



Enhance your neighbourhood

**The Interreg SUN project in Liège: action
research to support neighbourhood
transition in the Euregio Rhine-Meuse**

CHRISTINE RUELLE, LEMA-UNIVERSITY OF LIEGE

Workshop « The EMR as an 'Urban Lab': Researching the Euregion »

Maastricht, 29th May 2013

PLAN OF THE PRESENTATION

1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF
2. WORKING METHOD
3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT
4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION
5. CONCLUSIONS





1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

- **INTERREG IVA PROJECT (EUREGIO MEUSE- RHINE)**
- **FINANCING: 50% ERDF**
- **DURATION: 3,5 YEARS**
- **PREPARATION AND COORDINATION: LEMA-UIg**
- **5 PARTNER CITIES: Genk, Liège, Verviers, Eupen, Heerlen (each one with a pilot neighbourhood) + Aachen & Eschweiler**
- **VARIOUS PARTNER ORGANISATIONS: DuBoLimburg, COS, University Hasselt, University Maastricht, Fachhochschule Aachen, Volkshochschule Aachen, SMart, SPI, Cluster Eco-Construction**



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF



- Province de Liège
- Regio Aachen
- Deutschsprachige Gemeinschaft
- Limburg (N)
- Limburg (B)



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

PROBLEM:

SUSTAINABLE DISTRICTS ARE DEVELOPING IN ALL TOWNS AND CITIES, BUT:

- MAINLY ON GREEN LAND
- FOCUS ON THE ENERGY/ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSION
- FOR WEALTHY POPULATIONS

SO WHAT ABOUT THE EXISTING NEIGHBOURHOODS?

> GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT:

TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE
TRANSITION OF EXISTING URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

DEMONSTRATION SITES:

7 DISADVANTAGED URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS

- FORMERLY INDUSTRIAL
- ALREADY SUBJECT TO REGENERATION POLICIES
- WITH IMPORTANT REMAINING PROBLEMS : BAD IMAGE, POVERTY, LOW ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, LOW ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF PRIVATE HOUSINGS, ETC.
- WITH IMPORTANT ASSETS: STRONG ASSOCIATIVE NETWORK, URBAN LOCATION, CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY, MULTICULTURALITY, ETC.



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

COROLLARY:

WE NEED THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE DYNAMICS: PUBLIC AUTHORITIES HAVE LITTLE POWER (TRADITIONAL PUBLIC ACTION IS INEFFICIENT TO SUPPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD TRANSITION)

> HOW TO SENSIBILIZE AND ENGAGE LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ACTORS IN A TRANSITION DYNAMICS?

> MORE OPERATIONAL GOAL OF THE PROJECT:

IMAGINE NEW FORMS OF PUBLIC ACTION, NEW TOOLS AND APPROACHES, LIKELY TO ENGAGE PEOPLE IN THE TRANSITION OF THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

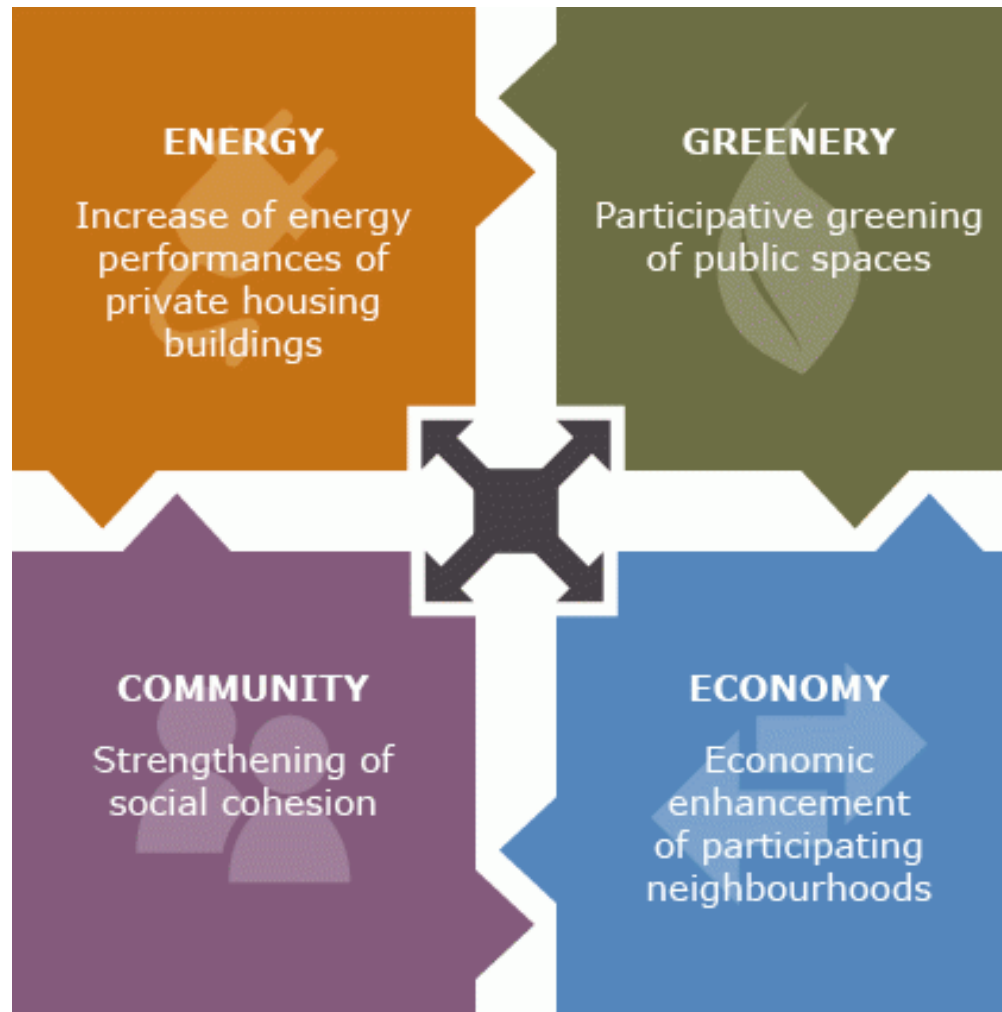
‘SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT’, ‘TRANSITION’ OF A NEIGHBOURHOOD:

- DOES NOT EVOKE SOMETHING CLEAR TO INHABITANTS
- INHABITANTS HAVE OTHER (DAILY) PROBLEMS

> DECISION TO OPERATIONALISE THE SUSTAINABILITY NOTION THROUGH 4 ACTION THEMES AND RESPECTIVE OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOODS



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

- > **MOBILISATION OF CONCEPTS THAT ARE MORE FAMILIAR AND MORE OF INTEREST FOR PEOPLE:** the energy invoice, the liveability of their neighbourhood, the ‘living together’, of still the local economy.



EACH ACTION CONCEIVED AS THE MEETING POINT BETWEEN TOP-DOWN (integration of global challenges) AND BOTTOM-UP CONSIDERATIONS (needs and wishes of inhabitants).

+ THINK TRANSVERSALLY (integrate considerations from other themes)

1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

EXAMPLE: DETAILED OBJECTIVES OF THE GREENING ACTION:

- **IMPROVE LANDSCAPE QUALITY:** liveability and neighbourhood satisfaction, image and economic attractiveness, residential attractiveness,...
- **DEVELOP THE GREEN GRID:** ecological benefits
- **FAVOUR CITIZEN GREENING:** a necessity due to high density; a way to develop social cohesion
- **DEVELOP PARTICIPATIVE GREENING PRACTICES:** stimulate and support innovation in city management



1. THE SUN PROJECT IN BRIEF

EXAMPLE: DETAILED OBJECTIVES OF THE ENERGY ACTION:

- **RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT ENERGY CHALLENGES AND INDUCE BEHAVIOUR CHANGES:** engage inhabitants in a energy renovation process; reduce the energy footprint of the neighbourhoods.
- **ACCELERATE THE ENERGY RENOVATION OF THE HOUSINGS:** reduce the energy invoice of inhabitants; improve residential attractiveness,...
- **DEVELOP INNOVATIVE ENERGY RENOVATION APPROACHES:** stimulate and support innovation in city management; generate new markets for the local renovation sector.



2. WORKING METHOD



2. WORKING METHOD

ACTION RESEARCH APPROACH:

DURING YEAR 2009:

- **CREATION OF A LOCAL « WORKING GROUP »:**
Researchers and City practitioners (official partners),
Neighbourhood committee, members of local NPOs, inhabitants,...
- **BENCHMARKING:** Brussels, Paris, Montreal,... were sources
of inspiration; but also an experience in Heusden-Zolder
inspired Liège, which in its turn inspired Eupen and Genk, and
then Verviers, etc.
- **CREATIVE DESIGN OF NEW PUBLIC ACTION DEVICES**
- **CONCRETE ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET**



2. WORKING METHOD

ACTION RESEARCH APPROACH:

DURING YEARS 2010, 2011, 2012:

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT (limited WG, several loops)



YEAR 2012:

EVALUATION => KEY LESSONS AND PERSPECTIVES



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT

“CALLS FOR GREENING PROJECTS”:

- **INSPIRED BY AN INITIATIVE OBSERVED IN BRUSSELS, BUT METHOD ADAPTED AND COMPLETED TO BETTER SUIT THE CONTEXT**
- **ADDRESSED TO CITIZENS, NPOs, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, ETC.**
- **PARTNERS AND ROLES:**
 - . University & Neighbourhood House: general follow-up
 - . City services: administrative and financial follow-up
 - . City landscape architects: technical support



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 'VEGETALIZ'ACTION':

- 1) Methodology and official rules
- 2) Communication and engagement strategy (exhibition, folder,...)
- 3) Analysis of the applications and selection
- 4) Support of the selected projects
- 5) Payment of half of the subsidies
- 6) Public call for offers for 40 underground pots (for climbing plants)
- 7) Projects' implementation
- 8) Payment of the rest of the subsidies



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT



SUN GREENERY **Liège** **SUN**

Vegetaliz'action

Ensemble, jardinons à St-Léonard!

APPEL A PROJETS COLLECTIFS
d'habitants, d'associations, de commerçants,
d'entreprises et d'écoles du quartier Saint-Léonard

Mercredi 27.01.2010
de 14.00 à 20.00 à la Brasserie Haecht:

Exposition «Les rues de St-Léonard
imaginées par ses enfants»
Informations sur les modalités pratiques
de l'opération «Végétaliz'action»

INFO
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Avec la collaboration
* du LEMMA (Lig. C. Bartholomé) au 10
* du Service Participation et Relations avec les Quartiers
de la Ville de Liège
http://www.villedeleliege.be

SUN
COORDINATION LEMMA-Lig
VILLES PARTENAIRES Liège, Werviers, Eggen, Geuk, Heerlen
ORGANISATIONS PARTENAIRES DUISBURG, Eindhoven, Eindhoven, Eindhoven
COS Limburg, Maastricht University, Universiteit Maastricht,
Fachhochschule Aachen, SPU, Smart Cluster Eco construction

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Ne pas jeter sur la voie publique !



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT









Vegetaliz'action

APPEL A PROJETS COLLECTIFS

d'habitants, d'associations, de commerçants,
d'entreprises, et d'écoles du
quartier St-Léonard

**Ensemble,
jardinons à St-Léonard!**

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Le projet SUN
www.sun-euregio.eu
Coordination
LEMA-ULg
Villes partenaires
Liège, Werviers, Eupen, Genk, Heerlen
Organisations partenaires
Eco*Hom, DuRoLimburg, COS Limburg, Maastricht
University, Universiteit Hasselt, Fachhochschule Aachen,
SPiX, Smart, Cluster Eco-construction





www.sun-euregio.eu

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“GROUP PURCHASES OF ENERGY RENOVATION SERVICES AND WORKS”:

- **INSPIRED BY AN INITIATIVE OBSERVED IN HEUSDENZOLDER BUT METHOD ADAPTED AND COMPLETED**
- **ADDRESSED TO PRIVATE OWNERS**
- **PARTNERS AND ROLES:**
 - . Local NPOs: practical organisation and communication
 - . University: methodological support
 - . City practitioners: general follow-up, communication
 - . External experts: technical support



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 'ISOL'ACTION':

- 1) Methodology
- 2) Communication and engagement strategy (stands, folder,...)
- 3) Analysis of the demands and level of interest
- 4) Call for offers to the contractors
- 5) Organisation evening sessions with participants: counselling, presentation of the selected contractors, demands for a detailed cost estimate
- 6) Choice of a contractor by the participants
- 7) Works implementation



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT



Cet hiver, nous relevons le défi !

Défi énergie

10 gestes

10% d'économie

... et vous?

COORDINATION LIÈGE-LUX
 VILLE DE LIÈGE - Liège Ville, 1900, 001
 MISE À JOUR : 2014
 ORGANISATION PARTENAIRES : DUBOURG, COOPERATIVES LIÈGE, LIÈGE 100%, FAVORISER LE LOCAL, VOISINAGE LIÈGE, SP, ANA, CANTON DE LIÈGE
WWW.SUN-EUREGIO.EU

POUR TOUT RENSEIGNEMENT:
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 Tél: 04/259 98 80
 Maison de quartier St-Léonard:
 1, Rue Lambert Grisard,
 4000 Liège



3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT






Isol'action
GRUPE D'ACHAT DE TRAVAUX D'ISOLATION
 pour les propriétaires habitants ou non-habitants du quartier St-Léonard

«En participant, j'isole mon habitation plus facilement et je fais baisser les prix!»

Pour tout renseignement:
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SUN Sustainable Urban Neighbourhoods
Fais vivre ton quartier

Le projet SUN
 www.sun-euregio.eu
 Coordination
 LEMA-ULg
 Villes partenaires
 Liège, Vorviern, Eupen, Genk, Heerlen, Aachen, Eschweiler
 Organisations partenaires
 Eco'Hom, DuBoisLimburg, CO3-Limburg, Maastricht University, Universiteit Hasselt, Fachhochschule Aachen, Volkshochschule Aachen, SPI4, Smart-Cluster Eco-construction

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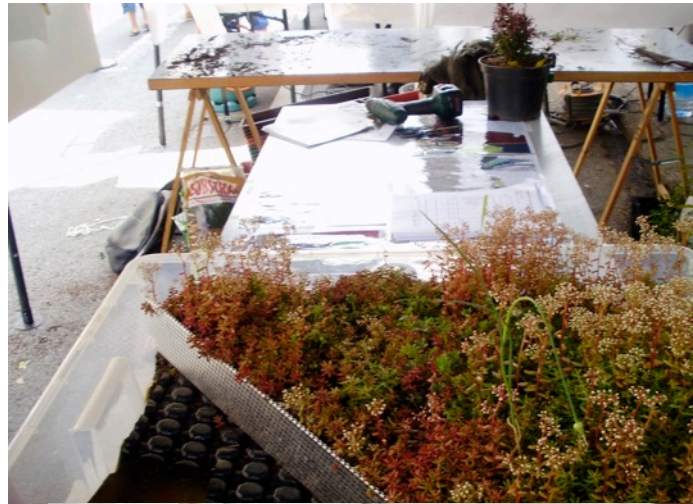


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3. DEVICES INTRODUCED BY THE SUN PROJECT



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4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION



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MANY CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE DIFFERENT NEIGHBOURHOODS: greening projects, community gardens, insulation works, local events, new shops and businesses, hundreds of people participated to some of the actions



EVALUATION OF THE DEVICES AND PROJETS THROUGH SURVEYS, INTERVIEWS AND FOCUS GROUPS:

- + Very high level of satisfaction, high demand for a continuation of the approach, feeling of pride related to the achievements, community feeling, etc.
- Slowness of the procedures, low participation of some target groups (newcomers, young people), vandalism, etc.

4. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS:

- **THE CITY-CITIZEN RELATIONSHIP EVOLVED POSITIVELY:**
many citizens surprised by the initiative / city practitioners surprised by the high level of participation
- **THE CITY-UNIVERSITY RELATIONSHIP EVOLVED THE SAME WAY IN SOME OF THE REGIONS**
- **THE CITY ADMINISTRATIVE – FINANCIAL RULES AND PROCEDURES ARE TOO COMPLEX FOR SOME ACTION APPROACHES** > Externalise the longer-term implementation and follow-up of some of the devices?



5. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES



5. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

NOT ALL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN SOLVED / MANY OTHER ISSUES AND DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABILITY TO BE TACKLED IN URBAN NEIGHBOURHOODS, GIVING ROOM FOR FUTURE RESEARCH.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Water management, waste management, soil remediation, quality and energy performance of the rental housings, mobility, short food chain,... but also enhancement of local heritage, of community cultural/artistic practices, job creation, etc.



5. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

BUT, RESEARCH ACTION:

- **RELEVANT METHODOLOGY TO TACKLE CONCRETE PROBLEMS AND DEVELOP AD-HOC SOLUTIONS**
- **ENRICHING COOPERATION WITH PRACTITIONERS**
- **MAKES THINGS REALLY HAPPEN: THE CITIES' GOVERNANCE PRACTICES EFFECTIVELY EVOLVED THANKS TO THE SUN PROJECT**
- **HIGH SATISFACTION TO SEE CONCRETE RESULTS AND MANY CITIZENS READY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE TO THE IMPROVEMENT/TRANSITION OF THEIR NEIGHBOURHOOD**



5. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES

THE EXTERNALISATION OF SOME OF THE DEVICES AND ACTIONS COULD BE AN INTERESTING AVENUE BUT RAISES IMPORTANT GOVERNANCE QUESTIONS:

- To which organisations?
- With which financing?
- Which public control?
- Which risks?





THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!





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COORDINATION

LEMA-ULg

CITY PARTNERS

Liège, Verviers, Eupen, Genk, Heerlen

ORGANISATIONS

DuBoLimburg, COS-Limburg, Eco'Hom, Maastricht University, Universiteit Hasselt, Fachhochschule Aachen, SPI +, SMart, Cluster Eco-construction

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Ministerium für Wirtschaft,
Mittelstand und Energie
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen

