

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

PROJECT	
Participant:	PUSH
PIC number:	940684467
Project name and acronym:	Placemaking for Citizen-led Missions in SE Europe (PLACE)

EVENT DESCRIPTION	
Event number:	10
Event name:	Community Placemaking Workshop - Favara
Type:	Mutual Learning
In situ/online:	In situ
Location:	Corso Vittorio Emanuele II, 408, 93013 Mazzarino CL, Italy
Date(s):	June 23 2023
Website(s) (if any):	-
Participants	
Female:	15
Male:	10
Non-binary	0
From Italy	24
From Spain	1
Total number of participants:	25
From total number of countries:	2
Description	
<i>Provide a short description of the event and its activities.</i>	
<p>This Community Placemaking Workshop local process was held in Mazzarino on Friday 23rd June 2023 on the occasion of the opening of the Biennale "Countless Cities" organized and curated by FARM from Favara (event partner).</p> <p>The 2 days of Countless Cities opening, in Mazzarino and Favara, gave the opportunity to disseminate the results of the activity to a wide international audience. The event was held in the Italian language as the primary target was the local community and the future placemakers operating in the Sicilian context. The workshop was held in Mazzarino as FARM has recently established the "FARM Embassy" in this Municipality with the intention of disseminate similar urban renovation projects in small municipalities across Sicily.</p> <p>The event was organized in the main town square, where the community meets and engages on a daily basis.</p>	

The process was able to:

- Engage with the local community on the topic of placemaking;
- Collect insights and practices from the territory that informed the plan of the requalification of the main square;
- Equip the participants with simple tools to foster communication and civic imagination toward the future of their town center.

The activity saw the active participation of a total of 25 recorded participants from EU member states, plus 2 participants from the UK, and the 'spot' contribution of additional citizens passing through the area.

Placemaking is an innovative approach that allows citizens to actively contribute to the creation of communities tailored to their needs and interests. The workshop was an excellent opportunity for citizens to open their minds, stimulate their imaginations, and visualize the city they want to see in the future. Most of the proposed solutions focused on solutions that can relocate partially the existing parking space and increase the natural shade in the square, while offering the chance to open up the space to new usages.

The activity was organized into 2 main exercises:

- Collective observation and evaluation; and
- Visioning and planning.

Collectively, through the usage of sticky notes and colored sticky dots, the participants evaluated different aspects of the public space of the main square. After sharing thoughts and ideas they formed groups of interest among people with similar ideas or approaches. The group work was dedicated to reflecting and planning the ideas collected to inform and influence the ongoing process of the renovation of the square.

Recently the Municipality of Mazzarino launched an architectural competition for the requalification of the square. The results of this activity have been shared with the municipal committee for the evaluation of the proposal in order to consider the approaches that emerged during the day.

A moment of refreshment and networking was held at the end of the activity to allow the participants to decompress and to push forward the commitment toward their involvement in the process of requalification.

Positive feedbacks were collected at the end of the session, wishing for future interactions on the topic of urban renovation. The modalities of collection of ideas and the variety of demographic interacting in the workshop, presented an innovative way to imagine the future of the public spaces which was deeply appreciated by the participants. One of the main suggestions emerged by the group was the need for space to play for children and adults.

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