



## Building a Hum–Animal Smart City in Lucca: the first scientific article from the IN-HABIT project shows the results.

**31st August 2022** - The Department of Veterinary Science and the Department of Civil and Industrial Engineering of the **University of Pisa** published its **first [scientific article](#) titled [“Between Participatory Approaches and Politics, Promoting Social Innovation in Smart Cities: Building a Hum–Animal Smart City in Lucca”](#) in the framework of the European project Horizon 2020 (IN-HABIT)**. The article, authored by Granai, G.; Borrelli, C.; Moruzzo, R.; Rovai, M.; Riccioli, F.; Mariti, C.; Bibbiani, C.; Di Iacovo, F. was published on MDPI, on 29 June 2022 and is available online, also on the project website.

In this article, there is a reflection on the first year’s results and the strengths and weaknesses of the participatory activities realised in **Lucca to co-design and co-deploy a smart city based on human–animal relationships**. Human–animal bonds, as nature-based solutions, are scientifically and practically underestimated. The interest in **social innovation and nature-based solutions** has spread in scientific articles over the last decades and they are increasingly deployed **for cities’ strategic planning**. In this scenario, participatory approaches become pivotal to engaging the population and stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Data was collected on the activities organised to implement a public–private–people partnership in **co-designing infrastructural solutions (so-called Animal Lines)** and soft nature-based solutions to be implemented in the city. In particular, the **Animal Lines consist of an inclusive path** that links the old city centre with Lucca’s suburbs and peri-urban areas.



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Along the path there will be different areas accessible to people and their pets where it will be possible to carry out activities such as animal-assisted interventions (aimed at categories of people with special needs) and sports activities with pets.

Stakeholders actively engaged in mutual discussions with great enthusiasm and the emergent ideas were copious and different while showing many connections among the various points of view: the need to improve people's knowledge of animals, develop a map showing pet-friendly services and places and the need for integration to create innovative pet services. At the same time, a deeper reflection on the relationships among the participatory activities and institutionally integrated arrangements also emerged.

**The study demonstrated that the overall designed methodology fits adequately** with the process and was favourably received by participants. The Private-Public-People Partnerships approach allowed to understand the main features and needs of the territory and to fix the most important aspects to be considered in the design of the "Animal Lines", such as the infrastructural solutions of the project.

It also managed to **bring together different stakeholders** to start discussing the main actions to be implemented in the territory. Most of the starting efforts were devoted to the external participatory process, but in the meantime, and soon after, it emerged clearly that without an internal animation and a negotiation process within the municipality, the effectiveness of the overall process could be penalised and the Private-Public-People Partnership itself could move on with difficulties and asymmetries.

For more information or to get involved, visit our website:

<https://www.inhabit-h2020.eu>



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