F2F Web#1
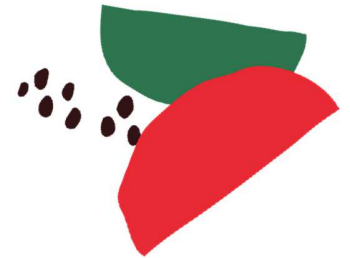# FAL BARI

Citizens' involvement

Main objective of the initiative

To recover an abandoned space (an overall area of 11.500 sm) and create a citizen-driven urban garden where people may grow their food and interact with other organizations (people).

Levels of citizen's involvement

- There are about 150 associates. 60 allotments of urban garden,
- 10 associations, based on social, inclusive and environmental aims, animate events/initiatives in the area

Starting point of the citizens' involvement

- A group of 20 associations grouped in a civic network launched the idea to capitalize the experiences based on citizens' participation. They launched the ideas to their member and residents around the abandoned space
- Thanks to the involvement of citizens/associations partner in a urban network experience
- They started consultation rounds (inspired to nonviolent communication principles) and events in a 18 month period addressing about 20.000 citizens through the associations in the network. Their societal readiness about the use of common goods as places to share ideas, values, culture was already mature to shift towards a higher level of engagement. In addition, the idea to restore an abandoned public space just in front a residential area represented the core element that favor the citizens' engagement.

Economic rationale

- They have membership fees, they have capacities to apply for public funding and organize crowdfunding campaigns

Challenges at the beginning

- To have the concession of the use of the space by the city council. It needed 2 years to award the site to the association, as it was the very first experience in the city.

Current challenges

- To transform the association in a community supported agriculture willing to purchase green energy.
- To replicate the model in other areas in the city and to create vertical gardens
- Capitalization of a successful experience of a urban network

Key-points relevant for my LAB - Lessons learnt

Good practices

- Capitalization of a successful experience of an urban network

Mistakes and Bottlenecks

- Bureaucracy

Key recommendations for other citizens' initiatives

- Inform; involve; promote participation; revitalize common spaces

Framework conditions

City council programmes addressed to support civic involvement through grassroots movements

Q&A - Solutions designs

- Transfer benefits into "numbers" to visiualise them, show social return on investment; define indicators > let's discuss this between the FALs
- Experience (COP): technicans need trust; it needs someone to follow the process and communicate with them.