

IOPD 2018 Workshop: report document

Title of the workshop	Prototyping Urban Solutions
Organizer (s)	Sociolab
Speakers / Facilitators	Margherita Mugnai - senior trainer and facilitator at Sociolab
Participants	20 participants with a great variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise: practitioners, urbanists, researchers, public sector specialists.
Summary and methodology	In the belief that a lab approach is well suited in reflecting on the challenges faced by our cities and communities today, "Prototyping Urban Solutions" was designed as a fast paced, engaging and fun innovation lab, in which codesign and prototyping were used to develop solutions, projects and ideas through collaboration and innovation. A focus on the social challenges faced by our cities and communities, a very practical hands on approach and the creativity generated by collective thinking were the main ingredients. Through codesign and fast-prototyping, the workshop offered a space in which participants at the conference engaged together in an exercise aimed at brainstorming and developing prototypes of solutions for some of our cities most pressing challenges. Harvesting from the participants own projects and practices and from practical examples, this workshop allowed them to work together to open new scenarios and develop new solutions.



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Conclusions

The practical approach was very well received by the participants that proactively engaged in the activity bringing their experience and exchanging with others to develop their own prototyped solutions. The challenges they designed for included: Increase social inclusion in our cities and the ability of refugees and other minority groups to feel at home in our public spaces; Increase intergenerational dialogue and exchange; Increase citizen and community involvement in the caring of public green areas in our cities. The developed prototypes reflected the different sensibility of the working groups and provided interesting insights in the ways in which urban design can impact human connections and relations. The debriefing exchange after the workshop allowed the participants to share perceptions and reflections about the ways in which the activity had them reflect, and how the methodology and approach could be useful in their projects and practices. In general, all participants stressed the importance of having this time of creative exchange between each other, in order to harvest ideas and experiences from other practitioners and experts.



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