



Public participation processes in the pilot municipalities of Amurrio, Balmaseda and Legazpi and their demonstrative neighbourhoods

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Action C2. Participation, Community Involvement and Public Outreach towards
Climate Change Adaptation in small and medium sized municipalities

July 2018



This document belongs to the project LIFE16 CCA/ES/000040-Good Local Adapt.

Contents

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK	2
2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICIPATION PROCESS	2
2.1. Objectives, stakeholders and participation means	2
2.2. Participation Indicators	5
3. RESULTS: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS	7
3.1. Citizens' priority climatic risks in the demonstrative neighbourhoods	7
3.2. Citizens' input on needs and opportunities for adaptation in public space	7
3.3. Citizens' input on needs and opportunities for adaptation in buildings	8
3.4. Citizens' proposals for adaptation solutions in public space and buildings	8
4. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS	9
4.1. Participants' evaluation	9
4.2. Conclusions on the overall process	9

1. PROJECT BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

The present document compiles the major results from the **three participation processes** undertaken in parallel in the three pilot municipalities of **Amurrio Legazpi and Balmaseda** throughout the months of march, April and may 2018, as part of the **LIFE - GOOD LOCAL ADAPT** project's **Action C2: Participation, Community Involvement and Public Outreach** towards Climate Change Adaptation in small and medium size municipalities.

All three small – medium sized municipalities (Amurrio, Álava; Legazpi, Gipuzkoa; y Balmaseda, Bizkaia) have a large background in **sustainability and climate change**, having been involved in different initiatives, plans and projects related to the subject.

The specific results of the three processes are detailed in each of the three municipalities' individual reports that follow this document, the objective of this one being to synthesize the overall results in order to obtain global conclusions to contribute to the replicability of the methodology used and the resulting proposals.

2. DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTICIPATION PROCESS

2.1. Objectives, stakeholders and participation means

2.1.1.OBJECTIVES

The main objectives in the three participation processes are those specified in the Participation and communication plan:

1. **To raise awareness regarding the consequences of climate change at a local level**, its impacts and need (and opportunity) to adapt through the use of design and planning solutions, applicable to small and medium sized municipalities.
2. **To identify the needs and opportunities of both traditional and innovative adaptation solutions**, in relation to urban design and planning, building refurbishment, water management, etc.
3. **To contrast and prioritize with the citizens the specific solutions** to use at a local level, in case of application (by public and/or private initiative).

In order to reach the desired objectives, the project action team has defined a process in three phases: preparation, participation and evaluation, as the following timeline diagram shows.

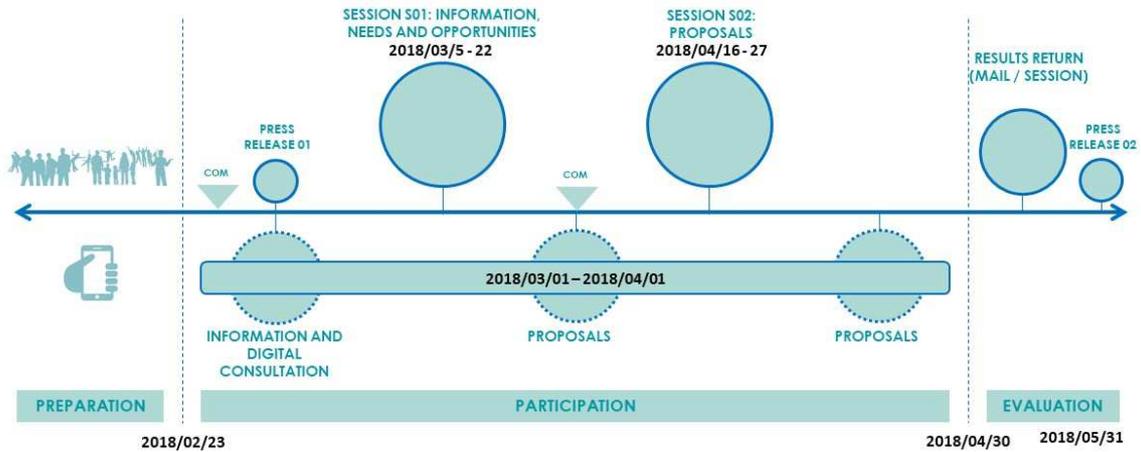


Figure 1. Participation diagram with the three phases: preparation, participation and evaluation. Above the line, face-to-face participation main milestones. Below the line, main digital participation milestones.

2.1.2. FACE-TO-FACE PARTICIPATION

The participation phase has been undertaken in two sessions, the first one (S01) being the analysis one, with the objective to contrast, agree on and prioritise among participants the needs and opportunities for building and urban design climate change adaptation solutions in the demonstrative municipalities. In the second session (S02), preliminary proposals were presented (extracted from the results of session S01) and participants were asked to dig into these and develop them in more detail.

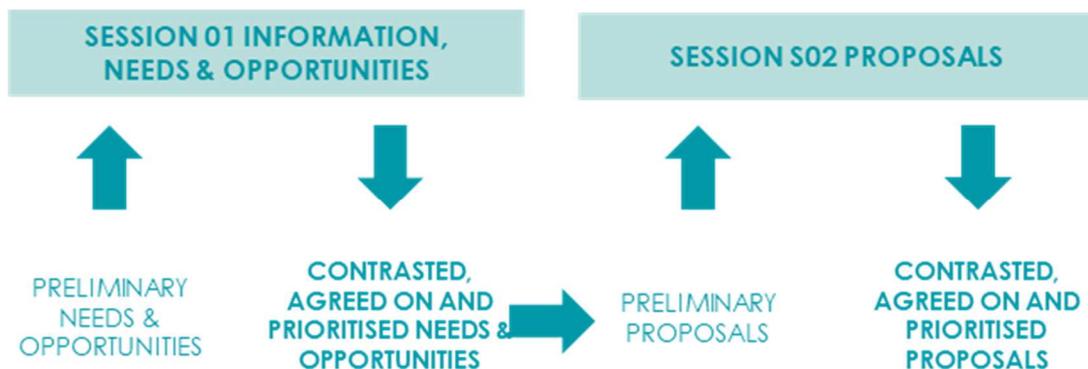


Figure 2. Face-to-face participation diagram



Image 1.-Presentation session S01



Image 2 Work groups session S01



Image 3 Results discussion session S01



Image 5 Work groups session S02

2.1.3.DIGITAL PARTICIPATION

Means and timeframe for digital participation

Digital participation was enabled through the on-line platform *Citizen* developed by project partner Createlli, and available in the project website <https://goodlocaladapt.com/es>. The participation platform was open to the public from march 1st to may 15, easily accessible by smartphone, tablet and computer, with a comfortable, easy and multi-language system.

Content structure and questions

Each of the three pilot municipalities had its own digital participation site. After obtaining the participants' profile, the consultation was structured by each of the two main topics: public space and buildings in the demonstrative neighbourhoods. The consultation format was a statement according to which participants had to express a degree of agreement (from total agreement to total disagreement). Results are later expressed in consensus bars, contributing to visualize the overall consensus.

2.2. Participation Indicators

2.2.1. PARTICIPATION BY NUMBER AND MEANS

The overall participation number considering all three municipalities is of 154 people, as the table below shows. The main participation means or channel has been face-to-face, while digital has been significantly lower. Legazpi was the municipality with the higher participation, probably due to merging this process with a local urban plan.

Overall participation is lower than expected, which may be due to a series of factors: citizens' overall lack of interest or availability in participation events, overlapping with other participation events, not enough communication or not well-targeted (specially to push digital participation), the weather, etc.

THREE PILOT MUNICIPALITIES	Session S01	Session S02	TOTAL FACE-TO-FACE	TOTAL DIGITAL	TOTAL
Number of participants	79	67	146	8	154
Women (%)	51%	57%	53%	50%	53%
Men (%)	49%	43%	47%	50%	47%

2.2.2. PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

From a gender perspective, participation in all three municipalities has been quite balanced, with overall data of 53% women and 47% men. This balance more or less coincides in all three municipalities, with small variations, the larger being in Amurrio, with a larger share of women participating.

It is worth mentioning that these results are quite relevant, as usual face-to-face participation data locally is not as balanced, with usual percentages of 1/3 women, 2/3 men.



2.2.3. PARTICIPATION BY AGE

Average age of participants has been slightly different within the three pilot municipalities (by visual observation in face-to-face sessions): in Balmaseda, between 35 and 65, in Amurrio between 45 and 65, and in Legazpi, over 65.

In digital participation, all three municipalities coincide in an average participation age between 30 and 45 years old.

2.2.4. PARTICIPATION BY STAKEHOLDER GROUP AND RESIDENTIAL ORIGIN

In all three pilot municipalities participants have been mostly local residents, with slight particularities:

- In Amurrio, mostly people from the overall municipality, with specific interest in the subject and, to a lower extent, residents from the demonstrative neighbourhoods: Landako and Goikolarra.
- In Balmaseda, mostly local residents (both from the historic quarter as from the rest of the municipality) and, to a lower extent, immigrants, technicians and political representatives.
- In Legazpi, most of the participants were local residents from the four demonstrative neighbourhoods: San Ignacio, San Martín, Arantzazu y San José.

3. RESULTS: CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

3.1. Citizens' priority climatic risks in the demonstrative neighbourhoods

In session S01 participants prioritised which are the climatic risks for public space and buildings. In all three, the priority risk are floods, followed by draughts and heat waves (only one group, in Amurrio, differed, giving heat waves a higher priority than draughts).

1. **Floods** (priority risk in Amurrio, Balmaseda y Legazpi)
2. **Draught** (Legazpi, Balmaseda and one of the groups in Amurrio)
3. **Heat waves** (Legazpi, Balmaseda and one of the groups in Amurrio)

3.2. Citizens' input on needs and opportunities for adaptation in public space

The needs and opportunities for climate change adaptation design solutions in public space according to participants in the three pilot municipalities are summarized below, in priority order.

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADAPTATION IN PUBLIC SPACE <i>7 DEMONSTRATIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS IN THE THREE PILOT MUNICIPALITIES: AMURRIO, BALMASEDA and LEGAZPI (from higher to lower priority)</i>	AMURRIO	BALMASEDA	LEGAZPI
1. Need to increase shadow (trees and vegetation).	3	1	1
2. Need to decrease impervious surfaces and create SUDS.	3	4	2
3. Opportunity to introduce urban gardens.	5	2	3
4. Opportunity to reduce irrigation.	6	3	
5. <i>Need to redesign public space (Amurrio).</i>	1		
6. <i>Opportunity to generate air currents in public spaces (Amurrio).</i>	4		
7. <i>Need to improve and raise people's awareness on these topics (Amurrio).</i>	7		

3.3. Citizens' input on needs and opportunities for adaptation in buildings

The needs and opportunities for climate change adaptation design solutions in buildings according to participants in the three pilot municipalities are summarized below, in priority order. Results belong to Legazpi and Balmaseda, as Amurrio only focused on public space.

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADAPTATION IN PUBLIC SPACE 5 DEMONSTRATIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS IN THE THREE PILOT MUNICIPALITIES: BALMASEDA and LEGAZPI (from higher to lower priority)	BALMASEDA	LEGAZPI
1. Need to improve insulation in façades and roofs.	1	2
2. Need to improve insulation in windows.	3	1
3. Need to improve water management.	2	3
4. Opportunity to introduce vegetation in roofs.	4	4
5. Opportunity to introduce vegetation in façades.	5	5

3.4. Citizens' proposals for adaptation solutions in public space and buildings

Specific proposals developed for each demonstrative neighbourhood to attain and accomplish the identified needs and opportunities, are compiled in the reports for the individual municipalities, which follow this document.

4. EVALUATION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1. Participants' evaluation

Participants' evaluation of the process has been very positive. Out of the 35 evaluation sheets gathered from the three individual processes, 83% think the sessions were useful to work on climate change design solutions which can potentially be applied in the municipality, and that they would recommend this type of processes for similar plans and projects. Besides, 97% of participants agreed facilitators communicated clearly and were easily understood, and 100% agreed participants communicated with respect among each other. Participants also made a few recommendations on how to improve the sessions.

	Agree	In between	Disagree
1. <i>This session has been useful.</i>	83 % (29)	11 % (4)	6 % (2)
2. <i>Facilitators have communicated in a clear and easily understandable way.</i>	97 % (10)	3 % (1)	0 %
3. <i>Participants have talked with respect.</i>	100 % (10)	0 %	0 %
4. <i>I would recommend this type of processes.</i>	83 % (29)	14 % (5)	3 % (1)

4.2. Conclusions on the overall process

Although the number of participants has been lower than expected, the three participation processes have achieved the expectations of action C2, mainly thanks to the active attitude of those who participated, defining specific proposals which will be considered by the three towns and will contribute to future project actions.

At the same time, participants had the opportunity to see experiences from other parts of Europe and the potential replicability in their municipalities as well as their solutions replicable elsewhere. Awareness was raised and they also valued the process positively.

It is worth mentioning the implication of municipal technicians and political representatives as part of the stakeholders, which is highly important for a later application of these measures in pilot projects and municipal ordinances, as future Project actions.