

Luiss

Co-Cities

Innovative Transitions toward Just and Self-Sustaining Communities

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AK City Conference Politics on a Tight Budget: Achieving More with Less –
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The Co-City or Ostrom in the City

«A city that enables its **infrastructure** to be utilized as a **platform** on which a **variety of urban actors** cooperate and collaborate to **govern and steward** built, environmental, cultural, and digital **goods** through contractual or institutionalized public-community partnerships or public-community-private **partnerships**».

«we conceptualize and frame the co-city as a form of **urban experimentalism** guided by a set of **design principles** that can be adapted to **local context**».



Grades through the Co-City

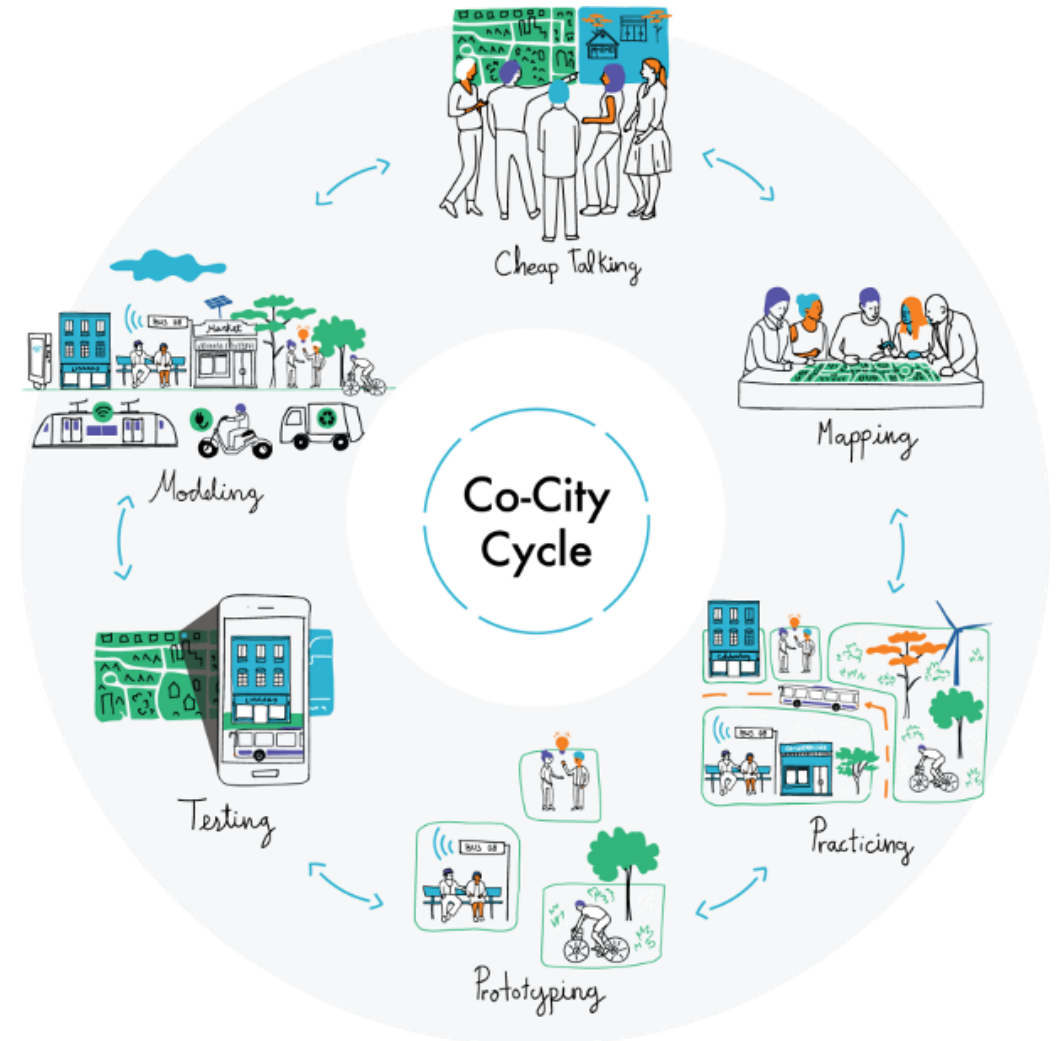
1. **SHARING**
2. **COLLABORATING**
3. **POLICENTRISM**

The key is to transform the entire city, or some parts of it, into a laboratory by creating the proper legal and political ecosystem for the installation of shared, collaborative, polycentric urban governance schemes.

The Co-City Cycle

To activate local Co-City processes, communities should take ownership of the method: it is essential to establish an incremental process and provide continuous support. For this reason, LabGov designed a cycle consisting of six fundamental phases, adaptable to the specific characteristics of the city.

- Cheap Talking (gathering knowledge)
- Mapping (defining needs and resources)
- Practicing (defining the field of collaboration)
- Prototyping (co-designing prototypes)
- Testing (implementation)
- Modeling (adapting the local and legal ecosystem)



Tools

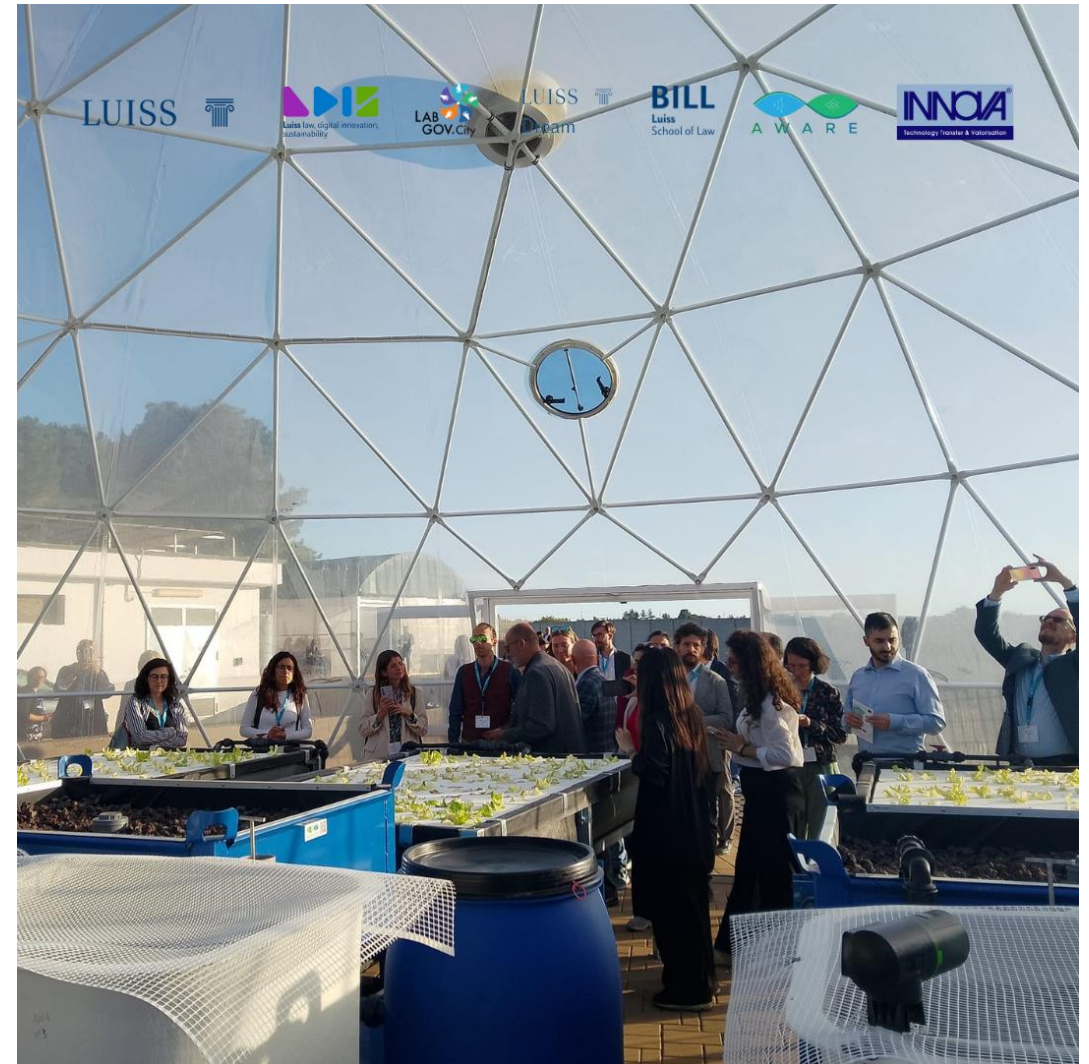
- **collaboration pacts** (i.e. Bologna) or **agreements for civic-use** regulations allowing the private use of public assets (parks, square, abandoned buildings).
- **public-community partnerships** (PCPs) and **public-community-private partnerships** (PCPPs)
- «**public-private-science-social-Community partnerships** (5Ps) as a policy and legal tool to ground collaboration between the public administration and community-based social innovators through co-design processes»

Castellana Grotte (Aware-EU)

Example of Co-Use / Sharing

Shared natural resources (food, water, land) and nature-based solutions for wastewater reuse: aquaponics (aquaculture+idroponics) from wastewater reclamation.

City, School, Public Water Utility, Regulatory Authority, Start up and SMEs, Universities all involved in a pact of collaboration.



Roma (Santa Maria della Pietà – former mental hospital)

Example of collaboration/cooperation

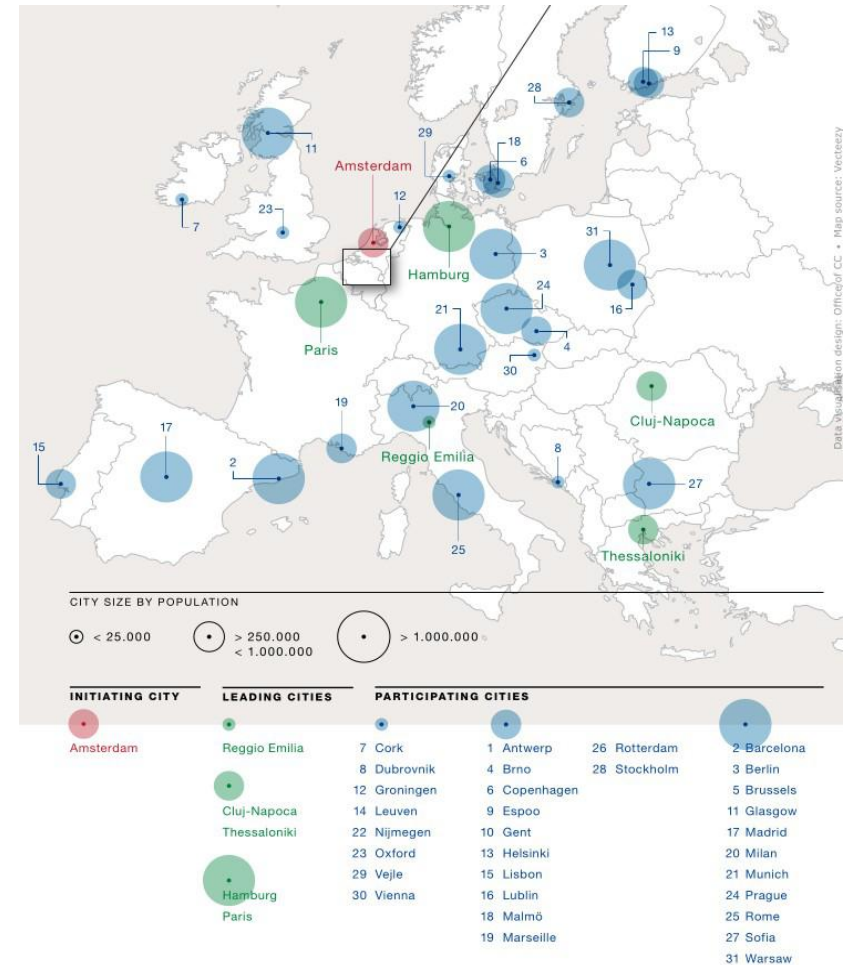
Multi-stakeholder engagement for co-design and co-governance of an **urban social infrastructure for One Health / Planetary health** (socio-cultural hub, mind and wellbeing lab, house of just sustainable innovation, intergenerational housing)



Reggio Emilia (City Science Initiative and Office)

Example of policentrism.

Multi-stakeholder engagement through a municipal **regulation on urban democracy and climate justice** enabling urban co-governance on a large scale through **co-programming** and **multi-stakeholder / ourcome-based partnerships**, the so-called **Sustainable Development and Innovation Partnerships** powered by a **Community Balance**



Concluding remarks

Common **limitations** of the considered case studies:

1. The need for continuous **investment**, both to fund projects and to fund the co-design processes themselves
2. The need for advanced **skills** within the municipality, potentially to be developed through collaboration with other organizations (universities, etc.)
3. **Geographical distribution** to uphold just innovation criteria

CO- CITIES

Cover of 'Co-Cities' by Sheila R. Foster and
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Thank you!

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