

Living Lab as a Service: Developing Context Induced, Co-creational Innovation Routines as a Process Tool for Nature Based Solutions

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Abstract : Climate change and environmental degradation are existential threats requiring urgent transnational action. The SDGs, as well as regional initiatives like the European Green Deal, as ambitious as they are, put an emphasis on innovatively tackling threats posed by climate change regionally. While co-creational approaches are being propagated, there is no reference blueprint for how potential solutions, particularly nature-based solutions, may be developed and implemented within urban-settings. Using a single case study in Zagreb, Croatia, this paper proposes a workshop-tool for a Living Lab as a Service model for sustainable Nature-Based-Thinking, Nature-Centred-Design and Nature based solutions. The approach is based on a co-creational methodology developed through literature synthesis, expert interviews, focus group discussions, surveys and synthesized through rigorous research analysis and participatory observation. The ensuing tool involves workshop-processes, tested with through-the-process identified stakeholders with distinctive roles and functions. The resulting framework proposes a Nature-Based-Centred-Thinking process tool involving 'green' routines supported by a focal unit and a collaborative network, and that allows for the development of nature-based solutions.

Keywords : living labs, nature-based solutions, nature-based design, innovation processes, innovation routines and tools

Conference Title : ICTI 2024 : International Conference on Technology and Innovation

Conference Location : Cancun, Mexico

Conference Dates : April 04-05, 2024