Stadt Winterthur

Open Urbanism foundation

Multigination Method

Bridging Bottom-Up and Top-Down Knowledge

Concept_urbandash_Lyon 2015

Role of Open Guides
Open Guides provide frameworks for deploying the Multigination method that can be freely adapted by cities to effectively respond to specific geographical, cultural, and urban contexts. Adaptations and modifications of documentation and software are permitted provided they comply with Creative Commons CC By SA and GNU AGPLv3 licenses.

Community and Capacity Building
The Multigination approach fuses the two logics : Community Building sparks engagement and shared vision (via participative co-imagination with Unlimited Cities and voting on Variations), while Capacity Building equips communities (notably with open guides and urban development framework) to deliver sustainable, high-quality urban transition projects.

Multigination Research Context
The Grüze Plus district of Winterthur in Switzerland is one of the selected sites with Başakşehir in Turkey for the pilot phase of the research project Multigination, part of the Driving Urban Transition program (DUT) co-funded by the European Union.

Research consortium

Hes·so WALLIS WALLIS | Open Urbanism Foundation | Tampere University of Applied Sciences | BLL BAŞAKŞEHIR LIVING LAB | DREES & SOMMER | zh aw

Cooperation partners : Ayuntamiento de Pamplona, Comune di Bergamo, Coventry University Fab Lab Coventry, ENoLL European Network of Living Labs, République et Canton de Genève, VITO Voor Technologisch Onderzoek N.V.

DUT Driving Urban Transitions

Co-funded by the European Union

Co-funded by SFOE Swiss Federal Office of Energy

Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

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Key points of the Multigination method

Bridging Bottom-Up Insight and Top-Down Planning

The guiding strategy of Multigination is to ensure that the diverse knowledge and ideas generated during bottom-up co-imagination phase are actively harnessed by the city to enrich and inform its initial top-down vision.

This approach marks a fundamental shift in sustainable urban development, challenging conventional models in which cities define district-wide solutions in advance, expecting civil society and stakeholders to adapt—an approach that frequently leads to resistance and impedes meaningful collaboration.

With Multigination, the top-down and bottom-up inform and enrich each other in a demonstrative manner which proves the value of thinking together.
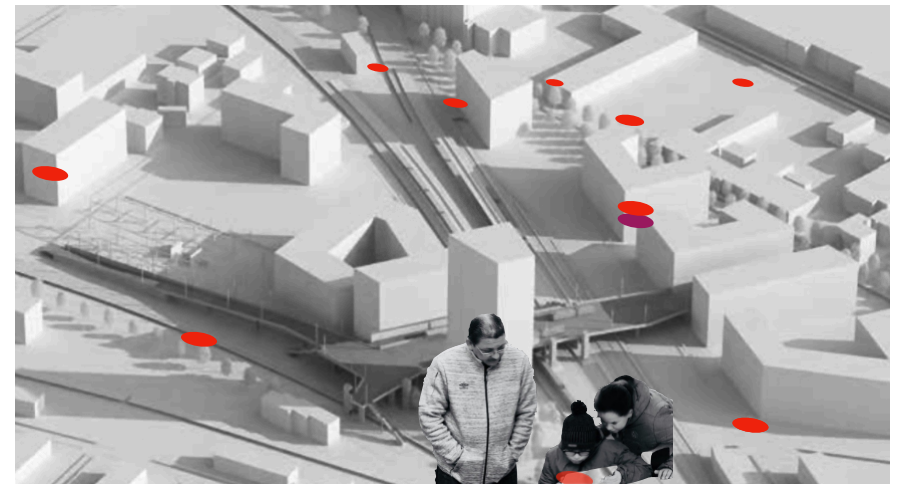
Top-down necessity: the responsibility of cities is to develop a global framework for urban transition. This top-down approach, led by municipal authorities and technical teams, defines the broader context to drive urban transition. Designing the spatial organization of uses, buildings, open spaces, and mobility corridors at this level enables informed, sustainability-driven decisions about future development.

Bottom-up value: at the local scale—a street, a public square, or a school forecourt —citizens have a direct perception of their environment. Here, bottom-up participation is concrete, as residents can visualize how changes could impact their daily lives. These are the places where the Unlimited Cities co-imagination platform is deployed and where initial bottom-up contributions are collected.

@Tapei Urban Tai-ouan

Urban Planning as a Living Process

Imagine that the vision of the city is represented by a white urban model offering numerous technical advantages for sustainability : this is the skeleton. Now imagine that this model incorporates the diversity of ideas contributed by citizens and stakeholders during the co-imagination phase: this is the flesh, and the whole thing adapts to the progress of the projects.

Sharing this vision means making urban transition everyone's concern.

Courtesy Stadt Winterthur

@Anières CH PDCom

@Quito Interlace European Union Research

From Imagination to Variations to Vote

The participatory process begins with the city's recognition that urban spaces are more than just physical settings—they are social environments where communities can envision their shared future. Through the Unlimited Cities platform, residents and stakeholders contribute with qualitative insights based on their aspirations and lived experiences.

These contributions allow Winterthur to refine its initial development vision, evolving it from a static masterplan into a dynamic set of variations. As participants engage with the complexity of these planning processes, they develop a deeper understanding of urban development.

With this new expertise, the vote is not limited to choosing between competing variations. Instead, the vote becomes an extended dialogue rooted in open innovation and collaborative intelligence. Participants can express preferences among the different variations submitted by the city with comments and suggestions—for example, endorsing one variation for its approach to active mobility but preferring another's treatment of green spaces or the integration of public facilities.

Step by Step Process
First iteration

1 Necessary Conditions *Top-Down Foundation*	**2 Collaborative Catalysis** *Bottom-Up + Top-Down*	**3 Systemic Urban Transition** *Integration and Scaling*

Sharing the Approach — **Contributory Workshops** — **Database** — **Co-imagination** — **Variations** — **Vote** — **Urban Development Framework** — **Co-funding** — **Dissemination**

Objective and resources provided by Multigination

Pre-selection of themes and locations

Pre-selection of objects

Objective and resources provided by Multigination

Contributions on new themes, locations & objects

Quadruple helix actors
Crowfunding actors
Blended finance actors
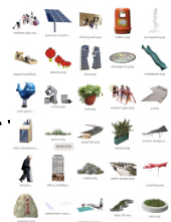
Generic and specific objects adapted to the city

Market place products and services
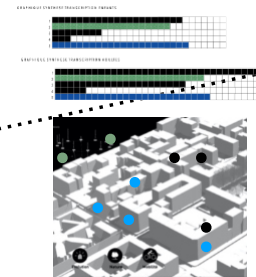
Crowfunding & Blended Finance products and services

Public imagination survey

Collage and comments

Participatory planning feedback form

Analysis of co-imagination data

Enrichment through bottom-up contributions to the overall political and technical vision for the global neighbourhood

Setting up three thematic variations with hypothesises and potentials for marketplaces, crowdfunding, and blended finance

Presentation of variations

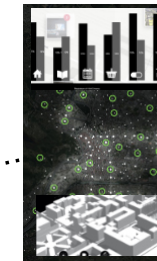Collection of votes on preferred solutions and comments on preferred thematic variations

Setting up variations 4, which incorporates contributions

A comprehensive vision enriched by contributions

Instructions for engagement for quadruple helix actors
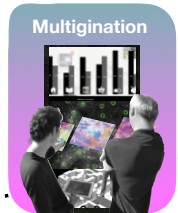
Interactions during events and asynchronous online

Pilot with evaluation

Space for marketplace companies

Space for crowdfunding projects

Space for blended finance projects

Dissemination to consortium

Dissemination to partner cities

Global dissemination

Multigination
Linear representation

Mapping Open Urbanism & Multigination

1 Necessary Conditions

Principle 1: Participation
Foster trust between political leaders, experts, and civil society, forming the initial framework for action.

Principle 2: Inclusion
Proactively reach diverse community members where everyday life unfolds.

Principle 3: Engagement
Spark the interest of all residents, ensuring that everyone feels invited into the process.

2 Collaborative catalysis

Principle 4: Empowerment
Unleash creativity and latent skills through co-imagination workshops and open digital platforms.

Principle 5: Experimentation
Encourage experimental projects driven by shared intentions and collective exploration.

Principle 6: Social Dynamics
Support the emergence of resourceful individuals and group enthusiasm within participatory activities.

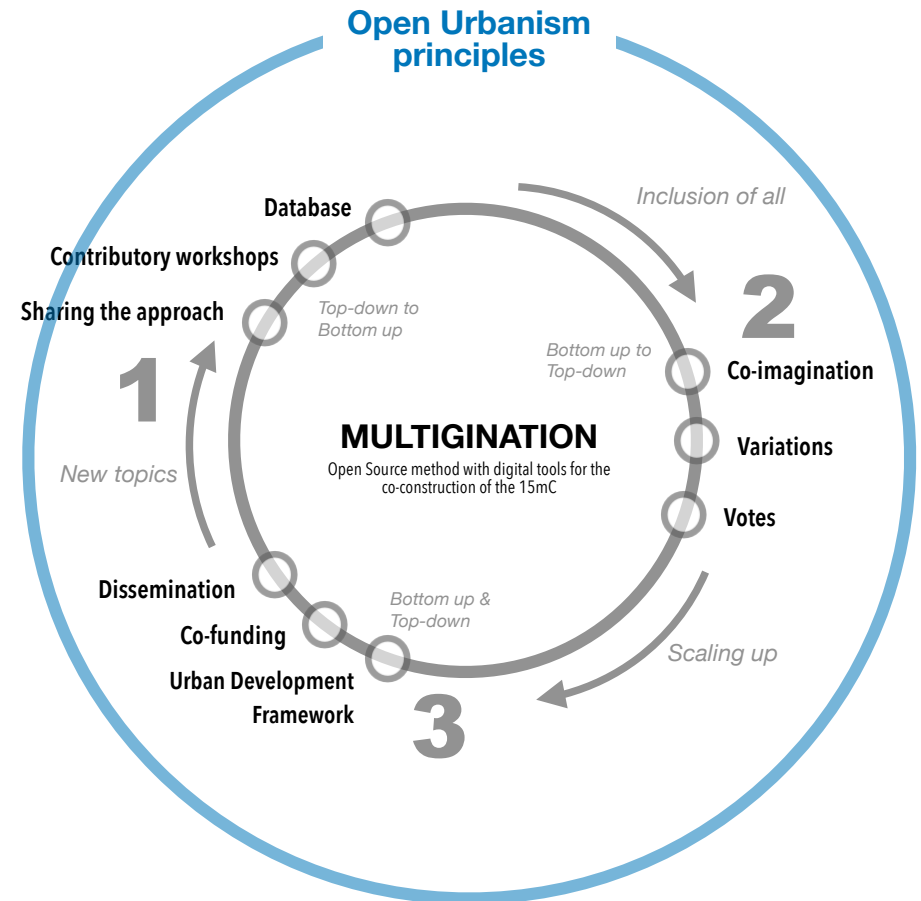## 3 Systemic urban transition

Principle 7: Resilience
Collaboratively build modular, adaptive sets of projects that evolve over time.

Principle 8: Shared Information
Establish places and digital commons to forge and interconnect informational legacies.

Principle 9: Local + Global Connection
Link impactful local actions to broader, scalable transformations.

Open Urbanism principles

Database
Contributory workshops
Sharing the approach

Top-down to Bottom up

Inclusion of all

Bottom up to Top-down

1

2

Co-imagination
Variations
Votes

MULTIGINATION
Open Source method with digital tools for the co-construction of the 15mC

New topics

Dissemination
Co-funding
Urban Development Framework

Bottom up & Top-down

3

Scaling up

Multigination
Circular representation