



# Atlantic Social Lab

Cooperation for the promotion of Social Innovation

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## ATLANTIC SOCIAL LAB STUDY VISIT REPORT - STUDY VISITS HELD IN SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

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<b>A. GENERAL INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date</b>	31-10-2018
<b>Location:</b>	Santiago de Compostela
<b>Name</b>	Santiago de Compostela Municipality
<b>Legal Status</b>	Local Authority
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<b>B. SHORT DESCRIPTION</b>	
<b>Objectives</b> <i>(identify the main goals of the project and target groups addressed)</i>	The Municipality of Santiago de Compostela noticed that there was a deficit of involvement and civic participation in their region (lack of participation of citizens in the political life of society), due the fact that the mechanisms of participation are unknown and few divulged. The population had needs and desires that were not known by the public authorities, as such, the Municipality of Santiago de Compostela decided to implement a revitalization of the process of participatory budgeting in public areas, with this revitalisation it is intended to have a greater participation of the population in general and to know their needs closely. The visits provided to the partnership under this social innovation project were to two "constructions" that were made from the participatory budget, which are: A children's playground in Outeiro do Sar <sup>1</sup> and an urban garden - "Hortaliza-TE" <sup>2</sup> . Subsequently, these two projects will be explained in more detail
<b>Methodology</b> <i>(identify the methodological principles, mode of operation and level of intervention)</i>	The methodology of action of this draft participatory budget tries to promote a greater egalitarian and balanced society, with a more developed level of trust between the citizens and the public administration. It also aims to reach all the population groups, especially the disadvantaged groups, as well as, it allows the people to voice their needs and proposals, therefore involving citizens, creating an empowering society as a consequence. Thus, the mode of operation of this project will be the knowledge of the real needs of the population, the participation of Santiago de Compostela residents in the management of city issues, the education to the citizenship in public management and finally the modulation of certain decisions by not just taking into account the number of people who demand them but also considering other factors like social improvement, attention to vulnerable groups or territorial balances.

<b>C. MAIN FINDINGS</b>	
<b>Social Needs</b> <i>(identify the social needs the organisation intends to fill)</i>	The Municipality of Santiago de Compostela, with its public participation project, intends to meet and fulfil the following social needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to promote a more equal and balanced society, with a higher level and trustful connection between the citizens and the public administration;</li> <li>• Need to reach all population groups, especially disadvantaged groups;</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Photograph 1 - Children's playground in Outeiro do Sar (1)

<sup>2</sup> Photograph 2 - Urban garden - "Hortaliza-TE" (1)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to give voice to people and their proposals;</li> <li>• Need to involve and educate citizens in public management and civic participation;</li> <li>• Need to know the social needs of the population.</li> </ul> <p>It is observable that the social needs that this project intends to cover are the issue of the lack of public participation. The Municipality of Santiago de Compostela intends to disseminate and provide the necessary tools to facilitate participation.</p>
<p><b>Social Innovative Practices</b> (<i>identify the main social innovative practices developed and the extent to which the work developed responds to those needs</i>)</p>	<p>This section of the report will mention the two projects (mentioned at the beginning of the report) that came out of the participatory budget. Before moving forward, the participatory budget is divided into districts, each district can only participate in the participatory budgeting in their turn, that is, four years of government represent four districts (northwest, east, rural, municipal), each year corresponding to one district.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Children's playground in Outeiro de Sar<sup>3</sup>, this participatory budget project, was held in the first edition of the public participation project. It was approved in 2016 and completed in 2017, is a pilot experience with the youth. The park was conceived in an innovative way because it was carried out from the ideas of the residents in direct and constant participation with the architects and engineers. The place where the park was built was a wasteland, unused, was revitalized in order to increase the essence of the neighbourhood and the feeling of belonging of the residents.</li> <li>2) Hortaliza TE<sup>4</sup>, a project that emerged from the participative budget program "Compostela Decide". Its main objective is for young people to learn the art of agriculture from an urban garden. There was a pretence of taking advantage of unused space in the city to create ecological products, teaching the youngest that it is possible to carry out sustainable ecology projects in urban centres.</li> </ol> <p>Thus, it is possible to verify that these projects have two clear pretensions in the social innovation scope, first it is the already mentioned question of the active participation and the public engagements of the population. Secondly, there is a need to use certain areas of the cities, to revitalize them so that they are places that the population can enjoy and to do other projects that may also have a cost of social innovation such as the Hortaliza-TE project.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration and Networks</b> (<i>identify the main connections of the organisation</i>)</p>	<p>Its collaborative network has as agents, the Santiago de Compostela City Council and City Residents.</p>

<p><b>D. MAIN CONSTRAINTS TO SUCCESS</b></p>	
<p><b>Challenges and Barriers</b> (<i>identify the main problems</i>)</p>	<p>The most mentioned barriers to the success of the participatory budgeting were that the budget available was low and is not able to meet all the needs and requested of the residents. It was also mentioned that it is sometimes</p>

<sup>3</sup> Photograph 3 - Children's playground in Outeiro do Sar (2)

<sup>4</sup> Photograph 2 - Urban garden - "Hortaliza-TE" (2)

<p><i>that the organisation faces: financial resources, human resources, networks, innovative environment...)</i></p>	<p>difficult to reach a consensus among the residents, as well as, there is still a low participation rate because of the poor communication of how and where to participate.</p>
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<b>E. CONCLUSIONS</b>	
<p><b>Key Concluding Lines</b></p>	<p>In conclusion, the Municipality of Santiago de Compostela, intends in an innovative way, to give voice to all residents of the region. From a methodology of direct participation in the council's decisions, people will be able to give their opinion, show their needs and "sell" their idea to be covered by the participatory budget. In this way, it will be possible to obtain a more balanced society with a more developed level of trust between the citizens and the public administration.</p>
<p><b>Other information considered relevant</b></p>	<p>Nothing relevant to add.</p>



## Study Visit Photos



*Figure 1 - Children's playground in Outeiro do Sar (1)*



*Figure 2 - Children's playground in Outeiro do Sar (2)*





*Figure 3 - Urban garden - "Hortaliza-TE" (1)*



*Figure 4 - Urban garden - "Hortaliza-TE" (2)*

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**Review:** Hugo Pinto, Ana Filipa Sá and Atlantic Social Lab Partners