
Analysis and contrasts of the policies and regulations related to the management of community facilities

Stream 2

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Guiding Question

How do political and legal frameworks for managing outdoor public spaces empower or constrain civic participation and social inclusion for public facilities?



Methodology

- Interviews
- Case studies
- Policy document analysis
- Observations
- Surveying citizens

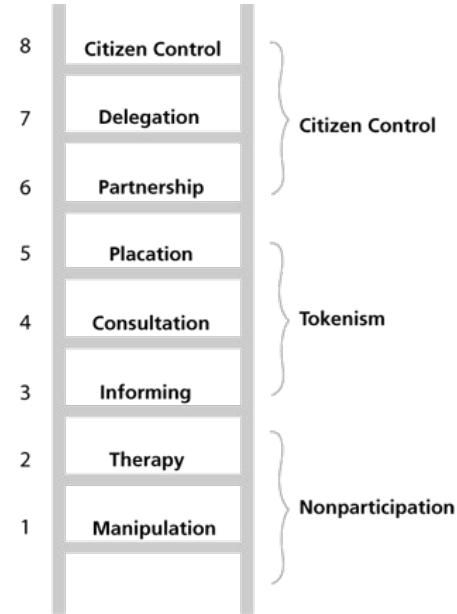
Fieldwork

- Interviews in Trento and Stavanger (useful to underline new points of view)
 - Students
 - Community representatives
 - City planners
- Participant observation in Barcelona's facilities
 - Canòdrom + Plaça del Canòdrom
 - Superilla Peatonal Sant Antoni + Superilla Eixample
 - Biblioteca Sant Antoni - Joan Oliver
- Interviews in Barcelona
 - Residents
 - Facilities' representatives

Theoretical Framework

Citizen participation — any process in which members of the public are involved in the processes of urban change. Commonly held principles of public participation include: a) People should be involved at an early stage in the processes of change. b) People should not be led into wasting their time if their involvement is unlikely to have an effect on what will happen. c) Participation should be continuous, giving time for trust and relationships to develop. d) Participatory structures should be linked to existing democratic structures, local agencies and partnerships. e) Special efforts are likely to be needed to involve groups of people who may otherwise be excluded, such as people with physical and mental disabilities, and black and minority ethnic communities. f) Participatory processes and methods need to be tailored to the particular locality. g) The programme, timing, funding and rules of engagement need to be established openly at the start. h) The process and the ability of people to participate in it must be adequately resourced. i) Clear measures of success for the participation process and the consequent action should be established from the start.

Urban commons — resources in the city which are managed by the users in a non-profit-oriented and prosocial way. They can include any number of resource types, from housing to Wi-Fi, but the main thing that makes urban commons different from public goods and consumer goods is that they are managed by the users through a prosocial, participatory process called “commoning” — a collective, participatory process of accessing, managing, and developing a resource. (The Dictionary of Urbanism, Cowan R. 2005)



Arnstein's Ladder (1969)
Degrees of Citizen Participation

Key Legal Instruments – Barcelona

Law/Policy	Year	Key Contribution
Municipal Charter	1999	Gives citizens the right to intervene in public affairs
Rules for Citizen Participation	2002	Authorizes NGOs & associations to co-manage public spaces
Civic Management Law	2013	Enables indirect management by civic groups
Competition Law	2015	Ensures fair access to manage facilities
Patrimoni Ciutadà	2023–2024	Transfers public assets to organized citizens

Source: PGC

Case Study 1: Stavanger (Norway)

- National rules - local adaptations
- Social- and welfare services are nationally regulated and mainly publicly provided
- Civic- and youth centres are mainly places for community activities and events
- Initiatives run by organisations and associations are supplementary
- Art facilities are usually independently organised and managed
- Challenges related to planning and regulation policies
- Lack of citizen participation
- Examples where facilities lost their space:
 - Svnakavigå
 - Nytorget
- Examples with successful civic participation:
 - Tou/Lervig Park
 - Paradis area plan



Comparative Analysis – Barcelona/Stavanger

Dimension	Barcelona	Stavanger
Legal Power of Citizens	High – Can manage & receive assets (Patrimoni Ciutadà)	Medium – Formal hearings but no co-management
Participation Tools	Competitions, civic management laws, asset transfers	Workshops, youth councils, consultation mandates
Focus of Participation	Management of public facilities	Inclusive zoning & spatial access
Inclusion Strategy	Civic organizations given access to manage assets	Accessibility for elderly/youth via spatial design
Constraints	Legal complexity, barriers for small orgs	No power over operation or facility use

Case Study 2: Vienna (Austria)

- The Vienna Progressive Coalition, STEP 2025 Urban Development Plan, Master Plan Participative Urban Development, Practical Book on Participation, Smart City Vienna — **documents and projects concentrating on citizen participation.**
- “The public consultation must last at least six weeks, and during this time, **everyone has the right to submit a written statement.** The district, as the legitimate representative of the population, is also given the opportunity to submit a written statement on the draft zoning and development plan to Municipal Department 21. This department, in turn, is obligated to review all received statements and consider whether the objections can be taken into account in the plan.” (Master Plan Participative Urban Development)
- **“Wiener Supergrätzl”** (Viennese Super-Neighbourhood) — a project systematically reorganising, optimising and calming traffic, new open spaces are created in the public street space.
- **Co-shaping the public space** — The NGO Local Agenda 21 Vienna advises interested parties and supports them in implementing their projects on community spaces.



Comparative Analysis – Barcelona/Vienna

Dimension	Barcelona	Vienna
Legal Power of Citizens	High – Can manage & receive assets (Patrimoni Ciutadà)	Medium – Informal influence only
Participation Tools	Competitions, civic management laws, asset transfers	Participation Loop, planning hearings, feedback tools
Focus of Participation	Management of public facilities	Influence in urban planning
Inclusion Strategy	Civic organizations given access to manage assets	Targeted outreach to migrants, youth, less vocal groups
Constraints	Legal complexity, barriers for small orgs	Not legally binding; tokenism risk

Case Study 3: Turin (Italy)



CITTA' DI TORINO

The **Regulation for the Urban Commons** (2019) is a regulatory and operational framework to promote shared management of common goods.

The tools:

- **Permanent Council of Urban Commons.**
- **Pacts of Collaboration.**

The regulation is a **tool for civic participation**. It helps people and the city **work together** to take care of shared places and is based on **values** of: Trust, Transparency, Shared responsibility, Inclusion, Environmental sustainability, Respect and Fairness.



Comparative Analysis – Barcelona/Turin

Dimension	Barcelona	Turin
Legal Power of Citizens	High – Can manage & receive assets (Patrimoni Ciutadà)	High – Legal right to co-manage urban commons via “Pacts of Collaboration”
Participation Tools	Competitions, civic management laws, asset transfers	Co-design, shared management, maintenance plans, civic collaboration protocols
Focus of Participation	Management of public facilities	Commons-based governance: co-use, co-production, and co-responsibility
Inclusion Strategy	Civic organizations given access to manage assets	Commons open to all active citizens, including informal or temporary collectives
Constraints	Legal complexity, barriers for small orgs	Risk of favoritism; no national support; dependent on municipal goodwill

Results from Field Work in Barcelona

PGC (PRESENTATION)

Using public spaces is an important way for facilities to connect to the community. Access to public spaces are restricted. One possible solution is to transfer management of spaces surrounding facilities to the facilities.

CANÒDROM

Has a high focus on how we can learn a lot more if we dialogue with each other. Uses park for outreach. Due to ownership model, they do not face the same restrictions as many other facilities. However, certain neighbourhood groups are underrepresented in the park.

Results from Field Work in Barcelona

JARDINS D'EMMA

This communal urban garden is a part of a bigger development, that includes several projects: Aula Viva-Avinguda Roma — sustainable transformation of spaces together with school kids, Nur — a green car-free living space that aims as a meeting point, Espai Agroecològic — co-management of spaces and resources, Mercat de Pagès — farmers' market every Saturday, Espai Germanetes — the first space, communal garden spaces, Vine a jugar — kids playground, Projecte Revolta — community composting reducing organic footprint.



Superblocks

Government-funded project

400x400m units

First in 1993

Pilot project:

- Pedestrian trips → +10%
- Ciclist trips → +30%
- Pushback from local shop owners - only 5% access by car

Bus + metro network's implementation

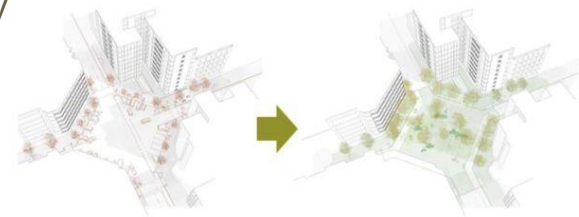


Purposes:

- Priority to people over cars + accessibility
- Community participation rulebook

Other goals:

- Space for the community
- Biodiversity
- Sustainable mobility
- Social cohesion



Results

SUPERILLA PEATONAL SANT ANTONI (Sant Antoni neighbourhood)

- + green spaces - trees, grass
- + informations and transparency
- + engagement of the residents and of marginalised people, who should be allowed to enjoy the spaces too
- Public libraries are very useful for the communities and the cohesion between people

Contrast between:

BIBLIOTECA SANT ANTONI - JOAN OLIVER

BIBLIOTECA TRINITAT VELLA



Citizens' Discontent – Protesting

“Let self-management dance” (*“Deixeu ballar a l'autogestió”*)

Cultural Claims Assembly of Participating Artists (*Reivindicacions Culturals Assemblea d'Artistes Participants*) launched the campaign for different neighbourhood entities of the Eixample district to join against administrative contempt and nepotism, and to defend self-organised culture. The reason was a set of obstacles created by the municipality during the organisation of one of a neighbourhood concerts. In the end, the concert took place, but with just 1 day to promote, 3 changed locations, limited duration, additional spendings e.g. for a sound limiter, and riot police watching closely people dancing.

“Barcelona expels culture that does not sell” (*“Barcelona expulsa la cultura que no es ven”*)

A demonstration called by the Network of Community Spaces (*Xarxa d'Espais Comunitaris, XEC*) from the Solidarity Economy Network (*Xarxa d'Economia Solidària, XES*) against the government's emphasis on privatization and concentration of cultural resources, favouring mass tourism and the commercialization of public spaces. In their manifesto, they demand redistribution of resources towards local and transformative initiatives, participation of communities in cultural policies, new inclusive and participatory city processes, and support of soon-to-be displaced community spaces.

Comparison of Spaces

Jardins d'Emma

The project is fully managed by the community. They have their own resources, spaces, and ways of free expression, which make up a true commoning project.

Canóndrom

The organisation is managed with the help of municipality, and the Canóndrom park is a public space created and managed by the municipality. People can't easily change and create resources — the place can't be considered common.

Espai Jove Garcilaso, Casa de la Premsa, etc.

These associations are self-managed and don't get any privileges from the municipality. Furthermore, the existing policies limit the amount of times they can use public spaces, and their use of amenities and buildings are constantly questioned.

Canóndrom

Since the organisation has connections with the municipality, it is easier for them to use the outdoor spaces and receive most of the permits, though they still face some hardships with specific permits.

Suggestions

- **Community Representative Body** — an umbrella agency which would manage the communication and representation of cultural, social, community, etc. initiatives for the municipality, advocating for the rights and needs of such organisations.
- **Changes in legislation** allowing people to fully participate in the development of spaces (incl. the loop of participation) and grassroot initiatives to shape and use public spaces freely.
- **Develop a Right to the City Manifesto** securing the citizens rights to participation (Listen to the City/International Anti Gentrification Alliance).

Q&A

¿Tienen alguna pregunta o comentario?