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Walkscapes: Survey Report - ITALY

1. Basic Report Information

- 1.1. Partner Organisation: **Laboratorio Urbano di Prossimità**
- 1.2. Period of research: **June - September 2022**
- 1.3. Number of questionnaires collected: **15**
- 1.4. Reporting date: **01.11.2022**

2. Survey research methodology

The goal of this survey was threefold. It aimed at:

1. Providing a general overview of self-perceived citizens' knowledge on Urban Regeneration;
2. Defining how much citizens value communities' and residents' involvement into local actions of Urban Regeneration
3. Collecting suggestions on how local governmental institutions, universities and schools should act to increase citizens' engagement and knowledge on Urban Regeneration actions in their areas.

The survey questions were categorized into three sections:

- Socio-demographic information;
- Knowledge about Urban Regeneration;
- Citizens' involvement in public interventions of Urban Regeneration.

Socio demographic information consisted of **4 questions**;

Knowledge about Urban Regeneration consisted of **5 questions**;

Citizens' involvement in public interventions of Urban Regeneration consisted of **20 questions**.

The survey was compiled in three languages: Italian, English and Lithuanian. It was distributed both by hand and through "Google Forms".

In Italy, a total of 15 people answered the questions between June and September 2022. Most answers were collected through printed questionnaires during the 5 days workshop titled "**Walkscape – Torrente Parma**", which took place in Parma, between the **13th and the 17th of June, 2022**. A total of 3 answers were received through Google form.



3. Survey research results

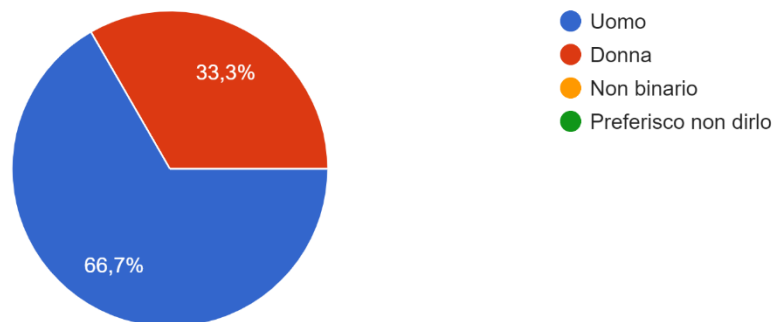
3.1. *Socio-demographic information*

The *socio-demographic questions* aimed to verify respondents' background, to better understand how socio-demographic categories are related to their knowledge on urban regeneration and opinions concerning citizens' involvement in urban regeneration action. The sample is not representative of the population of Parma and has no particular statistical value, as it is quite small. Nonetheless, it shows, albeit preliminary, a considerable interest on the part of young people in the topic of urban regeneration.

3.1.1 Gender distribution

Genere

15 risposte



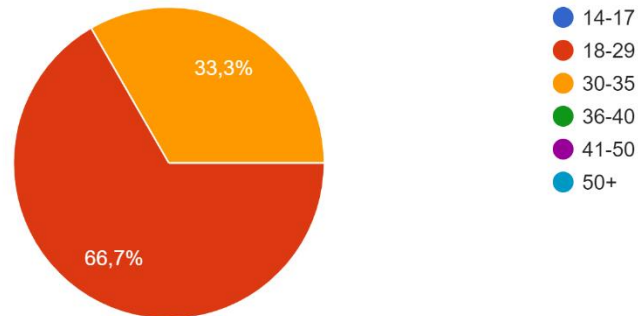
The pie chart above illustrates the gender distribution of survey respondents. There is a prevalence of male respondents (10 out of 15 – 66.7%). 5 respondents were female (33.3%).



3.1.2 Age Distribution

Fascia di età

15 risposte

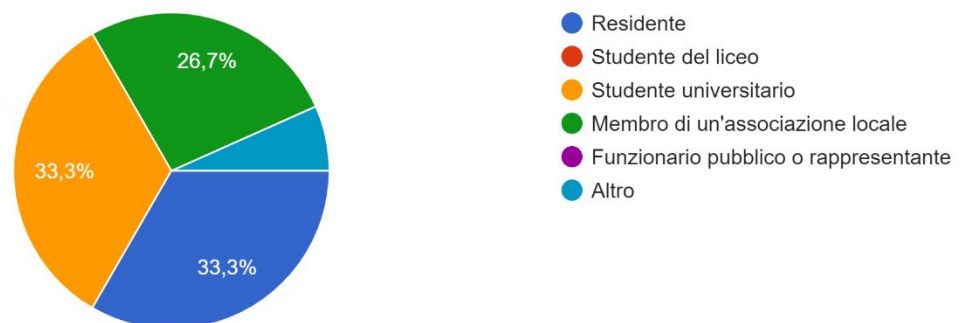


Concerning age, all respondents were young. Most of them (10 out of 15 – 66.7%) fall within the age range between 18 and 29 years. The remaining 5 out of 15 (33.3%) are between 30 and 35 years old.

3.1.3 Which of the following categories do you belong to?

Quale delle seguenti categorie ti descrive meglio?

15 risposte



The pie chart above describes how respondents perceive themselves as a social category. With the exception of one respondent, who answered “Other” and categorized himself as “Teacher”, all the other participants described themselves either as “Resident” (33.3%), “University student” (33.3%) or “Member of a local association” (26.7%). The choice of these categories is quite consistent with age range of the respondents.



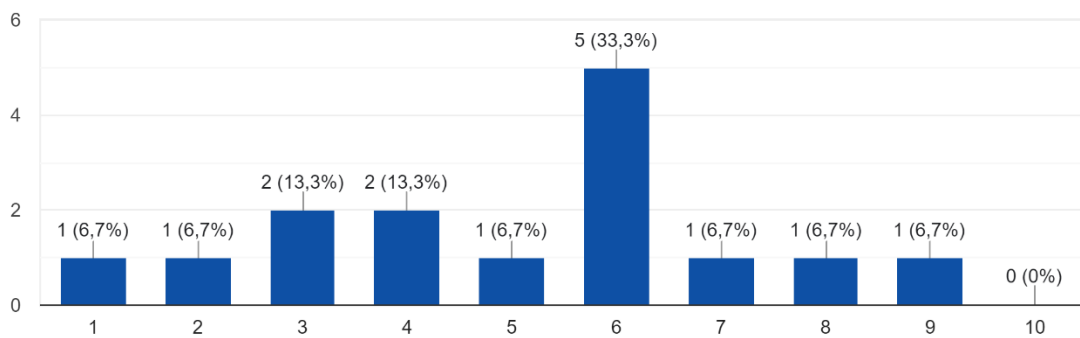
3.2 Knowledge about Urban Regeneration

This section of the survey aimed to elaborate a picture of respondents’ self-perceived knowledge and opinions on urban regeneration. Questions ask about the level of knowledge and specific examples of urban regeneration respondents took part in or know about.

3.2.1 Self-perceived knowledge on urban regeneration

Per favore, valuta il tuo livello di conoscenza sulla pianificazione urbana sostenibile. (Scegli 1 per indicare “per niente informato” e 10 per indicare “molto informato”)

15 risposte



The graph above presents how much respondents feel knowledgeable on urban regeneration. To assess this variable, it has been adopted a scale from 1 to 10, in which 1 means “no knowledge at all”, while 10 means “very informed”.

There is an almost even distribution between those who feel competent on the topic (8 people who answered 6 or above) and those who have little or no knowledge on urban regeneration (7 people who answered 5 or below). The most selected answer was 6 (5 - 33.3% of respondents), showing a mild recognition of knowledge.

3.2.2 Urban regeneration objectives

This was an open question, phrased in the following way: “What are in your opinion the objectives that Urban Regeneration should serve?”. Answers were pretty consistent. Most respondents posited particular attention to the conscious exploitation of communal spaces for the sake of citizens’ need. Specifically, many participants mentioned the objective of strengthening a sense of identity through the creation of new spaces for sociality accessible to all.

A response that proposed three objectives is particularly interesting., as it overlap urban, social and cultural values. We quote verbatim: "1. Redevelop degraded or undervalued neighborhoods or areas; 2. Create awareness of the culture inherent in certain places; 3. Provide opportunities for social redemption to those at risk of exclusion".

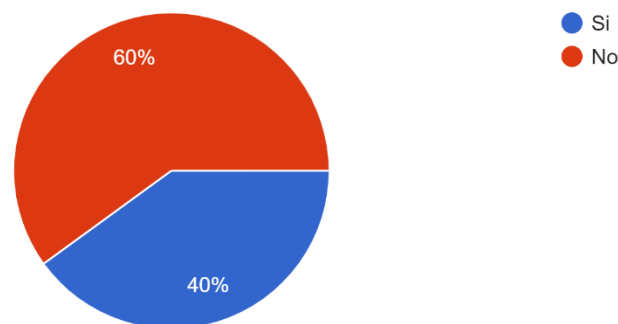


There are also answers that refer to the sustainable exploitation of public spaces and the creation of green areas, but they appear marginal in comparison to the great attention that our respondents paid to sociality.

3.2.3 Urban Regeneration actions

Conosci qualche pratica o esempio di rigenerazione urbana nella tua città?

15 risposte



The pie chart above shows that 60% of the respondents know about or took part in the implementation of urban regeneration initiatives in their city. This data is in line with the one concerning self-perceived knowledge as, in fact, around half of the respondents claimed to have some knowledge of urban regeneration. The examples they reported include the establishment of green areas, the refurbishment of degraded buildings transformed in social places, and the refurbishment of Parma train station.

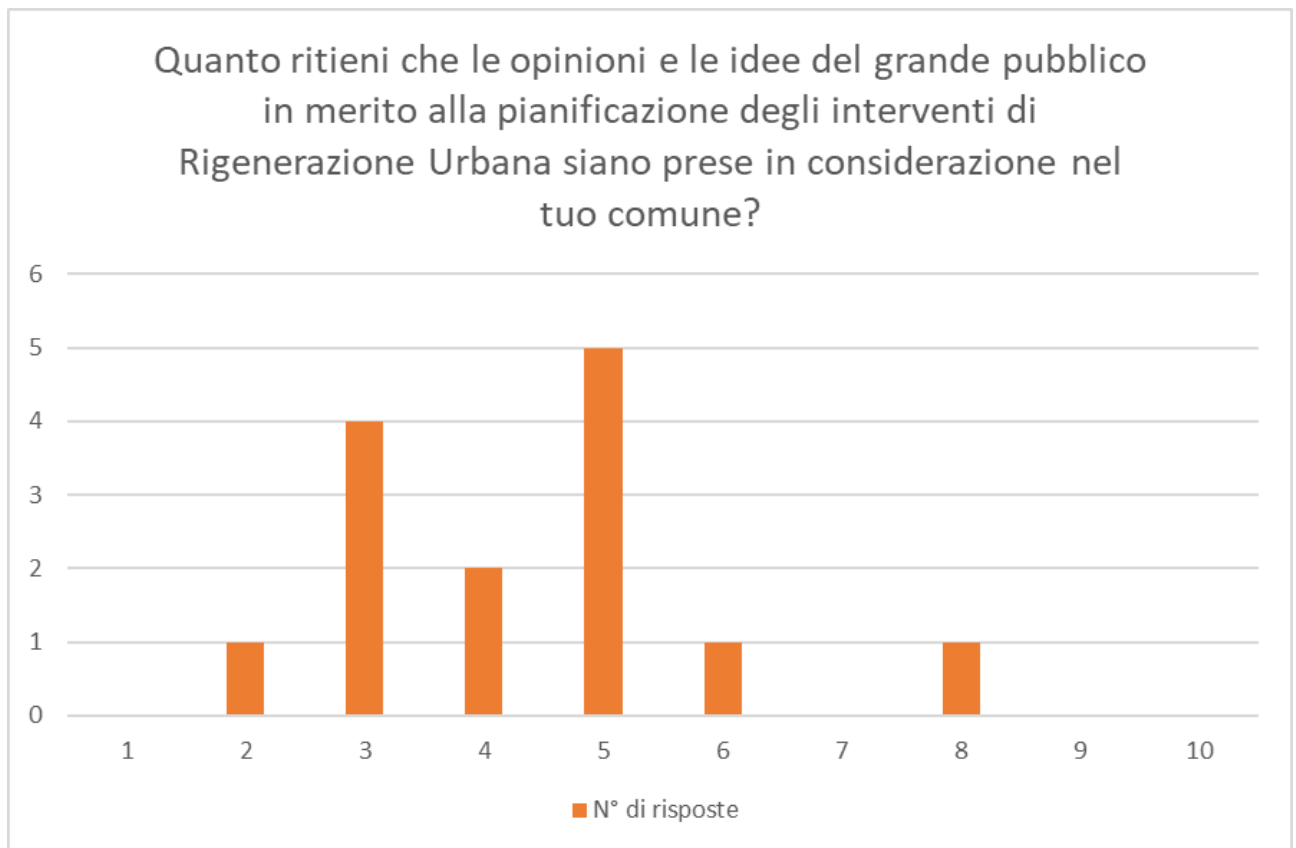
3.3 Citizens' involvement in public interventions of Urban Regeneration

This section is the most extensive of the questionnaire, as it touches on one of the pivotal topics of the project: citizens' and local communities' participation in public interventions of urban regeneration. In fact, the purpose of all the initiatives carried out within the project "Walkscapes: Urban Regeneration Through Education" is to provide tools to increase citizens' participation in local urban actions.

In general, the majority of the respondents claimed that citizens are not consulted enough by the public authorities when it comes to urban interventions and all of them think that their involvement should be an integral part of urban regeneration actions.

3.3.1 How much public's opinion are considered by public authorities

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The graph above illustrates how respondents perceive how much the opinions of the general public are listened to by their municipality. What emerges from this image is that the majority of respondents believe that the municipality does not sufficiently consider the opinions of its citizens. This data has been reported on a scale from 1 to 10, in which 1 means “not at all” and 10 “very much”. A total of 11 responses (73.3%) indicated a score of 5 or below, with the great majority (5) assigning a score of 5. Only two answers go above this threshold.

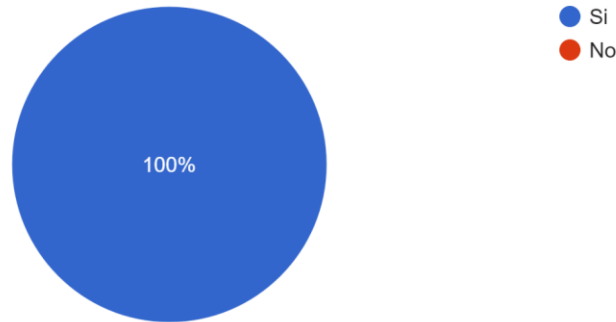
3.3.2 Citizens’ initiatives in urban action

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I gruppi di cittadini dovrebbero poter avanzare proposte dirette di interventi urbani al comune e avere diritto a una risposta?

15 risposte

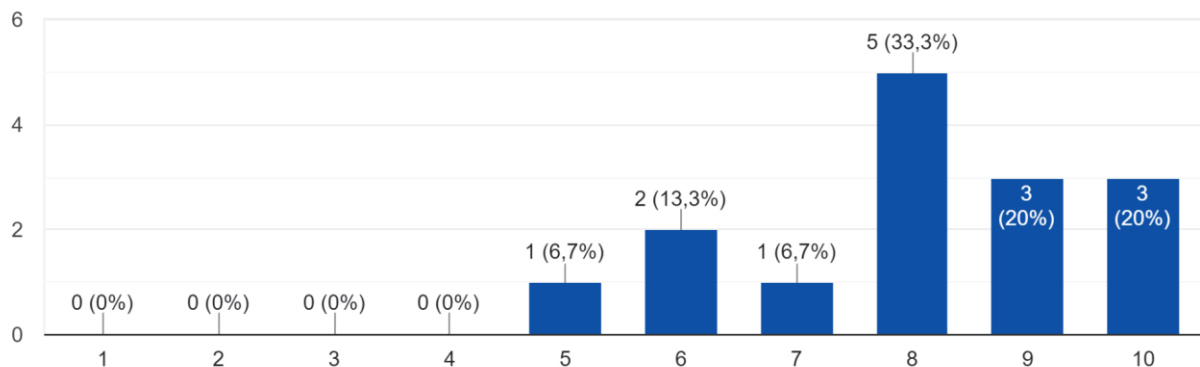


The pie chart above is self-explanatory. All the respondents agree that citizens should be made able to propose new initiatives of urban actions.

3.3.3 The importance of citizens' involvement in urban actions

Quanto consideri importante l'opinione di residenti e cittadini nella pianificazione di nuovi interventi urbani?

15 risposte



Most respondents consider crucial the involvement of residents and citizens in new urban regeneration actions. 14 respondents assigned a score from 6 and above. Only one respondent assigned a score of 5. Following this question, respondents were asked to express what would be the best way for the municipality to involve citizens into urban regeneration actions. Most of them declared that the local institutions should organize roundtables with local associations, citizens and communities. Other interesting proposals include:



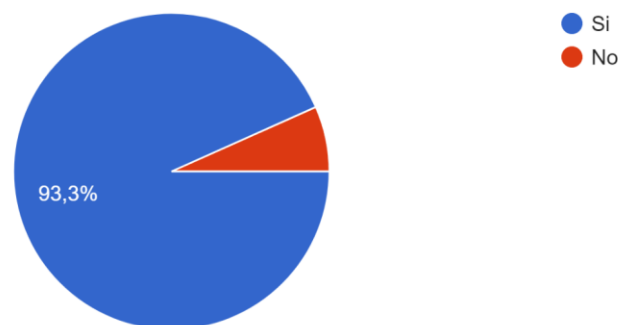
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1. the establishment of participatory actions;
2. involvement on a census basis;
3. surveys;
4. contests and projects.

3.3.4 Citizens' involvement in the management of public spaces

Ritieni che i cittadini debbano svolgere un ruolo attivo nella gestione dello spazio pubblico che utilizzano nella loro vita quotidiana? (es. parchi pubblici, piazze, centri di aggregazione, ecc.)

15 risposte



14 out of 15 respondents declared that citizens should be directly involved in the management of public spaces. The respondent that answered no, better explained its choice, stating that *“citizens should have the possibility to directly intervene in the public spaces of their interest, but local authorities should be responsible for their management”*.

3.3.5 How to make citizens intervene in public spaces

This was an open question directly related to the previous one and phrased in the following way: *“if you answered ‘Yes’ to the previous question, how do you think citizens could become more engaged in the management of public spaces?”*

Below, we report some the most interesting answers:

“Trying to involve volunteers, especially young people, encouraging them with prizes or benefits for participating in the activities”

“1. Knowing its history, value and importance; 2. Ensuring that the individual truly feels an active part of the community and identifies himself as the “owner” of those places”

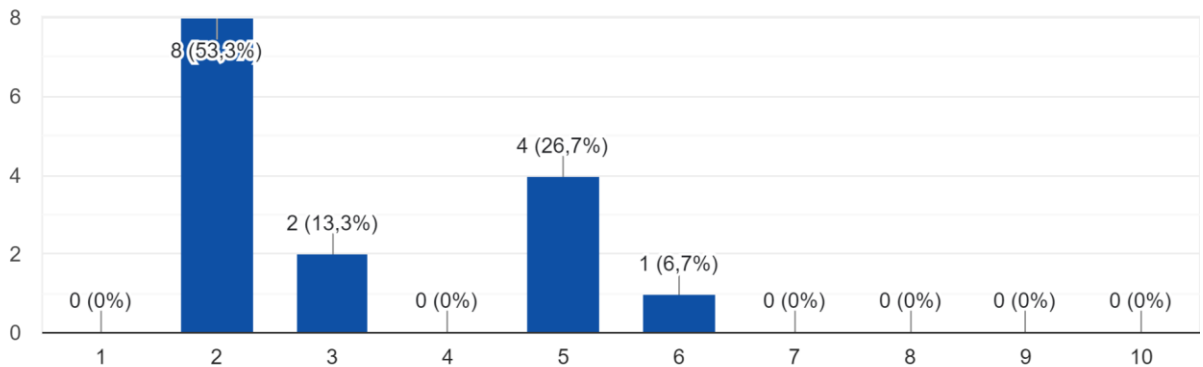
“By communicating more, certainly; creating a more efficient and structured network between schools, clubs, municipality and associations; creating channels of dialogue between different generations to listen to everyone's voices; encouraging volunteering aimed at taking care of the city”



3.3.6 Consideration of youth's opinions on urban regeneration

Quanto consideri che le opinioni e le idee della popolazione giovane [14 – 25 anni] vengono prese in considerazione dal tuo comune nella pianificazione degli interventi di Rigenerazione Urbana?

15 risposte

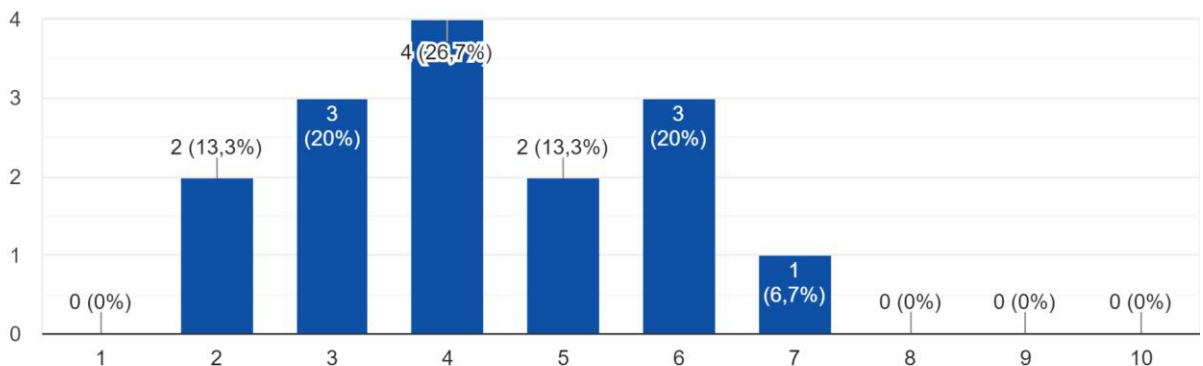


The goal of this question was to understand respondents' perceptions in regards to how much young citizens' (14-25 years old) opinions are listened to by local institutions. The results are quite clear: the vast majority (14 out of 15) think that public institutions either ignore or listen poorly to youth's demands. Only one respondent assigned a score of 6 to this question, claiming that sometimes youth's opinions are taken into consideration.

3.3.7 Availability of public spaces dedicated to youth

Quanto ritieni che il tuo comune presti abbastanza attenzione alla qualità degli spazi pubblici a disposizione dei giovani e al loro accesso ad essi?

15 risposte





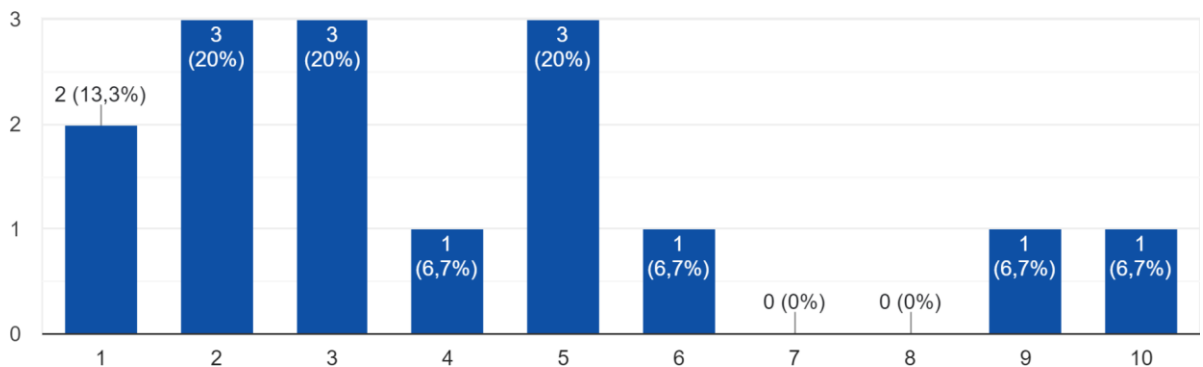
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As regards the attention of local institutions to public spaces dedicated to young people, the majority of respondents find this insufficient. In fact, 11 of 15 participants assigned a score equal to or lower than 5. The remaining 4 consider the attention of local institutions on this issue sufficient (3 assigned a score of 6, only one respondent assigned a 7).

3.3.8 Education on sustainability in schools

Quanto dei Curricula obbligatori degli studenti nelle scuole [6 - 18 anni] considerereste dedicati ai temi della vita sostenibile nelle città, inclusi temi ...biamenti climatici, la rigenerazione urbana e simili?

15 risposte



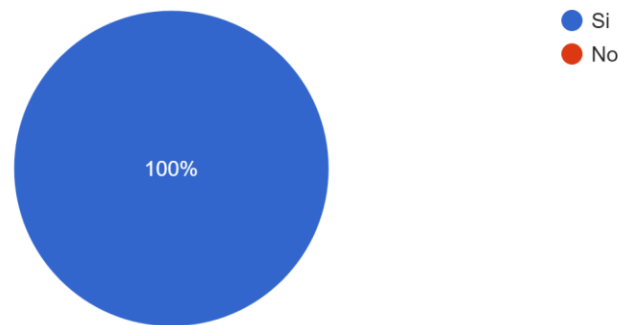
The next question asked participants for their opinion on the space dedicated in school curricula to the topic of environmental sustainability. Also in this case, the majority of respondents (12 of 15) find that the environmental issue is not adequately addressed in schools. One user assigned a score of 6, considering it sufficient, while 2 respondents believed that the topic is addressed more than adequately in schools, assigning in their response a score of 9 and 10 respectively.



3.3.9 High school and university students should be involved in urban regeneration actions?

Credi che gli studenti delle scuole superiori e universitari debbano avere voce in capitolo nella gestione e nel rinnovamento degli spazi urbani che circondano le istituzioni che frequentano?

15 risposte



The pie chart above illustrates respondents' opinion on whether high school and university students should be involved in decisions concerning urban regeneration action. All respondents seemed to agree on the fact that students should be questioned on the use of urban spaces.

3.3.10 How to help students contribute to the use of public spaces

The subsequent question asked to expand on the precedent one, by asking respondents to provide some examples on how to allow students to participate in the co-creation of urban spaces. Answers varied: some proposed the mediation of local associations, some asked for the adoption of incentives (participation to surveys through university credits, coupons, etc.), others asked for a more capillary use of social media.

3.3.11 Spaces that need redevelopment

Here respondents were asked to name 3 places of Parma that, according to them, needed redevelopment. The following 5 places have been named the most:

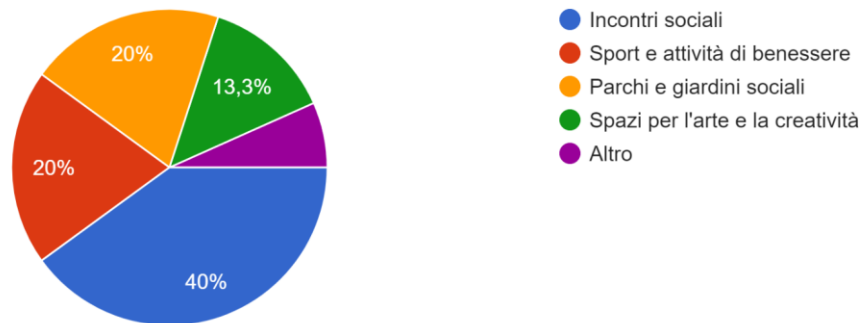
- Ex-bormioli factory
- North Bridge
- Paradigna street
- San Leonardo street
- Bixio street

3.3.12 Urban regeneration priorities in your city



Quali sono, secondo te, le priorità nella tua città riguardo alle nuove funzioni che la rigenerazione urbana potrebbe apportare agli spazi pubblici non sfruttati?

15 risposte



Finally, participants were asked to express an opinion on the priority objectives that urban regeneration interventions should pursue in their city. The graph above clearly illustrates that the most important priority is the creation of spaces for sociability, followed by:

- Sport and wellness
- Green areas
- Spaces for art and creativity.

One respondent answered other and specified the following:

“It would be nice to have a space dedicated to education on ecological issues. Just as physical education exists, the creation of spaces for ecological education should be promoted.”

4. Conclusions

Although preliminary, the results of this questionnaire are quite clear. Citizens believe that local institutions do not pay enough attention to their opinions in the redevelopment of urban spaces. In particular, young people strongly perceive the absence of spaces dedicated to them and which offer opportunities for socializing. The young users have many clear ideas regarding the spaces to be redeveloped and have also expressed interesting suggestions on how the municipality could involve citizens more in urban regeneration activities.