

USING CITIZENS' KNOWLEDGE TO PLAN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENTS TAILORED TO RESIDENTS' NEEDS.

Quartiersplang project: The year of the 24 neighborhoods -
City of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

1. DESCRIPTION

The City of Luxembourg has developed Quartierspläng (neighborhood plans) for each of its 24 neighborhoods—including the historic center—in collaboration with residents, associations, merchants, and unions. The participatory approach, rooted in the vision of the "15-minute city," mobilized more than 4,000 citizens and generated more than 3,500 concrete proposals. The plans, particularly for historic neighborhoods, enhance public spaces and meeting places to improve quality of life and community living.

2. CONTEXT THAT MOTIVATED THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRACTICE

The last planning exercises—in 2004 and 2014—were based on technical approaches with little citizen involvement or incorporating broad objectives. In line with the prevailing trend of collective intelligence, the city adopted this planning approach, which allows for more local interventions rooted in the daily lives of residents.

3. APPROACH / METHOD

The city developed the project in three phases:

1. Listening and mobilization phase (2024): Citizen surveys, participatory walks (Apéri'tours), direct exchanges between elected officials, municipal services, and residents, with a variety of participation formats—drawings, sketches, photos, maps, "quick questions"—to diversify modes of expression and promote inclusion for all.
2. Analysis and prioritization phase (2025): Processing of citizen proposals with technical services and political leaders.
3. Feedback and activation phase (May–October 2025): Public presentation of plans and launch of concrete actions in neighborhoods.



Photo taken from exchanges with citizens



Photo taken from Apéri'tours

4. EXPECTED AND IMMEDIATE EFFECTS

- The participatory approach has strengthened the bond of trust between the City and its residents through direct and informal dialogue.
- The exercise has strengthened interdepartmental collaboration within the City.
- The neighborhood plans included a redefinition of public spaces to include non-traditional meeting places: trails, bike paths, forests, gardens, etc.
- Based on the neighborhood plans, the city is committed to create an "outdoor activities plan", carrying out joint projects with residents to redevelop public spaces and study potential sites for the creation of places that promote social interaction.

5. KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The approach enhances the habitability of the historic center by drawing on the knowledge and expertise of residents to create more appropriate planning tools.
- Accessibility and proximity to public spaces and meeting places are essential for the habitability of historic neighborhoods.
- Engaging citizens in designing their living environment helps to better understand their needs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<https://www.vdl.lu/en>

