

## SPORT CIVICO – CIVIC SPORT

Sport Mainstreaming in urban planning and regeneration processes

**Duration:** 31/03/2023 – 30/06/2024

**Intervention territories:** Italy: cities of Matera, Padua, Prato, Reggio Emilia, Rome, Taranto, Turin

**Financing body:** Presidency of the Italian Council of Ministers - Sports Department

The project aims to promote an intervention model based on the **mainstreaming of sport in urban development and regeneration processes**, aimed at making sport a tool to support the achievement of social and well-being objectives within these processes..

Mainstreaming is a long-term strategy that includes all activities aimed at inducing political, administrative and social actors in a sector, in this case that of urban planning, to take into account a given dimension (in this case sport) in their reflections and in their work, at the level of planning, implementation and evaluation of the programs, projects and measures in which they take part.

UISP thus intends to enhance the role of **sport** as a **kick starter of urban transition** and bring the sports dimension into urban planning and development processes as an element cross-cutting the other dimensions characterizing Smart Cities (Smart Living/wellbeing; Smart Mobility; Smart Environment, etc.).

The project is being developed on two axes: an institutional one, which involves 7 Uisp territorial committees - Matera, Padua, Prato, Reggio Emilia, Rome, Taranto, Turin - in activating the co-development process through **participation in the territorial working groups** to collect good practices, ideas that will lead to the elaboration of the proposed model and the production of dedicated guidelines with methodological indications to make sport coherent with the regeneration processes.

The other axis of development are **field pilot initiatives** to spread awareness of the interconnection between the civic, social, environmental, economic dimensions and the sports dimension in urban regeneration processes. These initiatives are characterized by the "Civic Sports Voucher" tool, a coupon which entitles the holder to the use of sporting initiatives; citizens "earn" vouchers by taking part in civic participation initiatives proposed in SCHOOLS and in NEIGHBORHOODS of the cities involved.

### ⇒ SCHOOLS - School workshops on civic participation

Students from the schools that joined the project are involved in a series of civic participation initiatives thanks to which they "earn" "civic sport vouchers". The civic participation initiatives are conceived and selected by students through the methodology of co-planning and the analysis of the needs of the territory, under the guidance of UISP operators leading the workshops; each action is given a score corresponding to a certain number of civic sport vouchers. Each Voucher is worth 1 hour of free sport activity.

### ⇒ NEIGHBORHOODS - Urban redevelopment and neighborhood sports

In some neighborhoods of the cities involved, citizens are committed to redesigning and transforming unused or degraded spaces in their neighborhood into spaces for socializing and practicing sports. In this way, citizens "earn" "Civic Sport Vouchers" which allow them to

participate in the sports entertainment initiatives that the UISP (through its sports operators or through agreements with local sports clubs) organizes in the spaces returned to the use of the citizenship.

## The 7 pilot actions

**1** **Matera** The pilot project involved the 'Bramante' comprehensive school and the citizens of the 'Piazza degli Olmi' neighborhood in promoting sports and activities of redevelopment of the semi-abandoned 'Piazza degli Olmi', through school co-planning and co-development working groups to identify sports activities to be practiced. In the neighborhood, in the squares and in the surrounding places, walks, gymnastics and activities shared by young people and adults were carried out with the aim of promoting knowledge of the territory, the history of the places told by the elderly and the organization of activities to take care of places and planting of green areas, according to a well-defined schedule. The involvement of the Municipal Administration of Matera - with which real 'collaboration pacts' were activated - was crucial, both for the implementation of the activities and for the tactical redevelopment of the identified spaces.

**2** **Reggio Emilia** The pilot project comes to life in the 'Noce Nero' Park and involves the participation of around 270 students from the 'Pertini 1 and Pertini 2' comprehensive schools located right inside the park. The focal point of the project is the intertwining of the themes of urban redevelopment and sports activities, even deconstructed, proposed in places accessible to all, together with school sports actions such as tennis, basketball, volleyball, martial arts and gymnastics, always carried out in collaboration with local sports associations.

The neighborhood has lived up both with intergenerational activities of traditional games played by boys and girls together with their grandparents, and with new activities, such as calisthenics, to practice which a specific system has been installed in the 'Noce Nero' Park.

Discussion tables have been activated with third sector subjects, municipal administration and citizens of the 'Rosta Nuova Social Centre', located inside the park, to identify the 'good practices' implemented by the project and therefore adopt a development model to be exported to other neighborhoods of the same city.

**3** **Taranto** The place identified for the realization of the project was the 'Jannelli' Park, located within the 'Taranto 2' district, where the 'Martellotta' Comprehensive School is located, involving 50 students aged 11 to 13 together with 30 adults 'over 60' and 20 with psychiatric disabilities. School workshops for civic participation were organized for the co-design and development of a new playground in the park, with fitness spaces for young and very young people, sports climbing tools for children, a gymnastics bench and tables for traditional games such as checkers, chess and cards.

The park hosted both civic education workshop activities on the theme of common goods, environmental sustainability and urban regeneration, and recreational/sporting activities (basic physical education, fitness gymnastics and artistic gymnastics, athletics, dance and baseball). Jannelli Park was also the place of arrival of the the "Blue March", the great final event organized by UISP Taranto and the 'Martellotta' School for the celebration of the World Autism Awareness Day on 4<sup>th</sup> April, involving the amateur sports associations partners of the project, representatives from the Puglia Regional School Office, CONI (Italian National Olympic Committee) and Sport and Health Plc.

**4 Padova** In the small municipality of Veggiano (in the province of Padua), young people, once they have finished their middle school studies, tend to shift their attention towards the city, thus losing the connection with their territory of origin. This poses the risk that some key meeting places will end up abandoned and fall into a state of disrepair. To counter this trend, the redevelopment of the "Memory Park" has been identified as a priority objective.

Sport was the central focus of urban regeneration processes, directly involving citizens in the co-development of actions, with the aim of promoting social inclusion and community well-being. Activities included "sports for all," disc golf, and antique wooden games to promote the playing of forgotten traditional games. Furthermore, an urban art laboratory was created in collaboration with the urban artist MADE514, who explored the historical memory of the games of the past by comparing it with the trends of the new generations.

Finally, video tutorials were created to explain the use of the proposed games and equipment. Widespread interventions of tactical urbanism and reuse were also carried out to experiment with new uses of urban spaces, strengthening the connection between the municipal area, the school area and the Memory Park.

**5 Torino** The pilot project involved 120 students from four schools. Co-planning working groups for urban transition have been activated on various issues relating to environmental sustainability (nature, sustainable mobility, correct nutrition and sports practice). A dedicated sporting event was planned within the 'Run for future' together with guided activities, carried out in the dedicated spaces. Among these: games, management of an urban garden, aerial silk, parkour, longboard and skateboard, oriental disciplines and dance, made possible thanks to the purchases of new floor covering and carpets.

Tactical Urbanism interventions have been put into practice aimed at making the structures accessible to all. Among these: the use of QR Codes, the activation of space redevelopment workshops, the planning and carrying out of socializing activities, the creation of a Google form for the use of vouchers and the organization of an 'Open day' during the 'Educating Community' week, with free trial of the sports carried out during the project implementation period.

## 6 Roma

The project comes to life within the Aniene Valley Nature Reserve, precisely at the confluence of the Aniene river with Tiber river, in the IV Municipality of the city of Rome.

'Sport Civico' is part of a municipal recovery plan for the area, involving the 'Zaveria Cassia' private institute.

Sports activities in a natural environment such as Plogging and Orienteering were offered to citizens, as well as days dedicated to Mini Volleyball and introduction to Acquaviva sports, so as to make the area known and experienced to the entire neighborhood. The organization of working groups with 'Together for the Aniene' - the neighborhood's association network - and the Municipal Administration was strategic, so that the area could represent and subsequently become a space for exchange between the main actors of the project.

## 7 Prato

The project took place in the "Fontanelle" neighborhood on the southern outskirts of Prato. The work focused on the reorganization of the garden, involving students of the "Marcocci" Primary and Secondary School together with the neighborhood's inhabitants and the Municipal Administration.

Adults, through meetings and interviews, expressed the desire to redevelop the garden in a perspective of outdoor training circuits, the "Life trails", so that it is more frequented and therefore more manned. Students, for their part, strengthened by the sporting experiences gained with the sports clubs in the school gym, put all their energy into creating the playground, to be used for team sports activities.

A path of shared programming and co-planning was therefore undertaken with the Municipal Administration.