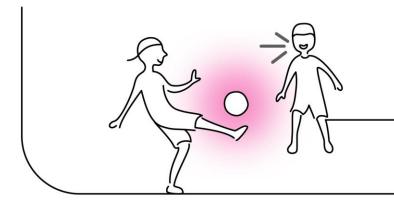


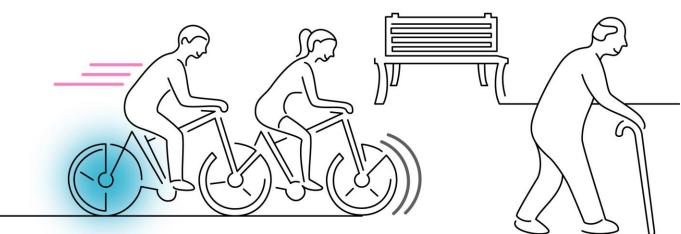
## Project S.T.E.P.S. Shared Time Enhances People Solidarity

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# **Municipality of Verona (Italy)**

11 October 2022 Chiara Maccacaro





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European Union European Regional Development Fund

Verona





- European initiative U.I.A. Urban Innovative Actions: urban challenges topic of demographic change; test of innovative, measurable and transferable solutions;
- the S.T.E.P.S. project and the key issue of "loneliness" (consequence of the demographic change ageing of the population, low birth rate, increase in single-person households, etc.);
- ✓ area of interest: the 3rd District of the Municipality of Verona (approx 60.000 inhabitants and 13 neighbourhoods);
- ✓ Municipality of Verona + 7 local partners;
- ✓ 3 dimensions combined: physical (spaces: places of encounter), human (relationships: the core of the project), digital (to facilitate the relationships and the connection between physical and human dimensions)





#### **STUDY OF THE PHENOMENON**

Creation of a statistical index - LoLix Levels of Loneliness Index:

- analysis of key aspects of the quality of life and potential causes of loneliness (economic, socio-relational, psycho-physical dimensions),
- demographic characteristics of the 3rd district,
- quantitative survey on a sample population (long questionnaire),
- treatment + control groups,
- tool to measure the project impact (M&E),
- in the long term (short questionnaire): useful to policy makers to have a frame of wellbeing/malaise of the community and make more targetted, effective and sustainable decisions.





**TERRITORIAL SYSTEM** to tackle the multiple causes of loneliness:

1) **INFORMAL SPACES**, places of intergenerational dynamics, of social integration and relations between peers/ neighbours, where people can exchange time/ resources/ competences, deliver informal services/ initiatives, organize events

- STEPSpoint: public spaces, social, economic and welfare hub with different profiles and free-access offers (e.g. Community bank, FabRepair Cafe, general services - job, financial, bureaucratic issues, etc.),
- declining open/ closed places in the neighbourhood to be restored (practices of urban regeneration + self-building) as anchor points of new sociality/economy,
- ground floor and common areas in big residential complexes (public/ private),
- 2 investments to redevelop public properties.





2) <u>INFORMAL SERVICES</u>, informal socio-economic and welfare offers to support the traditional welfare system, to prevent/ cure the multiple causes of loneliness and affect different aspects of life:

- housing and shared condominium services (social porter, condominium caregivers, etc.),
- community development: neighbourhood, social, family, intergenerational relations,
- sustainability of living: family budget management, working conditions, job hunting, support for start-ups/ new businesses, practices of circular economy (exchange of time/ assets/ competences, recycling, etc.),
- work-life balance: families with care burdens,
- shared and sustainable mobility.





### MAIN PROJECT CHALLENGES:

- the 'hidden' loneliness (resistance of the lonely people, vicious circle, etc.)
- indifference, lack of sensitiveness of the contemporary society,
- community participation, empowerment, networking,
- engagement in virtuous behaviours/habits,

## ... AND EFFORTS:

- the 'itinerant' approach,
- the 'sharing' dimension,
- transfer of capacities, self-governance, sustainability of the project's outputs (spaces/ services),
- groups of leading citizens/ entities to ensure the project continuity.





<u>**THE PARTNERSHIP</u>** (expertises: public institution, research & development, socioeconomic entrepreneurship, community development)</u>

- Municipality of Verona (leading partner)
- University of Verona
- Social Cooperative ARIBANDUS
- Social Cooperative CAUTO
- Social Cooperative Energie Sociali
- Social Cooperative MAG Mutua per l'Autogestione
- Consortium SOL.CO. Verona
- Social Enterprise Verona Fablab





#### **CONTACTS**

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