

# Capitalizing on diversity in local development

Katalin Kolosy & Pietro Verga – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Brussels #EURegionsWeek

The workshop aimed at demonstrating that bottom-up approaches to local development, like CLLD, have succeeded in engaging 'Unusual Suspects'; people left out of mainstream development strategies. The discussion was organised along the following questions:

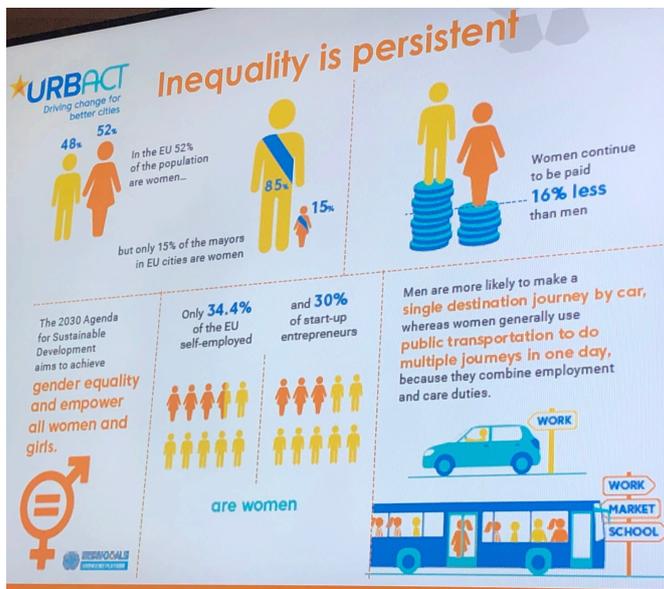
- What stops women and minorities from being adequately represented?
- What formal or informal approaches have been used to reach and involve previously excluded groups?
- How has the engagement of different groups been shaped and organised?
- Why have these approaches succeeded?

Inequalities are multi-dimensional and can be evidenced in many aspects of daily life: predominance of male leadership positions, gender pay, discrimination in the job market, etc.

The findings from an URBACT project<sup>1</sup> reveal that gender inequality is persistent: only 15% of the mayors in EU cities are women, whereas 52% of the population are women. In fisheries areas, the share of businesses that are reliant on the unpaid support of women is extremely high<sup>2</sup>.



There is an issue of visibility, recognition and belonging that can help reducing these



inequalities, transforming them into more positive and attractive values. Why can't we see a single woman on a page showcasing innovation and entrepreneurship in tech?

We need to know: needs and expectations from different groups, especially women, minorities and young people are of absolute importance in designing and implementing local strategies; Vienna's public spaces strategy is a good example of this.

Trusting, empowering, allowing ownership ('right to the city') are crucial steps towards successful community bonding, fair leadership and representation,

and the Lisbon example is iconic in this respect. Bottom-up projects are based on local needs and policy-makers have a lot to learn from local action groups. Diversity adds value to local development. Without diversity we fail in developing inclusive and sustainable communities.

<sup>1</sup> <https://urbact.eu/gender-equal-cities>

<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/euronews-ocean-episode-7-women-fisheries\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/fisheries/press/euronews-ocean-episode-7-women-fisheries_en)

LDnet and ELARD led the workshop. Peter Ramsden (LDnet) was the moderator, with contributions from:

- Linda Gustafsson, City of Umeå, on Working with women for a gender equal city.
- Rui Franco, urban CLLD (Lisbon), on Engaging minority groups in deprived areas.
- Marina Martínez and Mireia Albors, social educators in B-MINCOME project (Municipality of Barcelona), on Mobilising women.
- Sally Kneeshaw, gender equality expert on Engaging young women in local projects and URBACT Gender equal cities
- François Galabrun, Director of the Local Action Group 'Association Minervois Corbières Méditerranée', Board member at LEADER France and thematic expert on Engaging women in rural areas.
- Urszula Budzich-Tabor (FARNET & LDnet), on women in fisheries' communities.

More on this: <https://ldnet.eu/ldnet-at-ewrc-2019-capitalising-on-diversity-in-local-development/>

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