

## WP1 – Courtyards (patios) as eco-social builders in Córdoba

<p><b>WP Objectives</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To deliver knowledge and empirical evidence of the role of patios, as cultural and heritage places, to increase IHW and link IHW with culture and heritage.</li> <li>• To enhance cultural, labour, and healthy lifestyles opportunities for the citizens of Las Palmeras by connecting them with Axerquia (the historical centre) and the city.</li> <li>• To improve – both actual and perceived – safety, accessibility, and liveability by decreasing air temperature, noise, pollution, environmental stress both in the patios and in the central square</li> <li>• To increase visitors influx to Las Palmeras neighbourhood to visit and participate in different activities organised in the neighbourhood</li> <li>• To decrease isolation of local inhabitants in Las Palmeras, considering their protected characteristics and improving inclusion and livelihood opportunities</li> </ul>
<p><b>Problems addressed</b></p>	<p>Socioeconomic vulnerability and limited access to IHW Role of culture in promoting IHW</p>
<p><b>Main innovations</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patios and Social NBS to improve IHW in a socially deprived neighbourhood and a shelter for homeless people</li> <li>• Tested methodology to boost transformation in vulnerable contexts</li> <li>• Catalogue of innovative VIS</li> <li>• Citizen science-based strategies and technologies to enhance IHW</li> <li>• Design of an inclusive communication strategy for vulnerable contexts</li> <li>• Immersive training experience for people with Down syndrome</li> <li>• The first citizen science acoustic climate map</li> <li>• Bringing Europe R&amp;I to those who never felt part of</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why it matters?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turned a stigmatised neighbourhood and a shelter into greener, inclusive and artistic places while empowering vulnerable residents through co-design, co-deployment, co-management and co-evaluation (CO-CO-CO-CO) methods</li> <li>• Inclusive technological developments</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who benefited?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +2.000 inhabitants of a vulnerable neighbourhood</li> <li>• +100 homeless people who used the shelter</li> <li>• +30 Down syndrome persons</li> <li>• +10.000 Cordoba citizens benefited from environmental monitoring tools</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key VIS</b></p>	<p>Neighbourhood refurbishment and patio re-naturalisation (350 trees , 1.200 shrubs) and photoluminescent corridor Inclusive furniture and art street (+400m2 participatory mural) Homeless shelter: therapy garden, hot spot of biodiversity and patio of the future + low energy lighting made with voluntary work</p>
<p><b>What changed</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +1.900 m2 of green areas created or transformed</li> <li>• +3.170 vulnerable citizens involved in cultural and sport activities</li> <li>• + 90 inclusive activities</li> <li>• + 2.350 citizens involved in healthy lifestyle actions</li> <li>• +125 citizens involved in environmental monitoring</li> <li>• +570 inclusive communication actions (videos, newsletters, blogs, radio programmes...)</li> </ul>
<p><b>How we measured impact?</b></p>	<p>Mixed methods: space-use observations; surveys, interviews, focus groups; validated scales such as WHO-5/K6. Before and after comparisons with control groups.</p>

## Governance & sustainability

IN-HUB PPPP model and innovations  
 Involvement of people through the CO-CO-CO-CO methods generates feelings of ownership, appropriation and care  
 Long-term collaborations with city technical staff, businesses and citizens established

## Main lessons learnt

1. Create a steering group to drive the project, composed of authorities, researchers or facilitators, and a neighbourhood association is essential to boost inclusive governance.
2. Community activators with technical skills, contextual knowledge, and high level of social commitment create the 'social infrastructure' of IHW projects.
3. IHW projects need adaptable designs, realistic timelines and resources to work.
4. Understanding the local context and the history of previous interventions in the area are key initial steps.
5. Co-design, co-implementation, co-management, and co-evaluation methods, generate real opportunities for the community.
6. Active listening, especially with people who are most vulnerable or traditionally excluded permits mobilise local assets and knowledge.
7. The combination of tangible and intangible solutions supports both social transformation and the transformation of urban spaces, as well as the acceptance of physical actions.
8. The voluntary participation of residents genuinely interested in improving the inclusive health and wellbeing of their environment boost ownership, appropriation, care and self-esteem
9. Robust scientific methods generate useful evidence to inform decision-making and public policy.

## Replication & legacy

Methodology to transform vulnerable contexts from within + VIS factsheets published  
 Pilots and replication initiatives in Medellín, Puente Genil, and Seville

- D1.2 Innovative PPPPs and financial mechanisms for IHW in Cordoba
- D1.4 Monitoring and evaluation of VIS for IHW in Cordoba. Final report
- D1.5 Upscaling Plan of Las Palmeras Patios
- Methodology for social transformation of vulnerable neighbourhoods
- Cordoba VIS Catalogue
- Publications:
  - Cruz-Piedrahita, C., Martínez-Carranza, F.-J., & Delgado-Serrano, M. M. (2024). A Multidimensional Approach to Understanding Food Deserts in Vulnerable Contexts. *Sustainability*, 16(3), 1136. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su16031136>
  - Delgado-Serrano, M. M., Martínez-Carranza, F.-J., Piedrahita, C. C., Mac Fadden, I., & Garita, C. R. (2025). Nuevos enfoques teóricos y metodológicos para promover salud y bienestar urbanos inclusivos. *El proyecto IN-HABIT. Cuadernos de Vivienda y Urbanismo*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.11144/Javeriana.cvu18.netm>
  - Delgado-Serrano, M. M., Melichová, K., Mac Fadden, I., & Cruz-Piedrahita, C. (2024). Perception of green spaces' role in enhancing mental health and mental well-being in small and medium-sized cities. *Land Use Policy*, 139, 107087. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2024.107087>
  - Mac Fadden, I., Cocchioni, R., & Delgado-Serrano, M. M. (2024). A Co-Created Assessment Framework to Measure Inclusive Health and Wellbeing in a Vulnerable Context in the South of Europe. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 21(4), 510. Retrieved from <https://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/21/4/510>
  - Martínez, F. J., García, E. P., & Delgado-Serrano, M.-M. (2025). Metodologías participativas para la transformación de espacios públicos: el barrio de las Palmeras. *Cuadernos de Vivienda y Urbanismo*, 18. <https://doi.org/10.11144/Javeriana.cvu18.mpte>

## Resources