

OIKONET A global multidisciplinary network on housing research and learning



Deliverable 3.3

Report on participatory actions

Revision: 7

Due date: 2014-05-31 (m8)

2015-05-31 (m20)

2016-05-31 (m32)

Lead partner: FUNITEC

Deliverable Administration and Summary					
No & name	D3.3 Report on participatory actions				
Status	Working	Due	M8	Date	2015-04-30
Author(s)	Leandro Madrazo, Angel Martin (FUNITEC)				
Editor	Leandro Madrazo				
Work Pogramme Description	Description of the actions, methods and outcomes. Evaluation of the impact at the community level. Integration with learning activities.				
Comments					
Document history					
V	Date	Author		Description	
1	2014-04-07	Angel Martín Cojo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		First draft of the participatory activity in Barcelona	
2	2014-06-13	Leandro Madrazo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Content revision of participatory activity in Barcelona	
3	2014-06-17	Angel Martín Cojo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Content revision of participatory activity in Barcelona	
4	2014-06-19	Leandro Madrazo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Content revision of participatory activity in Barcelona	
5	2014-07-14	Pamela Hadida (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Content revision of participatory activity in Barcelona	
6	2015-03-15	Leandro Madrazo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Re-structuring of the table of contents to include the Rimini action	
7	2015-04-28	Leandro Madrazo (La Salle-FUNITEC)		Final review and editing	

Table of Contents

1 Executive Summary	3
2 Introduction	4
2.1 Purpose and target group.....	4
2.2 Contribution of partners	4
2.3 Relations to other activities in the project	4
3 Barcelona: A Pedagogic Experience with Co-housing.....	5
3.1 Introduction	5
3.2 Learning Activities.....	5
3.2.1 Reflecting on the pertinence of citizen participation in architecture.....	5
3.2.2 Designing a participatory process: methods and tools	6
3.2.3 Evaluation of inputs obtained in the first participatory session	9
3.2.4 Re-design of the participatory processes: new methods and tools.....	9
3.2.5 Implementation of the participatory process: second joint working session.....	9
3.2.6 Creating a design brief based on answers from participants	11
3.2.7 Outputs	12
3.3 Dissemination activities	13
4 Conclusions.....	16

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is a report of the implementation of the participatory action carried out in Barcelona, with the participation of the School of Architecture La Salle and the cooperative SostreCívic. The purpose of this activity has been to develop design methods and tools to foster the participation of dwellers in the design process of their future homes. This work was carried out by architecture students participating in an elective seminar dedicated to the OIKONET project. Afterwards, the methods and tools were implemented in two participatory sessions with members of the cooperative.

The structure of learning activities and tasks followed the structure of the OIKODOMOS Workspaces learning environment “[Civic Housing](#)”. The learning activities carried out during the seminar were the following:

- Reflecting on the pertinence of citizen participation in architecture.
- Designing a participatory process: methods and tools.
- Implementing the participatory process: first joint working session.
- Evaluating the inputs obtained in the first participatory session.
- Re-designing the participatory processes: new methods and tools.
- Implementing the participatory process: second joint working session.
- Creating a design brief based on responses of the participants.
-

As the final output of the participatory process, students produced a brief to guide the design of the future dwelling in the building to be refurbished. These guidelines were the result of processing the information that was obtained from the second participatory session. The topics derived from the participants inputs were analyzed by the students. They described the underlying problems and their implications from the social and the architectural points of view.

The development of the participatory action has been described in the [OIKONET Community Participation](#) blog. The process and results obtained in this activity have been summarized in a video. Likewise, they have been disseminated in video lectures and presentations available on the project web portal.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Purpose and target group

This document presents the work carried out in the participatory action carried out by the School of Architecture La Salle and SostreCívica in Barcelona, between October 2013 and February 2014. The purpose of the action has been to develop design methods and tools to foster the participation of dwellers in the design process of their future homes. Target groups are local representatives involved with participatory processes, as well as faculty members from schools of architecture, urban planning, sociology and other disciplines concerned with the participation of citizens in the decision making processes aimed at transforming the existing living conditions.

2.2 Contribution of partners

In the participatory action in Barcelona students and teachers from the School of Architecture La Salle and members of the housing cooperative SostreCívica participated. The activities were carried out within the framework provided by the elective seminar “Contemporary Housing Research” which takes place at La Salle during the fall semester. This seminar is led by Professor Leandro Madrazo and Assistant Professor Angel Martin Cojo. Raúl Robert, head of SostreCívica, provided the case study and helped to organize the participatory sessions with members of the cooperative, which took place on the premises of this organization.

2.3 Relations to other activities in the project

The work carried out in the participatory activities is expected to have an educational impact on non-academic stakeholders. In this regard, it shares some of the objectives with the activities carried out in the WP4 Pedagogical Activities. Some of the issues addressed in this actions –such as housing regeneration, communication between professionals and non-professionals, place making and codesign, private and public collaboration and participatory planning– are also related to the work done in WP2 Housing Research.

3 BARCELONA: A PEDAGOGIC EXPERIENCE WITH CO-HOUSING

3.1 Introduction

A participatory action has been carried out by the School of Architecture La Salle and the association of SostreCívica from October 2013 to January 2014, in Barcelona. The purpose of this activity has been to develop design methods and tools to foster the participation of dwellers in the design process of their future homes. This work was carried out by architecture students participating in an elective seminar dedicated to the OIKONET project. Later, the methods and tools were implemented in two participatory sessions with members of the cooperative.

This chapter describes the structure of the learning activities carried out in the seminar and the results obtained. The learning activities have been carried out on in the learning space “[Civic Housing](#)” implemented in the OIKODOMOS Workspaces environment.

3.2 Learning Activities

3.2.1 Reflecting on the pertinence of citizen participation in architecture

The aim of the first phase of the seminar was to introduce students to the topic of participation in architecture and urban planning. This was done by analyzing previous applications of participatory design processes and its underlying theoretical models, such as Bakema’s elements of transition, Smithson’s signs of occupancy, Alexander’s pattern language and De Carlo’s participatory design.

Lectures:

On October 4, 2013, Dr. Leandro Madrazo, professor from the School of Architecture La Salle, lectured on the topic “The multiple dimensions of housing”.

On October 9, 2013, Dr. Omayra Rivera, professor from the University of Puerto Rico, gave an online lecture on the topic “[Participatory methods of communication](#)” (Figure 3).

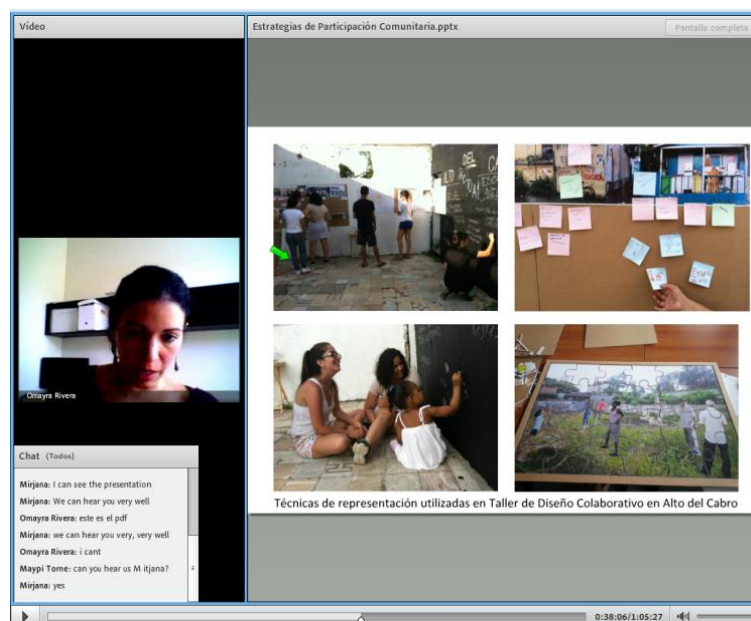


Figure 1. Prof. Omayra Rivera's on-line lecture

Task 1: Why participation?

The task consisted in the identification of research topics concerning contemporary housing that were related with participation. The objective of the task was to find out why participation plays an important role in it.

- Deliverables

An A3 sheet summarizing the topic of research and explaining the need for architects to foster participation.

3.2.2 Designing a participatory process: methods and tools

The purpose of this activity was to design a participatory process. Different models of participatory processes exist, which are based on dialogue (exchange of information and negotiation among participants), observation (extracting behavioural patterns of people in living spaces) or in both. Whatever the model is, a fundamental issue is the use of appropriate means of representation to facilitate the communication between professionals and non-professionals, between architects and dwellers.

Task 2: Participatory Methods of Communication

The objective of this activity was to identify and explain methods of communication that can help to fostering a dialogue between professionals and dwellers. Students have analyzed some of the communication tools and methods used in participatory processes. The goal was to understand and explain the methods (e.g. assumptions, purposes, processes), to document and explain with examples how participatory methods have been applied (objectives, outcomes) and to assess the value of the results obtained, through participation.

Deliverables

A3 sheets describing the analysis of the precedents.

Task 3: Design Participatory Methods of Communication

The objective of this task was to propose a methodology to communicate with the dwellers,

including the design of the activities to be carried out and their implementation in participatory sessions.

Deliverables

An A3 sheet summarizing the proposed strategy, methods and techniques to foster communication with dwellers. (Figure 4)

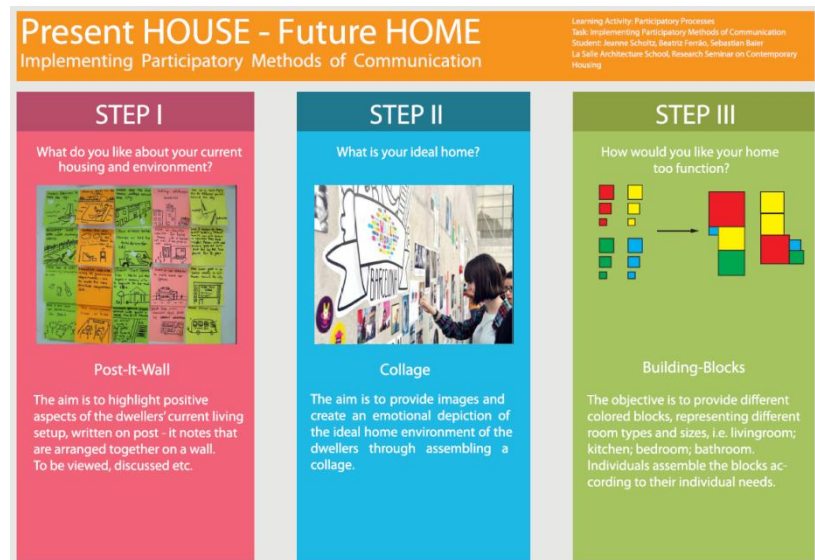


Figure 2. An example of a communication methodology proposed by students

Implementation of the participatory process: first joint working session

The communication tools and participatory process devised in the previous activities were implemented in a participatory session that took place at the premises of SostreCívic in Barcelona on October 29, 2013. Forty members of the association and ten students participated in this session (Figure 5).



Figure 3. First participatory session

The aim of this first session was to have the view of participants about their future dwelling. From an academic point of view, this activity enabled students to apply the participatory models and communication tools devised in the seminar. From the dwellers point of view, this action represented the starting point of the design process of their future home.

The activities that dwellers carried out in this session were the following:

- **Activity 1.** ‘DESCRIBE the space you live in’. Dwellers were inquired about their previous experience about their current living environment. They were asked to describe, with their own words, what they like most and less of their living places and write it in post-its to share it with the rest of participants (Figure 6).



Figure 4. Activity 1. ‘Describe Your Experience’

- **Activity 2.** ‘IMAGINE your ideal living space’. Participants were asked to reflect about their views and expectations concerning their future habitat by means of a conceptual map made up of images which conveyed certain feelings and ideas about the domestic space. They had to choose some images and make a collage which represents their ideal living place. (Figure 7)



Activity 2: **IMAGINE** your ideal living space

You will get photographs which convey certain feelings and ideas about domestic space. We will ask to choose some images which altogether represent your ideal living place and describe it in a few sentences.

OIKONET

Figure 5. Activity 2. ‘Imagine Your Ideal Living Space’

3.2.3 Evaluation of inputs obtained in the first participatory session

At this point of the process, the task for students was to synthesize and systematize the outcomes obtained during the first participatory session. This process of reflection was carried out from two standpoints: firstly, from the dwellers point of view, summarizing their insights on dwelling and housing; and secondly, from the standpoint of architects, describing how the profession could answer to dwellers' demands.

3.2.3.1 Task 4: Reflecting and Communicating

The objective of this task was to start to forge links between the dwellers' views and needs and the professional approaches to contemporary housing with the purpose to prepare the next design stage. The material used for this analysis is the information from the participative session: texts, photographs, videos, etc.

Deliverables

The output is an A3 sheet in which every student summarizes, in one topic, the insights of dwellers and reflects on them from an architectural point of view. (Figure 8)

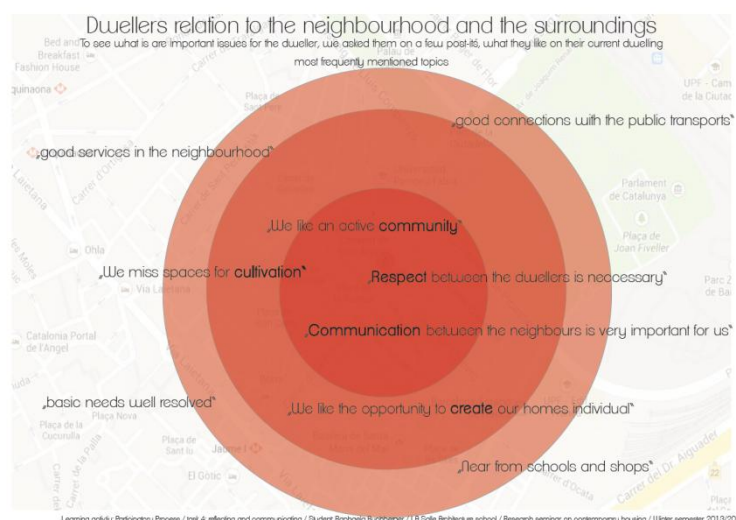


Figure 6. Deliverable of Task 4

3.2.4 Re-design of the participatory processes: new methods and tools

After analyzing the results obtained from the first participatory session (missing information, value of the answers obtained, effectiveness of the communication tools), students had to re-design the communication tool and the participatory methods. As a result of these reflections, two new activities were proposed to be implemented in the next participatory session: Activity 3. 'PLAN your future home, Part 1' and Activity 4. 'PLAN your future home, Part 2', described on the following section.

3.2.5 Implementation of the participatory process: second joint working session

The second participatory session took place on January 14, 2014 (Figure 9). The aim of this session was to implement the communication tools that have been redesigned following the

experience of the first session.

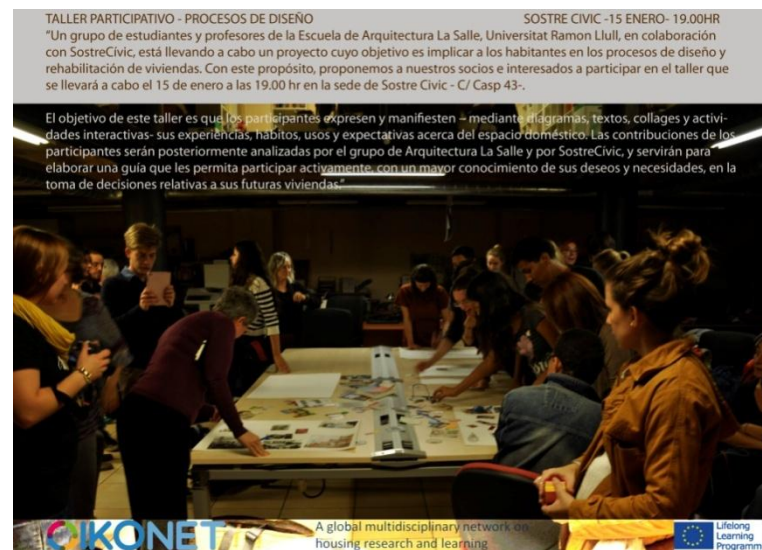


Figure 7. Invitation to the second participatory session

The participatory activities which carried out were:

- **Activity 3.** ‘PLAN your future home, Part 1’. Participants had to name the eight most important activities they perform at home. The activities were placed in concentric circles, with the most important ones located at the centre. Afterwards, they had to draw lines to represent the activities that were related. Finally, they specified if the activities took place within the limits of the household or outside of it (Figure 10).

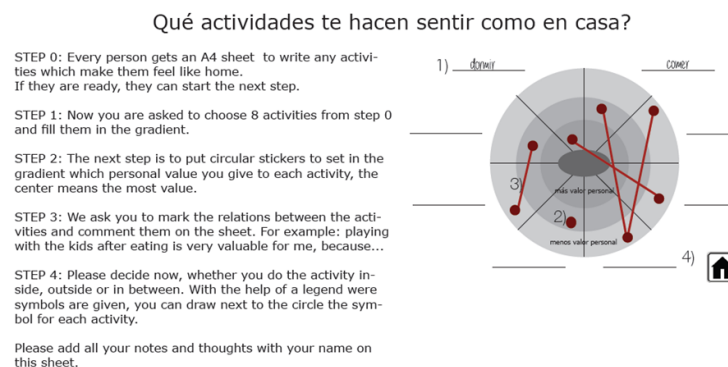


Figure 8. Activity 3; ‘Plan Your Future Home, Part 1’

- **Activity 4.** ‘PLAN your future home, Part 2’. Participants selected some of the activities identified in the previous process. Every activity was written in a paper stick. The selected activity was broken down into smaller activities taken place at different times and places. Every activity was written in a paper stick whose size represented the value that the dweller assigned to it. Finally, they had to state if the activities were carried individually, with family members or with the community (Figure 11).

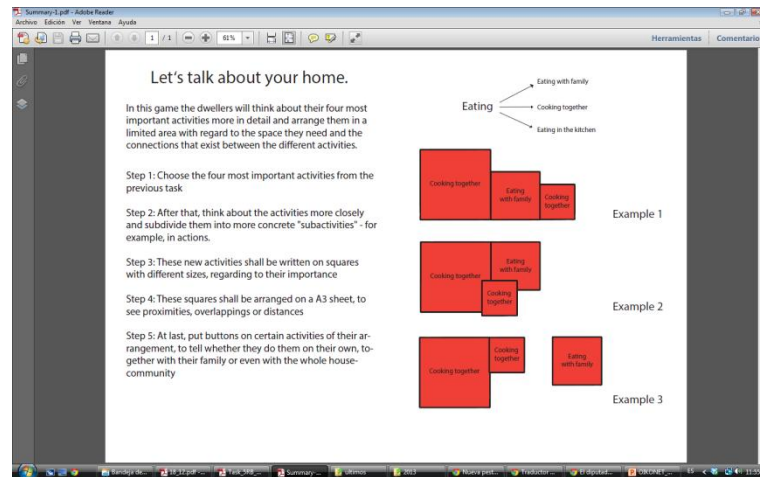


Figure 9. Activity 4; 'Plan Your Future Home, Part 2'

3.2.6 Creating a design brief based on answers from participants

As the final output of the participatory process, students produced a brief to guide the design of the future dwelling in the building to be refurbished. These guidelines were the result of processing the information that was obtained from the second participatory session. The topics derived from the participants inputs were analyzed by the students. They described the underlying problems and their implications from the social and the architectural points of view.

Task 5: Extracting a Briefing

The objective of this task was to describe an architectural program and to produce design guidelines, based on the information from the dwellers. This was done by means of a template which contained, on the one hand, the inhabitant's wishes and expectations, on their future dwelling, and on the other hand, some the proposals of the students of architecture to answer those needs. Architectural solutions which respond to the dwellers' demands were described in a verbal and graphic language, understandable to non-professionals (Figure 12).

inhabitant's needs and expectations

THEME DESIGN GUIDE - OIKONET SEMINAR - SOSTRE CIVIC

DESCRIPTION

RELATED THEMES

PROPOSAL

Architectural solutions

DIAGRAMS DESIGN PROPOSALS

Architectural solutions which respond to the dwellers' demands were described in a verbal and graphic language understandable to non-professionals.

OIKONET Student Names, School of Architecture La Salle

Figure 10. Design guide template

Using this template, students had to provide the following information:

- Dwellers' inputs: These inputs were organized by themes and literally transcribed onto the template.
- The description of the problem: A summary of the themes identified after analyzing the inputs from participants.
- The context: Every theme was related to the other analysed themes.
- The architectural response: The student proposed solutions to the issues raised by the dwellers.

Deliverables

An A3 sheet following the template.

3.2.7 Outputs

The list of topics provided by the students, using the previous template was the following:

- **Natural light:** “Natural light, large windows and beautiful views were often mentioned
- **Community:** “Almost all of the participants mentioned that they wish to have an active community and they are willing to share not only rooms but activities”
- **Green housing:** “Many dwellers would like to have green spaces in their houses. Some of them mentioned that sharing a place to plant fruits and vegetables would improve their feeling of living in community and would make them feel better, optimizing natural resources” (Figure 13).

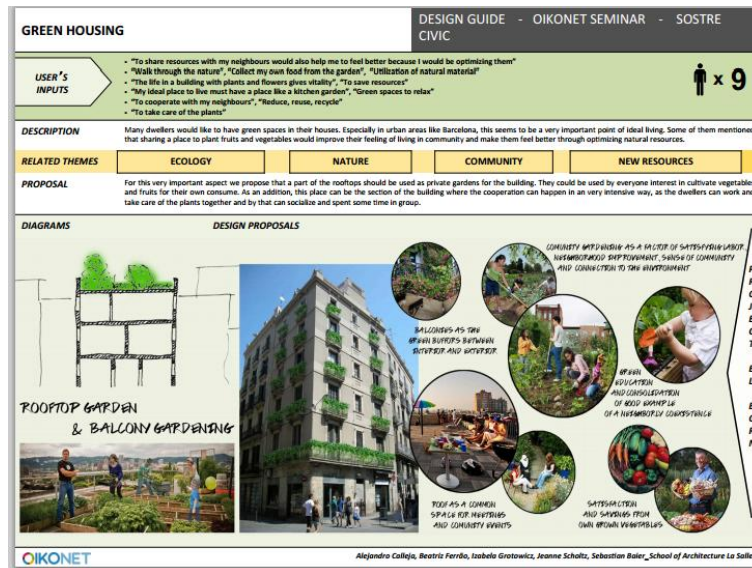


Figure 13 . Design guidelines for “Green Housing”. Students: Alejandro Calleja, Beatriz Ferrao, Izabela Grotowicz, Jeanne Scholtz, Sebastian Baier

- **Child development:** “The dwellers who have children in their families emphasized that it would be important for them to have a special space for their children to play outside their own apartments. This place would have different functions, for example: a place to do drawings and paintings, to play with other kids and to do outdoor activities”.

- **Productive space:** “Many dwellers mentioned that they are also looking for a space of their own, in their apartments, where they can work or study, do their hobbies or simply relax, listening to some music and reading”.
- **Open kitchen:** “Many people wish a room to share with friends and family for common activities like cooking, eating or just for sitting together” .(Figure 14)

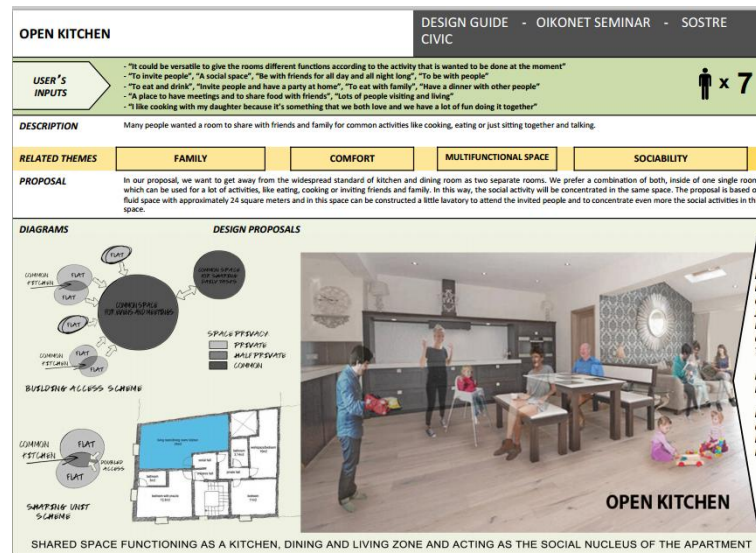


Figure 11. Design guidelines for “Open Kichen”. Students: Alejandro Calleja, Beatriz Ferrao, Izabela Grotowicz, Jeanne Scholtz, Sebastian Baier

- **Relation with the exterior:** “Most of the dwellers socialize in outdoor spaces with their neighbours where they can develop a feeling of community feeling.”
- **Sustainability:** “Consuming organically growth products that contribute to environmental and social sustainability. Re-using of old materials and sharing of goods with the neighbours. Conscious consumption of resources, electricity and water.”
- **Comfort:** “Natural light, large windows with beautiful views. Need of a warm, homely atmosphere. By participating in the design process users can identify themselves with the place of residence, making them feel at home afterwards.”

These A3 sheets were meant to be used for the future inhabitants as a ‘design guide’. That is, as a reference document that would help them to communicate with the architect who would design their dwellings.

3.3 Dissemination activities

The development of the participatory action has been described in the [OIKONET Community Participation](#) blog (Figure 15).

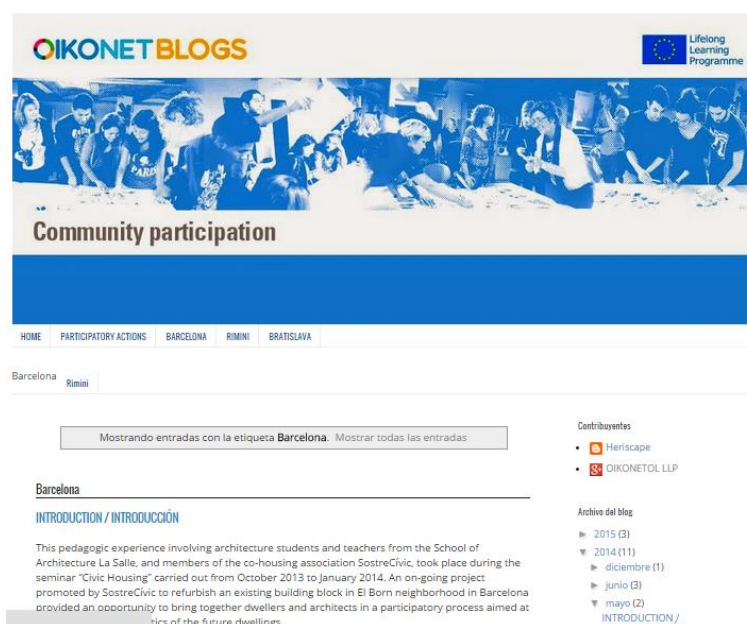


Figure 15. Community Participation blog

A [presentation](#) summarizing the activities has been posted on the project website and distributed among the network members (Figure 16).



Figure 16. Summary of the activities distributed on the website

On March 6, 2014, Leandro Madrazo and Angel Martin from the School of Architecture La Salle, presented, through [teleconference](#), the experience of the seminar "Civic Housing", to teachers and students participating in the Illinden workshop, organized by UKIM, Skopje, Macedonia. OIKONET partners from AF-Belgrade and the Facultad de Arquitectura, Santiago de Chile, were present as well (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Presentation of the Civic Housing seminar via teleconference.

A [video](#) documenting the work done has been produced and published on the project web portal.

4 CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions can be drawn from the experience of designing and implementing the participatory design processes:

- Each participation process is unique: they require from a particular design process, tools, and methods, every time. For this reason, it is difficult to come up with a generic methodology which can be replicated in the different places
- From a pedagogic point of view, a learning space has been created which transcends the limits of the classroom and university
- A shared language (verbal, graphical) is necessary to facilitate the communication between professionals and non-professionals
- The task of the students was to design a communication process to interact with dwellers, more than designing the dwellings themselves. In this way, they could exercise the role of “designers of design processes” rather than of “designers of architectural artefacts”. Therefore, they have been, in fact, developing their skills as mediators and facilitators
- Students acquired a direct knowledge of the housing building and the place –in all of its dimensions. These are the urban, social and the cultural dimensions.
- Citizens developed a feeling of ‘belonging’ with the built environment through their participation on the process
- Through the processes designed and implemented by students and tutors, citizens learned about the knowledge they possessed on the living environment
- Teachers acted as learning designers, creating a blended learning space which integrates the academic and civic activities

The following conclusions are drawn with regard to the participating members of Sostre Civic:

- The participants developed a feeling of ‘belonging’ with the their living spaces through their participation on the process
 - Through the processes designed and implemented by students and tutors, participants became aware of the knowledge they possessed about the living environment
 - As result of this activity, participants felt they were protagonists of the decision making process of the cooperative
 - As result of this activity, participants became more motivated and involved on the cooperative and had a better opinion of it
 - Activities as the ones developed in this participatory action will be integrated on the cooperative regular meetings
 - This activity confirmed the importance of bringing together citizens, designers and managers to work together on actual projects
-