

Facing the Emergency: new challenges for the FIU

The current **situation of emergency** in which we find ourselves, together with the Government's directions to contain the Coronavirus and to guarantee the safety of all citizens, is confronting us with **new challenges**.

We are standing in front of **great changes** that are affecting and will affect the **dynamics of urban transformations**. This includes not only the way in which we, as Fondazione Innovazione Urbana, will be able to **analyze and narrate** those changes, but also the new instruments we will develop and foster together with the civil society in order to keep delivering our activities of **participation and civic imagination**.

We are convinced that this crisis will most likely have a **strong impact on our cities** even once it will be over. For the organizations that, like us, are focused mostly on urban transformations, this will mean changing our priorities, agendas and project-planning. What will be different in terms of **mobility, housing conditions, access to culture and public spaces**? Our way of living together has already changed and will change further in the future: our organization must now think about how to turn the crisis into an opportunity to improve the **health, wellbeing and quality of life** of Bologna, making it an even more **sustainable and inclusive** city in line with the new needs that will arise after the crisis.

In the months to come, we will extensively reflect on this topic with the **Urban Innovation Plan**, which is the document that will result from all the analyses, needs, questions and answers emerged during our last three years of activity.

For instance, we are now asking ourselves how the crisis is going to affect the **housing conditions** in Bologna, considering in first place the situation of the student population and of the most vulnerable actors of society.

Through the project HounINngBo we will try to analyze the new scenario that will play out and bring out the new dynamics and needs to address.

The new urban transformations that might occur will affect our way of **analyzing and communicating** them as well. In this sense, we will have a double goal.

On one side, to **understand these changes and be able to describe them** to citizens, tourists, administrators and students alike, through the support of interactive and digital technologies; on the other side, to **rethink the goals, contents and communication tools** of the main projects we were carrying out before the crisis.

Among which: the process of guidance towards the approval of the Urban Innovation Plan, our project on accessibility and promotion of Bologna as candidate of the *"European Access City Award"*, the project of information, public involvement, listening and discussion on the new tram line of Bologna, the project on the Bologna

Metropolitan Strategic Plan, etc...

We have always worked to promote citizen participation with the strong belief that there can't be any **urban innovation** without **collaboration and participative processes**. With that in mind, we are going to keep on pursuing **new methods to carry out our activities of proximity** with all the communities involved in the projects we organized in the city through the District Labs. We will experiment with new forms of **digital interaction** with special attention on the inclusion of the more vulnerable population.

As of today, **we have suspended all the public activities** of the Foundation and we quickly arranged a method to **work remotely** in order to guarantee the progress of all our ongoing projects. We rely on digital supports like regular calls with all the staff, work-groups, and shared documents. We run regular project reassessments and staff-training activities that also involve the other sectors of the local administration with which we collaborate.

We are going to update constantly our **communication channels** (website, newsletter, social media) to report on the progress of our projects. The mission of the Foundation stays the same. To keep establishing and consolidating the role of the "**collective brain**", we keep in mind all those that have always dedicated their time and energy to build together a new idea of citizenship and city by taking part in our activities.

Our headquarters in Palazzo d'Accursio are now closed to the public but we are **ready to listen to the needs and thoughts of the community** through these channels: you can reach us at the phone number 051.2194455 or by e-mail at the address: info@fondazioneinnovazioneurbana.it.