

FONDAZIONE PER L'INNOVAZIONE URBANA



fondazione
innovazione urbana

/ INTRODUCTION

Fondazione per l'Innovazione Urbana (FIU) was founded in 2018 as an evolution from Comitato Urban Center Bologna which it works in continuity with, benefitting from its almost 15 years of experience in the field of urban regeneration communication and civic participation to further extend its field of activity and action.

WHO WE ARE

FIU is a multidisciplinary urban regeneration research, development, co-production and communication centre working to build the city of the future.



— FIU aims to promote relationships between local government, universities, firms, the tertiary sector and citizens.

Its work is designed to foster, guide, facilitate and experiment city transformation processes in both policy planning–civic governance and design terms. It does so by introducing process and design innovation to administrative mechanisms, shining the spotlight on neighbourhood, environmental transition and cultural democracy.

FIU designs, manages, facilitates and communicates urban transformation processes, with a focus on know-how, methodologies and people, developing shared space and urban service construction trajectories and activating spaces and occasions for public debate and co-production and empowering dialogue between citizens, institutions, associations, movements and stakeholders from the economic, social and cultural worlds.

FIU works nationally and internationally to promote local partnership and civic engagement experiences and co-produce public policies supporting urban regeneration in the proximity dimension and responding to current global challenges.

The organisation also cultivates good practice exchanges, activating and shaping change and innovation processes in other cities in Italy and further afield, too.

WHAT WE DO

FIU promotes, develops and works on innovation projects in two main macro-spheres:



/ INNOVATION IN URBAN SPACE TRANSFORMATION

- Experimentation and innovation processes and projects regenerating urban spaces and buildings of public interest, architectural and urban planning, tactical town planning work, urban planning, sustainable transport and environmental transition processes and design.

The goal is to foster social equity and the transition to climate neutrality.

/ CULTURAL INNOVATION AND URBAN ECONOMICS

- Cultural programming and production, the development of city cultural policies, cultural and tertiary sector welfare, neo-mutualism and the sharing economy and culturally based urban regeneration projects.

The goal is to promote citizen and community wellbeing and empowerment via culture.

HOW WE DO IT

The basis of FIU's work is a method founded on civic imagination and process, proximity and research design.



/ CIVIC IMAGINATION

- FIU promotes civic imagination with a view to citizen involvement and inclusion. The goal is to ensure that projects respond to redistribution and empowerment principles with a special focus on proximity and innovation, both digital and otherwise, and their civic and social impact.

/ PROCESS AND PROXIMITY DESIGN

- FIU identifies the most effective methodologies and tools for each project in order to foster citizen and community participation and joint working and also bringing in the various local stakeholders into decision-making processes.

Moreover, via proximity agents FIU fosters citizenship, community, institution and local stakeholder relationships, encourages territorial network building and guides urban transformations on the proximity scale by means of active listening, intercepting opportunities (projects, initiatives, funding, etc.) both from and for the local area, to link up communities, districts, local governments and other institutions.

/ POLICY DESIGN AND RESEARCH

- FIU guides the development of projects via research work applied to urban challenges and transformations, with special attention to urban public policy innovation and new urban trends.

It also promotes external training activities designed to disseminate new skills, nurturing and encouraging relationships and exchanges with universities and research centres.

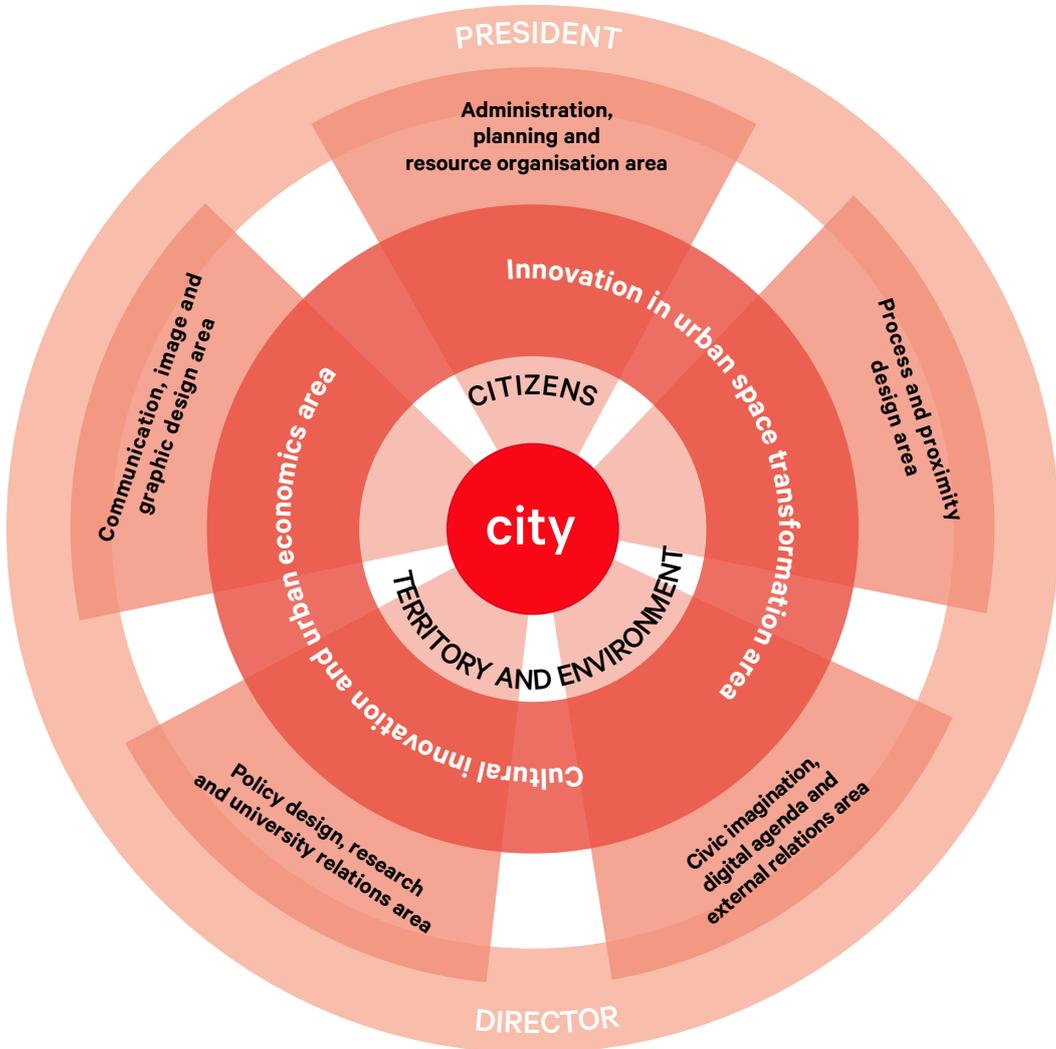
WHY WE DO IT

Via its design and other innovation-oriented work FIU pursues **social and environmental justice** goals based on principles of **equity, accessibility, value-promotion** and **diversity recognition**. In the deeply held belief that **redistributing knowledge, education** and **civic imagination** can contribute to **collective wellbeing**, we undertake to promote and stimulate these via **listening** and **proximity**.

ORGANISATIONAL MODEL

FIU's organisational structure is based on a circular model which is transversal and multidisciplinary in character. The seven principal areas of work identified and coordinated by the president's and management offices all work to relationship and exchange principles at all times. FIU's work puts the city – in the physical and environmental space and community of people senses – centre stage.





/ Innovation in urban space transformation area

The task of this department is to put forward, stimulate and guide experimentation and innovation projects in the regeneration of spaces and buildings of public interest for people and the environment.

It does so by promoting an inclusive, participatory and innovative approach within processes, plans and projects bound up with the themes of urban planning, sustainable transport and environmental transition on the urban and metropolitan scales with a view to promoting social equity and transition to carbon neutrality.

- Tactical urban-planning and pedestrian-mobility action
- Architectural and urban planning of public spaces and buildings
- City plans and projects, sustainable transport and environmental transition

/ Cultural innovation and urban economics area

The task of this department is to develop cultural projects, deal with and organise the Foundation's cultural production and plan and promote citizenship rights through culture and new cultural policies. It also has responsibility for managing social economics projects with a view to supporting tool and process experimentation. Both spheres are urban and metropolitan in scale

- Cultural planning and production
- Cultural welfare
- City cultural policy development
- Neo-mutualism and the sharing economy
- Culturally based urban regeneration
- Tertiary sector
- Internal training on cultural study themes

/ Civic imagination, digital agenda and external relations area

The task of this department is to act as a driving force in planning support strategies in line with redistribution and citizen-empowerment principles and a focus on proximity and innovation, monitoring projects' civic and social impact. It is also responsible for promoting digital innovation development with a view to encouraging citizen participation and inclusion. It is responsible for looking after and promoting external relationship development and strategic partnerships for the Foundation.

- Civic impact strategy promotion for all projects
- Civic impact monitoring for all planning projects
- Digital innovation
- Management and extension of external relations and strategic partnerships

/ Process and proximity design area

The task of this department is to develop an integrated design approach to the Foundation's participatory processes. It guides project managers in defining process phases and identifies methodologies and tools for citizenship, community and local stakeholder partnership and sharing in decision-making processes.

It is also responsible for coordinating relations with citizens, the community, institutions and local stakeholders, favouring the creation of local networks and orienting urban transformation on the proximity scale via active-listening practices.

Proximity agents intercept opportunities (projects, initiatives, funding, etc.) from, or for, the local area to link up communities, districts, local governments and other institutions.

- Integrated process design
- Civic engagement methodologies and tools
- Internal training on themes covered (e.g.: conflict management and laboratory and working group facilitation)
- Management of exchange relationships and reciprocal listening in the civic and institutional dimension

/ Policy design, research and university relations area

The task of this department is to coordinate research work applied to urban challenges and transformation and urban public policy innovation. It is also responsible for coordinating external training designed to disseminate new skills and promote and manage relationships with universities and research centres.

- Research applied to projects
- Innovation in urban policies
- Relations with universities and research centres
- Research processes on new urban trends

/ Administration, planning and resource organisation area

It is this department's task to ensure effective, efficient, appropriate and transparent management of the Foundation's resources and activities.

- Human resource planning and organisation
- Economic resource planning, management and administration
- Coordinating and facilitating planning, monitoring and reporting for all projects (both ordinary and European funded projects, directly and indirectly funded) in close joint working with the project managers and coordinators of the relevant areas.
- Curricular and extra-curricular internships and internal training on relevant themes (e.g.: workplace health and safety, privacy, combating corruption)
- Promotion of organisational wellbeing, safeguarding health and workplace health and safety
- Management of spaces and the heritage
- General secretarial duties and coordinating support to the Foundation's statutory bodies (Assembly, Board of Directors, Presidency and Management offices)

/ Communication, image and graphic design area

This department's task is to raise awareness of, narrate and promote the Foundation's work and projects and vision of the city in a clear, accessible and engaging way.

- External and institutional communication
- Graphic creation and design and corporate image
- Creative design and spatial communication for installations and temporary and permanent exhibitions
- Production of information, multimedia, publishing and in-depth study contents
- Digital communication channel management
- Press office and media relations work
- Management of relations with communication agencies and other external communication service providers

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