



Mobilizing Youth for Gender Inclusive Cities

The MAAT project, a new European initiative aimed at promoting evidence-based urban policy-making and non-formal education for and by youth. The project is focused on promoting cooperation, inclusion, equity, creativity, and innovation in city planning.

CONSORTIUM

The MAAT project is being coordinated by Università Telematica Internazionale Uninettuno (Italy), in cooperation with Citizens in Power (Cyprus), ISQe (Portugal), Helixconnect Europe (Romania), Placemaking Western Balkans (Serbia) and Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini (Italy).



Youth Policy Labs

Women experience cities differently from men (mainly due to their traditional roles caring for children, elderly relatives and the sick):

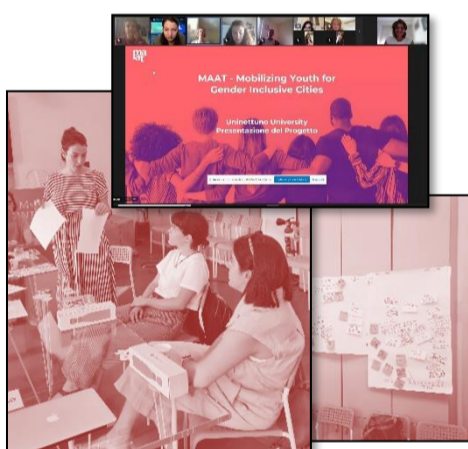
- by using childcare, health **infrastructures** and schools more than men do;
- by spending more time on **public transport** to these facilities;
- by making more stops in the **commute from work to home**;
- by being the primary targets of **sexual assaults** on public transport and streets since a very young age

and adding to all this the layers of discrimination that are added by belonging to other discriminated groups (suffering also from sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia, xenophobia, age discrimination, among others).

What are we doing about it?

Partners are in the process of implementing 20 **Youth Policy Labs** in **Rome, Belgrade, Timisoara, and Larnaka**, with the aim of engaging in meaningful discussions with youth about **urban intersectional gender discrimination** and the **biases that impact women and girls** in their respective cities. Additionally, these labs are working towards developing concrete strategies to address these pressing issues.

Check out below some of the Youth Policy Labs already organized!



UNINETTUNO Rome

In our first youth policy lab held in Rome, on the topic of **urban sexual harassment** participants pointed out that Catcalling is a specific form of harassment, not recognised as violence, and for this reason it is socially accepted. It can be: "compliments", whistles, comments on your body or your clothes, staring at you, gazing, weird looks, or a person who turns around when you pass by. It happens all the time, everyday, with no difference between day or night. It influences: women's freedom of movement, the decision of what to wear, the way of walking around the city, thinking about their day, expressing themselves, so just being themselves. Harassment and catcalling are a cultural legitimization of virility as power on women's and LGBTQIA's bodies. The participants advocated for education since kindergarten on gender differences, and training in universities and workplaces.

PWB Belgrade

On the topic of how **urban planning** is not considering women's needs, the Youth Policy Lab in Belgrade, Serbia, involved young participants from the Faculty of Landscape Design to discuss how to deal with degraded and unsafe public spaces as results of poor architectural solutions, such as unlit passages, dilapidated public transport stops, public underpasses and street pavements. Much of the current street public lighting has been labeled as unsuitable and substandard from the safety point of view, making it stressful and unpleasant for women walking, especially in the evenings. Better research providing gender-balanced data is needed. The young Lab participants expressed the current gap in relevant data of understanding women's needs and challenges in order to develop new solutions for gender-sensitive urban design practice.



HELIX CONNECT Timisoara

On the topic of **urban public infrastructures**, youth from Timisoara expressed concerns about the absence of sufficient public bathrooms and the condition of the ones that exist, the inadequacy of the public lighting system and the lack of safety in some public spaces. They suggested gender distribution of positions in the Local Council and City Hall, consultations between local authorities and women, integrated urban development strategies, increased police presence on the streets at night, menstruation vending machines, physical panic buttons in hazardous areas and provision of menstrual hygiene products in public restrooms.



CIP Protaras

On the topic of **sexual assault**, youth from Cyprus met in Protaras and expressed a major concern regarding the gap in trained personnel within the Cypriot police to effectively support victims of sexual assault and address such cases with the requisite sensitivity and expertise. This issue stood out as a central concern and highlighted the pressing need for comprehensive reforms and improvements in this critical area. They advocate for specialized police training, improved street lighting, local support groups and educational initiatives, among others.



Stay tuned to our social media!

And be the first have access to MAAT European Report on Youth Policy Labs for Gender Inclusive Cities.



<https://maatproject.eu>

Partners



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