Urban Releaf

Outlining the landscape for citizen-powered data ecosystems to support inclusive and green urban transitions

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Innovating together for just and green urban transitions

Increasing environmental stresses in urban areas.

Accentuated inequalities in access to greenspace, ecosystem services and health-related benefits.

Important data gaps to support policy for just and sustainable cities.

Public participation developing slowly and variably.

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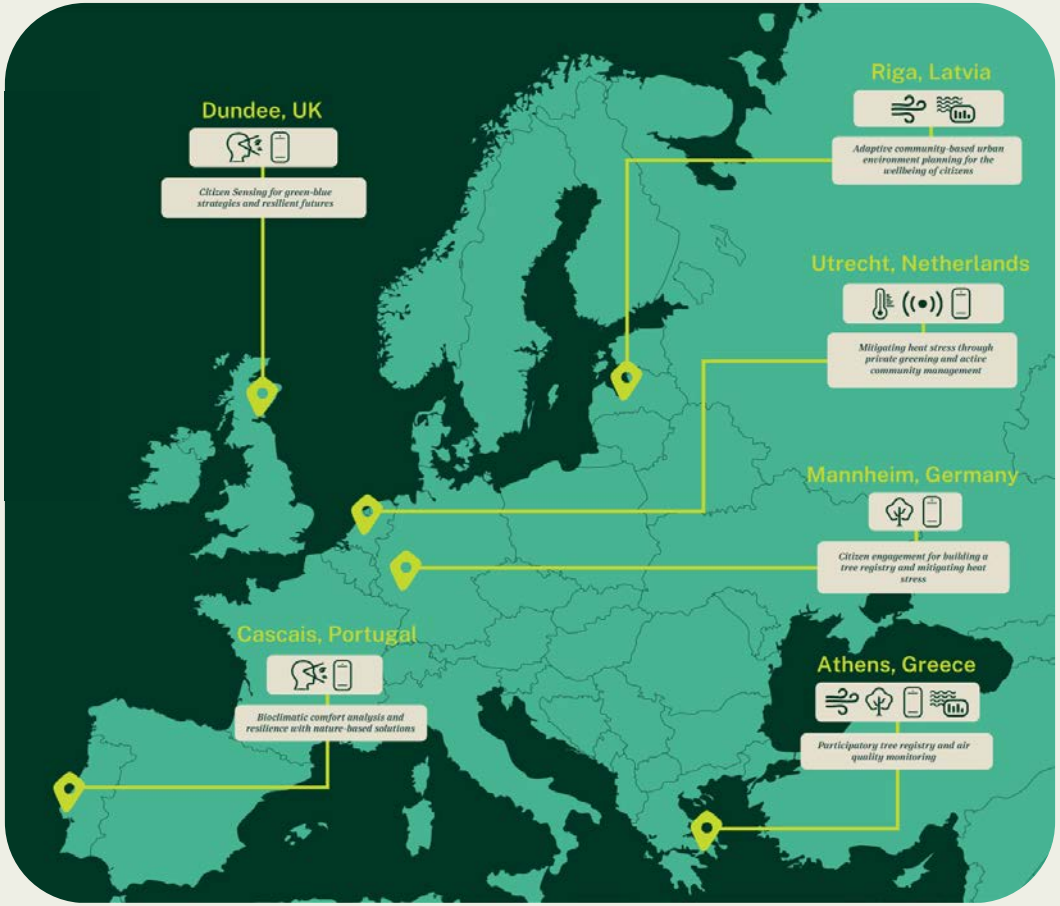


Laying the groundwork

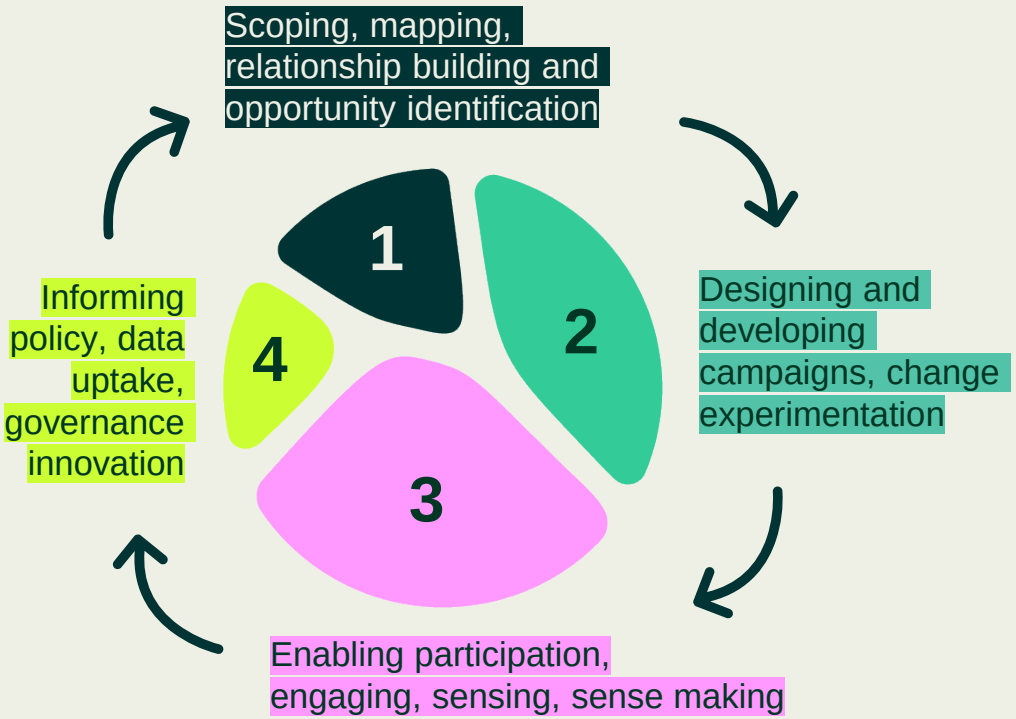
Mapping existing city-level data streams

Best-practices related to the data asset quality, ethical considerations, and level of openness, using the *ODI Data Landscape Playbook* and pyramiding method.

Capturing the urban policy landscape

Urban greening, climate change adaptation, citizen science and inclusive citizen participation by reviewing policy texts and **forging supportive relationships** by interviewing key stakeholders in city administrations.

Process framework



City authorities are partners

Joint development of **citizen observation campaigns**

Collection and uptake of citizen observations in **authoritative information systems for urban policy and planning**.

Data mapping results

Data streams

188 data sets identified within 129 data streams
Athens: 19, Cascais: 17, Dundee: 22, Mannheim: 14, Riga: 35, Utrecht: 22

Urban greenspace, air quality, temperature and relative humidity, thermal comfort, ancillary data.

<5% citizen science data

Open access

80% are open access with stark differences across cities. 48% released under CC0.

6/6 cities have developed Open Data Platforms/ Catalogues, following FAIR principles.

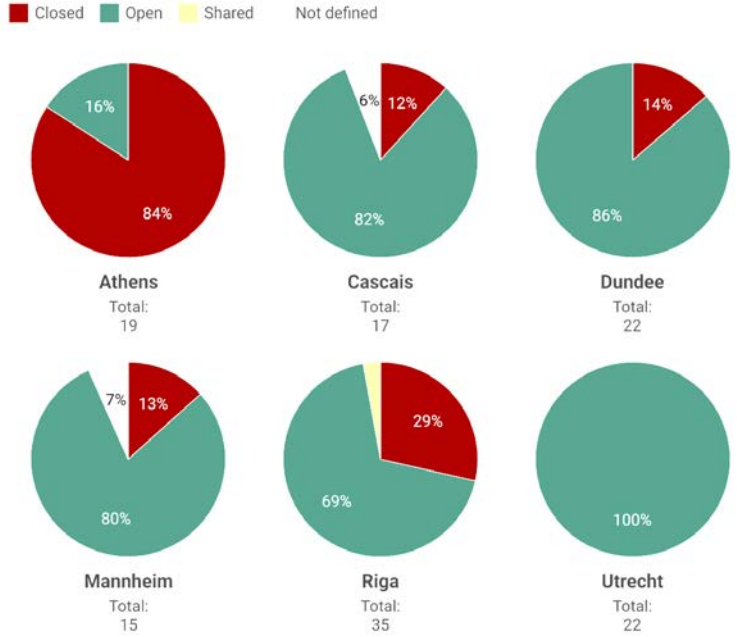
Data repositories (61%) & OGC-compliant services (28%) are used most.

Trust in data

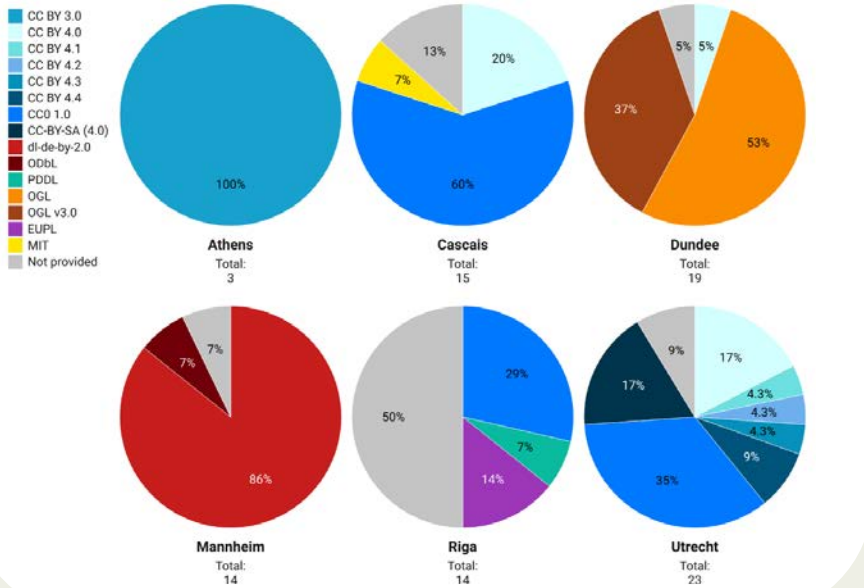
Focus on “inner trustworthiness“ of data with **transparent and verifiable data quality procedures deemed essential**.

Inner trustworthiness is highlighted for AQ and climate forecasting data.

Data mapping results



Openness of data across cities

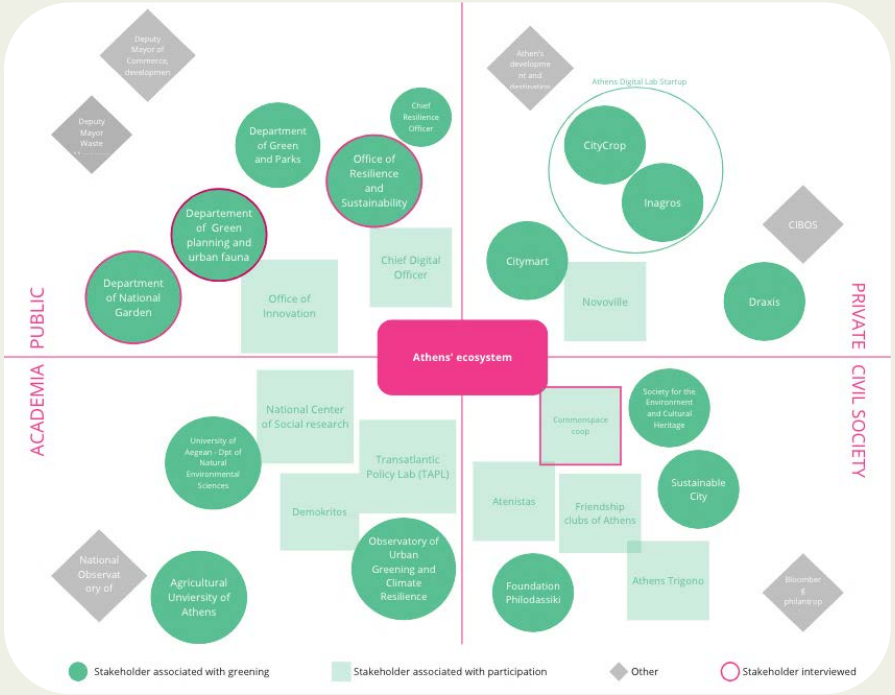


Data licenses for open data

Policy landscape analysis

- **Limited number of studies** exploring citizen participation and citizen-contributed data for inclusive urban greenspace policy.

- 28 **urban policy and strategy documents** & 35 **stakeholder interviews**
  - Situation regarding urban greening/climate and public participation (including barriers and gaps)
  - Future vision of the city
  - Envisioned role of citizens within greenspace policy and management
  - Stakeholder ecosystem
  - Existing initiatives, tools and platforms



Policy landscape results

Elaborate climate change and/or urban greening agendas in all cities.

The perceived role of citizens varies greatly across cities.

	Athens	Cascais
Perceived role of citizens	Passive agents, visitors or consumers of the city's services	Partners with an integrative role in some of the city's decision-making processes
Participation policy	None	Dedicated participatory system in place, participatory budget, with a strong inclusion component

Steppingstone activities

- Six **stakeholder workshops** (112)
- **Convergence** activity
- **Design and planning of citizen science and observation campaigns** (stakeholder and community engagement to test/validate approach)

City-led citizen science campaigns

Laying structured groundworks is important to understand context and provide framing but critical information may still be overlooked and surface only during action planning.

Public administrations are highly dynamic systems shaped by internal and political logic which may affect all stages of the collaborative process. Experiencing and understanding the in-situ policy process, actors and where potential interventions are situated is key.

Data ecosystems and data needs/gaps are not necessarily clear or well understood and creating and identifying “intelligent demands on data”* should be considered a collaborative research-policy process.

Public bodies can have **a range of underlying goals and motivations** for engaging in citizen science activities and processes.

City administrations display a **strong sense of responsibility** towards the cities’ residents while having to balance expectations and intricacies of public participation.

*) Kristen Guida, Greater London Authority, @EURESFO 2023

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Join the team!

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Today, 17:00

Urban Innovation Rally:
The Green & Just Transition Quest
Fri, 10:30-12:00, ILWA-SR 23

Marketstand
Sat, all day, Natural History Museum

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