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SEFIT -Social Ecosystems for Fair and Inclusive Transitions



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Introduction

In this report, we present the outcomes and insights derived from the Field Workshops held in November in Torino and Cork, the project's designated cities.

The primary objective of these sessions was to assess the present status of the twin transition, with a specific focus on active projects and initiatives. This analysis was conducted through direct engagement with **citizens, third-sector entities, civil society representatives, and public administration** officials.

Throughout November, three Field Workshops were convened in each target city, totaling six meetings overall. These workshops were meticulously crafted to be participatory, inclusive, and informative, with the aim of garnering a holistic understanding of the twin transition dynamics within their respective communities. The diverse array of participants, including local citizens, third-sector representatives, and public administration officials, contributed to a nuanced and comprehensive perspective on the twin transition in both cities.

Employing various participatory methodologies such as brainstorming sessions, roundtable discussions, and structured interviews, these workshops enabled the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data, providing an in-depth comprehension of the **local reality surrounding the twin transition**.

Setting the Stage for the Twin Transition in Turin and Cork and the Role of Local Actors and the Community

The imperative to address environmental challenges, alongside the pursuit of enhanced economic and social sustainability, lies at the heart of discussions and initiatives undertaken at the local level. The workshops conducted within the framework of this project offered a distinctive opportunity to delve into concrete initiatives essential for steering the city towards economic and sustainable development.

From this perspective, workshops engaged experts from civil society, third-sector organizations, and representatives from public administration to garner a more comprehensive understanding of the diverse dynamics within the territory.

The general question posed during the workshops - *"What specific initiatives or projects do you consider crucial to facilitate the twin transition at the urban level in Turin, thereby improving its economic and social sustainability? What fundamental role can local actors and the community play in this process?"* - sparked in-depth discussions, unveiling innovative and pragmatic proposals.



Chapter 1 | Context and the Need for Turin and Cork in the Twin Transition

Torino and Cork presently grapple with intricate **challenges**, navigating a delicate equilibrium between urban development and the imperative to preserve the environment and enhance social well-being. Torino's urban landscape tells a tale of fascinating duality, intertwining historical echoes of industrialization with the convergence of cutting-edge technological frontiers, forming a distinctive panorama. Here, **environmental** challenges, such as air pollution and carbon emissions, coexist alongside promising opportunities for **technological innovations and sustainable experiments**.

Similarly, Cork unfolds a parallel narrative as the city confronts the need to **harmonize its urban expansion** with environmental preservation and societal welfare enhancement. Its cityscape mirrors a dynamic interplay of historical industrial elements and contemporary aspirations for sustainable progress. Challenges like environmental sustainability and **community well-being** echo across these cities, underscoring the shared urgency to strike a delicate equilibrium.

Both Torino and Cork find themselves at a **critical juncture**, necessitating a reimagining of their development trajectories. Drawing insights from Torino's industrial history and acknowledging Cork's unique contextual factors, these cities are poised to embrace new models that not only stimulate economic growth but also positively impact the environment and the well-being of their communities. The significance of a sustainable transition is underscored by the **collective aspiration** to sustain economic vitality while safeguarding the high quality of life for residents in both urban landscapes.

Chapter 2 | Workshop Outcomes: Concrete Initiatives for the Twin Transition in Turin and Cork

During the discussion sessions, key initiatives and specific projects have emerged that can contribute significantly to the urban transformation of Turin and Cork:

- ***Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Projects***

Workshop participants identified projects to develop renewable energy sources, including the installation of solar plants and the promotion of **energy efficiency in historic buildings**. These initiatives aim not only to **reduce environmental impact but also to create new economic opportunities**. It has become apparent that, aligning with European development plans and policies pursued by other cities, focusing on the installation of photovoltaic systems, promotion of sustainable mobility, and energy retrofitting of buildings is essential. The implementation of these projects can contribute in various ways to the cities' economies, such as creating new jobs and establishing a new international positioning.



- ***Sustainable Mobility and Urban Planning***

Emphasis has been placed on promoting **sustainable mobility** in both cities, with proposals to develop infrastructure for public transportation, bike lanes, and car-sharing services. Urban planning has received attention to ensure harmonious and sustainable development through various approaches, including actively involving the community in the planning of sustainable mobility infrastructure, integrating transport planning with overall urban planning, and collaborating with the private sector to develop and manage sustainable mobility services. Investments in intelligent technologies for traffic management, data collection, and route planning, as well as educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of sustainable mobility, are also crucial. Attention to sustainable and harmonious planning is essential to ensure that sustainable mobility initiatives are effectively integrated into the urban fabric, **leading to cities that are more livable, equitable, and environmentally sustainable in the long term.**

- ***Smart Wasting***

Participants have proposed projects for more efficient and **sustainable waste management** in both cities, utilizing innovative technologies for recycling and actively **involving the community in waste reduction**. Ideas include implementing **smart waste sorting systems** with technologies such as sensors in containers to monitor and optimize waste collection, organizing workshops or events to teach people to reuse recyclable materials, promoting domestic and community composting, conducting awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of waste **reduction and recycling**, and introducing recycling infrastructure in public parks.

- ***The Growth of the Circular Economy***

The concept of the **circular economy** has emerged as an integral part of the transition in both cities. Local stakeholders have discussed projects to **promote responsible resource use, recycling, and the reuse** of materials to reduce environmental impact. Ideas include **integrating circular economy principles into urban planning**, incorporating resource recovery systems into renewable energy production facilities, incentivizing the extension of the lifespan of products through maintenance programs, updates, and repairs, and using blockchain technology to trace the lifecycle of products from production to recycling.

- ***Partnership for Innovation***

The establishment of **partnerships among the public sector, the third sector, and private enterprises has been recognized as a crucial element** for the realization of these projects in both cities. Local stakeholders have proposed collaboration mechanisms to leverage available resources and expertise, combining the creation of appropriate public policies with community engagement for a comprehensive and lasting ecological and digital transition within cities.



- **Active Community Involvement**

A key element that emerged is the direct involvement of the community in both Turin and Cork. Proposals for **educational programs, awareness initiatives, and public consultations** have been put forward to ensure that decisions truly reflect the needs and expectations of the local population. Several ways of community and citizen inclusion within transition processes have emerged, including engaging the community through awareness campaigns, allowing the community to participate in urban planning and decisions regarding sustainable development, collecting feedback and opinions from the community on specific ecological transition projects, and collaborating with local associations, interest groups, and non-profit organizations active in the environmental sphere. The key is to **create a sense of belonging and responsibility** within the community so that residents are not only informed about environmental challenges but also feel involved and motivated to be part of the solution.

Conclusions | Prospects for Sustainable and Resilient Cities

The workshops conducted in Turin and Cork represented pivotal moments in shaping a shared vision for these cities, with a specific focus on **the twin transition and its intricate intersection with economic and social sustainability**. Through a meticulous analysis of the urban contexts and profound discussions on concrete initiatives, a resounding consensus emerged on the urgent need for a transformation guided by a sustainable imprint.

The proposed initiatives, spanning renewable energy, sustainable mobility, and waste management, showcase the enthusiasm and innovation of local stakeholders. This not only signifies a tangible commitment to shaping greener and more inclusive futures for both Turin and Cork but also underscores the necessity for thoughtful, long-term planning.

However, the successful implementation of these initiatives hinges on continuous and synergistic collaboration among local stakeholders, encompassing the public and private sectors, communities, and academic institutions. The recommendations formulated for public policies stand as a fundamental step, ensuring that the regulatory framework actively promotes the adoption of sustainable practices and encourages the necessary investments. A perpetual **dialogue between policymakers and the community** will prove essential to adapt and refine these policies, ensuring their responsiveness to emerging needs and the evolving dynamics of the twin transition in both cities. In essence, the journey toward sustainable urban development in Turin and Cork requires persistent commitment, shared responsibility, and adaptive governance structures to bring about meaningful and lasting change.





