

WP5 – Citizen engagement, inclusive business models and PPPs to boost IHW

<p>WP Objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase citizens participation in the transformation of public spaces, especially the most vulnerable groups by means of (target and context-based) incentive mechanisms and co-design methods To increase the capacity of local city planners to establish inclusive and sustainable transformation and co-management plans of urban commons through innovative pppps To enhance the sustainability of the solutions in the medium-long term by leveraging further public-private investments, new business models and innovative financial schemes
<p>Problems addressed</p>	<p>Difference in context and topic in each city challenging the adoption of a common methodology and requiring adaptation of tools</p> <p>Breaking institutional silos and overcoming local policy rigidity</p> <p>Underrepresentation of underserved groups in entrepreneurship support systems and limited access to business capacity-building.</p> <p>Weak or fragmented pathways from early-stage ideas to ecosystem support, legitimacy and follow-on opportunities aligned with IHW objectives.</p>
<p>Main innovations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of one Framework for Engagement used from early stage to design tools, protocols and reporting templates for the IN-HUBs' activities Visualisation of the stakeholder ecosystems' evolution and their impacts during the entire process through ITPath charts. Introduction of ICAN Mindset change method with educators in schools all over the four cities Hybrid, context-sensitive incubation model combining a shared platform-based structure with local facilitation, onboarding support and ecosystem integration. Explicit linkage to VIS ecosystems through city-aligned scouting, local partnerships, and public-facing moments connected to stakeholders.
<p>Why it matters?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved capacity of LCA and stakeholders to grasp the integrated dimension of projects and co-design VIS Improved capacity of IN-HUBS to disseminate and multiply achieved results. Improve local proactive capacity through educators and children. Improves access to entrepreneurship support for underrepresented profiles and increases feasibility of IHW-oriented ventures in diverse local contexts. Strengthens the role of incubation as a VIS-enabling mechanism by embedding ventures within city ecosystems and governance pathways.
<p>Who benefited?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Community Activators and project partners improving their capacity to intervene locally and to coordinate and exchange feedback with other IN-HUBS Local communities engaged and supported in achieving understanding and ownership of the VIS deployed in their territories Educators empowered through the ICAN methods and children indirectly Entrepreneurs and teams supported through the programme across the four pilot cities, including profiles with lower digital readiness or limited prior access to business support. Local ecosystems and city stakeholders engaged through showcases, partnerships and follow-on pathways (e.g., innovation centres, municipal actors, thematic networks).
<p>What changed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comprehensive Engagement Framework adopted in 4 IN-HUBS. Local Community Activators trained.

- 4 Inclusive Transition Pathways designed and updated
- 147 Educators and students trained.
- 223 entrepreneurs and 122 mentors engaged
- Lessons learned and guidelines extracted from the ITPaths adoption.
- Strengthened cross-city comparability and traceability via IHW Objectives mapping, VIS ecosystem role definition, and VIS alignment sub-sections in city chapters.

How we measured impact?

Self assessment of LCA through the Engagement Diaries, interviews, and workshops during TPMs.

Continuous updating of Stakeholder Ecosystem maps.

- Incubation programme monitoring through platform progress, milestone completion and structured check-ins, complemented by qualitative feedback from participants and partners.

Governance & sustainability

IN-HUBs and LCAs found different levels of embeddedness in local contexts and deposited knowledge, practices and participatory procedures to varying degrees in their innovation ecosystems.

Delivery embedded through local intermediaries and ecosystem partners (e.g., universities, innovation centres, municipal actors, thematic networks) to increase legitimacy and continuity.

Main lessons learnt

1. Inclusion requires funded human infrastructure (trusted intermediaries, facilitation, follow-up), not passive open calls.
2. Ecosystem pathways must be designed from the start; ventures progress further when linked to institutions and concrete next steps.
3. Replication depends on extractability: clear structure and reusable outputs outperform longer narratives.

Replication & legacy

The incubation core is transferable across VIS contexts when accompanied by explicit adaptation rules (format, inclusion guidance, cohort management, ecosystem interfaces).

D5.3 provides replication-oriented guidance for future IHW-focused incubations in other cities and programmes.

Resources

- D5.1 Stakeholders Engagement with Gender and Diversity perspective Toolkit (revised)
- D5.2 Inclusive Transition Pathways (revised)
- D5.3_Final Report of the Inclusive Business Incubation Programme (revised)
- D5.4 Guidelines and lesson learnt from IN-HABIT Inclusive Transition Pathways (revised)
- Coproduction for Change: Participatory Tools for Inclusive Health and Wellbeing in European Small and Medium Size Cities

WP5 - T5.5 – Inclusive Business Incubation Programme

Task Objectives	Design and deliver the Inclusive Business Incubation Programme across Cordoba, Lucca, Nitra and Riga to support entrepreneurs developing IHW-oriented solutions aligned with each city VIS priorities.
Problems addressed	Underrepresentation of underserved groups in entrepreneurship support systems and limited access to business capacity-building. Weak or fragmented pathways from early-stage ideas to ecosystem support, legitimacy and follow-on opportunities aligned with IHW objectives.
Main innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hybrid, context-sensitive incubation model combining a shared platform-based structure with local facilitation, onboarding support and ecosystem integration. Explicit linkage to VIS ecosystems through city-aligned scouting, local partnerships, and public-facing moments connected to stakeholders.
Why it matters?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improves access to entrepreneurship support for underrepresented profiles and increases feasibility of IHW-oriented ventures in diverse local contexts. Strengthens the role of incubation as a VIS-enabling mechanism by embedding ventures within city ecosystems and governance pathways.
Who benefited?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurs and teams supported through the programme across the four pilot cities, including profiles with lower digital readiness or limited prior access to business support. Local ecosystems and city stakeholders engaged through showcases, partnerships and follow-on pathways (e.g., innovation centres, municipal actors, thematic networks).
What changed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 223 entrepreneurs and 122 mentors Strengthened cross-city comparability and traceability via IHW Objectives mapping, VIS ecosystem role definition, and VIS alignment sub-sections in city chapters.
How we measured impact?	Programme monitoring through platform progress, milestone completion and structured check-ins, complemented by qualitative feedback from participants and partners.
Governance & sustainability	Delivery embedded through local intermediaries and ecosystem partners (e.g., universities, innovation centres, municipal actors, thematic networks) to increase legitimacy and continuity.
Main lessons learnt	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Inclusion requires funded human infrastructure (trusted intermediaries, facilitation, follow-up), not passive open calls. Ecosystem pathways must be designed from the start; ventures progress further when linked to institutions and concrete next steps. Replication depends on extractability: clear structure and reusable outputs outperform longer narratives.
Replication & legacy	The incubation core is transferable across VIS contexts when accompanied by explicit adaptation rules (format, inclusion guidance, cohort management, ecosystem interfaces). D5.3 provides replication-oriented guidance for future IHW-focused incubations in other cities and programmes.
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D5.3_Final Report of the Inclusive Business Incubation Programme Pilot Programme - Las Palmeras Booklet of Participants (B4B) Handbook for Roma Youth Training - Slovakia