRANSITION

Mosaic Governance Approach

Implementing Urban Sustainability
Governance Design

JULY 2024



Co-funded by
the European Union

Mosaic Governance Approach

– Implementing Urban Sustainability Governance Design

Context and Initiative Details

Name of the initiative	<u>Mosaic Governance Approach in Urbanplanen, Copenhagen</u>
Geographical scope	Local
Sources of funding	Grants, government funding
Duration of the initiative	15 years
Target audience	Marginalized groups including new migrants and youth
Social justice focus area	Environmental justice, immigrant rights
Goals of the initiative	Advocacy, empowering vulnerable groups, practitioner support

Good Practices Description

Stakeholder engagement in the process

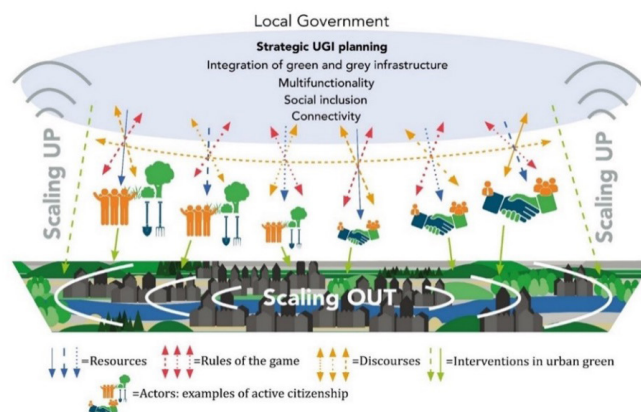
The initiative engages a wide range of stakeholders including civil society, local communities, green space users, governmental and non-governmental actors. Bridging organizations play a crucial role in facilitating dialogue and collaboration between these stakeholders.

Methodology used (if available)

The methodology employed is the Mosaic Governance Approach, developed in Wageningen. This approach identifies, amplifies, and negotiates different values, knowledge, and ontologies, and seeks to include these in sustainable spatial planning. It utilizes a multi-method approach involving various social science methods such as Public Participation Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS) and walking interviews. ‘Hackathons’ are also organized as on-site, multi-day workshops to co-develop inclusive solutions. Additionally, the initiative utilizes a diversity of social science methods ranging from PPGIS to walking interviews to identify the diverse values and demands for green areas from the local community.

Urbanplanen is one of Copenhagen’s largest social housing areas with 450 ha of mostly multi-layered apartments, 100 % not-for-profit social housing, with 6.000 residents and 50 ha of moderate-quality and well-used public urban green space. It is a socio-economically diverse neighborhood consisting of residents with diverse nationalities and cultural practices. In general, the socio-economic and educational status of residents is low and many struggle to enter the job market. Many residents have lived for 40+ years in the area and the sense of community is very strong.

Mosaic Governance in Urbanplanen is characterised by a well-established and nested governance approach with strong interrelated networks between the municipality, the social housing agency and over 70 active resident groups. The key bridging organization is “Partnership” (“Partnerskabet”), through which neighborhood social workers run the “Urbanplanen social master plan”. The plan is well-funded, resulting in large investments in community facilities organised along traditional welfare state discourses and Agenda21. In spirit, the plan is driven by close partnerships between social workers and local grassroots initiatives,



The concept of mosaic governance (Buijs et al., 2019)

yet the success of the masterplan is evaluated on measures of safety, employment, and criminality informed by national policies. Institutional actors such as Partnership have great power to decide on overall management principles of the public spaces.

Examples of place-based initiatives

FRAK is a social economic entrepreneurship that connects local youth with green maintenance jobs to support stewardship of local commons and empower youth by developing job skills, individual sense of worth, and their CVs. Typical assignments include on-site gardening, planting trees, and a BioBlitz to determine which flowers are popular with residents. Involved youth contribute locally and in turn are enriched with a tight-knit community of co-workers and a stronger network outside their peer-groups.

The Fathers Group (Fædre på banen) is a community group dedicated to developing fellowship between fathers and their children through nature experiences and outdoor recreation. Simple outdoor activities link together fathers recently migrated to Denmark and bridge their common experiences and struggles in Denmark as new immigrants. Through linkages with Father Groups in other neighborhoods, it provides new social networks and stimulates exploration at the city scale.

Teaching approaches (if available)

Not available.

Challenges and outcomes

Key factors contributing to success

Successful outcomes include strengthened capacities, skills, and agency of green space users, and increased social capital in communities. Increased community engagement, empowerment of marginalized groups, and improved access and participation rates in green spaces are observed outcomes.

Encountered difficulties and challenges

Challenges include language barriers, organization capacity issues, and access to knowledge. Conflicting values between grassroots demands and normative demands of the state pose challenges in navigating diverse values and demands, as well as conflicting policy aims and processes.

Recommendations

Macro level (Policy level): Support for strong and trusted bridging organizations, policy frameworks that prioritize multicultural values, and increased funding for sustainable planning practices.

Meso level (Educational Institutions): Integration of multicultural values in educational curricula for sustainable planning, collaboration with local communities and stakeholders in educational programs.

Micro level (Course level): Incorporation of diverse perspectives and case studies, promotion of inclusive teaching methods, and fostering dialogue on multicultural values.

Impact

The impact of the initiative is evident through various indicators of success. Increased community engagement of participants is observed, as evidenced by higher levels of involvement in green space activities and community events. Participants reflect positively on their experiences, indicating feelings of empowerment and a strengthened sense of social capital within their communities. Furthermore, there is a noticeable improvement in access and participation rates in green spaces, particularly among marginalized groups such as new migrants and youth. This increased utilization of green spaces not only enhances community cohesion but also promotes physical and mental well-being among residents. Additionally, the initiative has influenced urban planning policies towards a greener and more climate-smart future, as evidenced by the integration of multicultural values and inclusive practices in planning frameworks and policies. Overall, the initiative has contributed to creating more inclusive, sustainable, and socially just urban environments in Urbanplanen, Copenhagen.