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The Urban Lab of Europe !

The Co-City Project Zoom-in N°3

Project led by the City of Turin



**URBAN
POVERTY**



The Turin Co-City project

Co-City - The collaborative management of urban commons to counteract poverty and socio-spatial polarization

The Co-City project pursued the transformation of unused and underused city assets and vacant land into hubs of neighborhoods residents' participation in order to foster community spirit as well as the creation of social and solidarity-driven urban regeneration activities contributing to the reduction urban poverty in economically distressed areas of the city. It did so by implementing "pacts of collaboration" introduced on January 25th, 2016 by an *ad hoc* carved piece of forward-looking urban legislation, the "Regulation on the collaboration between citizens and the administration for the care, shared management and regeneration of the urban commons" no 375/2016 (hereinafter also the "old Turin Regulation"). On December 2nd, 2019 the City Council approved the "Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons" no 301/2019 (hereinafter: the "new Turin Regulation") which came into effect on January 16th, 2020 and superseded the old Turin Regulation.

The first "pacts of collaboration" signed pursuant to the old Turin Regulation between inhabitants, associations, civil society organizations and city departments in most of the cases focused on the civic maintenance of public spaces or on the civic reuse of abandoned urban spaces and building units. These assets became new social infrastructure triggering forms of commons-based urban welfare aimed at promoting social mixing and the cohesion of local community, transforming residents into actors of urban development while the local authority acts as a facilitator or broker of an innovation process already ongoing in the urban context.

The use of innovative ICT platforms, such as the urban social network First Life under development by the University of Turin, and the active collaboration of the network of the Neighborhood Houses (Case del Quartiere) contributed to combine the virtual and physical dimension, involving different types of users in the central areas of the city as well as in the suburbs in this wide action of urban regeneration to fight poverty and social exclusion.

The regeneration of abandoned or underused spaces in different areas of the city aimed at contributing to the creation of new jobs in the social economy sector through the possible establishment of entrepreneurial activities leveraging residents' participation triggered and facilitated by the city of Turin together with the network of the Neighborhoods Houses.

The definition and implementation of the 46 pacts of collaboration implemented under the auspices of UIA Co-City project improved the quality of the participation of residents in different parts of the city, fostering and increasing the involvement of city inhabitants towards a more inclusive and cohesive city, developed new skills in community actors and the city government itself, ultimately leading to rethink the regulation and administrative system supporting this experimentation by updating the Regulation .

The content of this zoom in does not reflect the official opinion of the Urban Innovative Actions Initiative. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the journal lies entirely with the author.

Partnership:

- Comune di Torino – City of Turin.
- Università degli Studi di Torino - University
- Fondazione Cascina Roccafranca – NGO
- ANCI - Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani - National Association of Italian Cities

For further information:

Co-City UIA website: <https://uia-initiative.eu/en/uia-cities/turin>.

Co-City Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cocitytorino/>; @cocitytorino

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Co-City Medium: <https://medium.com/@cocitytorino>.

Co-City 1st journal: [https://uia-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2018-03/Turin_CO-City_UIAExpertJournal1\(Jan2018\).pdf](https://uia-initiative.eu/sites/default/files/2018-03/Turin_CO-City_UIAExpertJournal1(Jan2018).pdf)

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Introduction

Building on the experience developed under and lessons learned from the UIA Co-City project, the City of Turin has worked on updating version of its already forward-looking regulatory framework on the urban commons. On May 14th, 2019, the Turin City Government proposed a new text to the City Council, which has been officially approved on December 2nd, 2019. The “Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons” no 301/2019 (hereinafter: the “new Turin Regulation”) came into effect on January 16th, 2020 and superseded the previous one, the “Regulation on the collaboration between citizens and the administration for the care, collective management and regeneration of the urban commons” no 375/2016 (hereinafter: the “old Turin Regulation”).

The new text was produced through the joint effort and close collaboration of several Departments of the City of Turin and the University of Turin, coordinated by the law scholars Ugo Mattei and Roberto Cavallo Perin. Three years after the approval of the first version inspired by the Bologna model, the City of Turin draw a picture of critical issues and identified room for improvement. This dramatically needed update was built on the experience developed by the City through the pacts’ co-design phase (initiated pursuant to articles 9 and 10 of the old Regulation) and was triggered also by a dialogue (managed by ANCI and facilitated by the UIA expert Christian Iaione) with Italian and EU institutions, as well as other cities and urban programs or projects that are adopting the co-governance of the urban commons approach¹.

A first necessity that emerged from the implementation of the old Turin Regulation was the need for the City to work on some procedural aspects providing more clarity and administrative streamlining, thus improving the effectiveness and efficiency of public action. The new Turin Regulation, therefore, represents the answer to the need of providing effectiveness to an administrative, cultural and legal process initiated by Turin to enable effective urban commons co-governance. On one hand, the new Turin regulation responds to and resolves the critical issues and difficulties encountered in the recent years in the application of the old Turin Regulation thanks, above all, to the experimentation of this instrument via the UIA Co-City project. On the other hand, it adds new forms of co-governance experimented by other cities such as Naples², alongside previously foreseen forms of shared governance such as the “pacts of collaboration”.

This third zoom-in is a reader explaining the key concepts and mechanisms of Turin’s new Regulation for the Urban Commons. It will go through its four Titles and it will describe the main features of the new regulatory framework, which has only been published in Italian for the moment³. It intends to serve as a guide for experts as much as for legal novices reading the regulation, as it highlights key changes and innovation provided by the new Turin regulation. A useful source of inspiration for the reader was the “*Manuale di diritto dei beni comuni urbani*” (i.e. “*Handbook of Urban Commons Law*”), edited by the legal researchers Rocco Albanese and Elisa Michelazzo, members of the research unit of the University of Turin. The handbook discusses the issues emerged in the process of crafting of the new Turin Regulation and offers a comment of all the articles of the new Turin Regulation

¹ In particular the redrafting process was kick-started by a nation-wide seminar held in January 2018 with professors of administrative law, judges from the Council of State and the Court of Auditors co-designed and co-organized by the UIA expert Christian Iaione and ANCI. The proceedings of the seminar are published in P. Chirulli, C. Iaione, *La Co-Città*, Jovene, Naples, 2018.

² See the UrbAct Civic eState project <https://urbact.eu/urban-commons-civic-estate>.

³ See the text available at http://www.comune.torino.it/benicomuni/bm~doc/governo-dei-bcu_391.pdf

contextualizing it within the Italian legal framework and addressing its most controversial legal challenges, including liabilities, risks, relationship with antitrust law. The handbook in Italian is available [here](#).

1. General provisions

The first Title provides the general provisions, defines the core principles, and identifies civic subjects, which represent legal categories as well as key theoretical institutions for the urban commons.

The regulation defines the different types of interventions on the urban commons, whether it is care, regeneration and management depending on the continuity of the intervention, and the forms of co-governance they might take. It recognizes the figure of civic subjects, superseding the previous terminology “active citizens” with a new definition more neutral and inclusive of the subjects gathered around the care and regeneration of urban commons, and setting the framework for their involvement. The definition of the community of reference as the main element of aggregation of civic subjects is a novelty of the regulation, providing a key concept for the self-organization of urban actors for the governance of the urban commons. Moreover, a major importance is given to informal communities and the democratic ways in which they organize themselves and designate representatives.

It also introduces the civic deal as a general legal concept that includes all the acts that regulate the legal relations between the Public Administration and civic subjects and the modalities of activation of the various forms of urban commons governance. This general category designates any type of experience of collaboration for the urban commons, both shared government and the three tools for self-government developed in the third Title (i.e. Civic and Collective Urban Use; Civic Collective Management; Urban Commons Foundation).

The general principles detailed in the regulation ensure inclusivity and democratic access to the urban commons. Mutual trust and transparency must govern the relationships between the public administration and the civic subjects, whose collaboration is characterized by its long-term value through an awareness and commitment to sustainability and ecological regeneration. Another key principle of the regulation is shared training, considered as a common social good, to spread values and culture of the urban commons. All values and principles developed must be respected at every stage of the urban commons process.

The first Title of the regulation foresees the creation of two related institutions for the urban commons. On one hand, the Register of the Guarantors gathers experts and inhabitants with proven experience and/or sensitivity towards the urban commons. On the other hand, the Permanent Council of urban commons is a mixed body composed of eleven members from the Register of Guarantors appointed by the City Council every three years. The Permanent Council has key consultative and arbitrary functions over disputes arising during the implementation phase of the civic deals or in the selection of proposals. It represents a bridge between the community of reference and the City Council. The Permanent Council contributes to Self-governance Charters, promotes public debates and constitutes a venue for permanent discussion on urban commons co-governance. It also has a role in

the evaluation of the activity and results of urban commons co-governance. Anyone can address the Permanent Council to protect or safeguard an urban commons. Hence, this body has a general duty to promote urban commons and conciliate interested parties around them.

The new Turin Regulation disciplines two types of urban commons co-governance: (i) shared governance and (ii) self-governance. Each of these two forms foresees specific legal tools that can be adopted to institutionalize the forms of collective action generated by the actors involved.

These institutions are excellent examples of what Ackerman⁴ defines as co-governance cases. The Regulation therefore disciplines differently the forms of shared governance and the forms of self-governance that are able to generate polycentrism, meaning to create a multiplicity of formally independent centres of decision⁵, gathering a plurality of urban actors (the community, local businesses, knowledge institutions, and civil society organizations) managing the commons together with public institutions⁶, as a very advanced layer of co-governance. The concept of co-governance adopted here draws on the literature on the commons, the urban commons and the modes of governance and regulatory approaches⁷ that allow the activation of collective action and the institutionalization of sustainable⁸ governance arrangements. It is based on the research on Common Pool Resources⁹, and on Open/Productive/Knowledge/Constructed, Infrastructure Commons and the peer-to-peer production mechanism developed by Carol Rose¹⁰, Yochai Benkler¹¹ Elinor Ostrom and Charlotte Hess¹², Michael Madison, Katherine Strandburg and¹³ Brett Frischmann¹⁴. Finally, Tine de Moor who suggests to consider the commons starting from a triple dimension: the resource system; the collective property regime; the interaction between resource and users, constituting a Common Pool Institution¹⁵. The application of these theories to the urban commons led to the definition of a set of design principles for the institutional design and governance of urban commons institutions that is able to scale-up to the city level and therefore constitute a City as a Commons or Co-City¹⁶. These kind of co-governance institutions seems to embody what Fung calls “accountable autonomy”: “the role of central power shifts fundamentally from that of directing local units (in the previous hierarchical system) to that of *supporting* local units in their own problem-solving endeavors and *holding them accountable* to the norms of deliberation and achievement of demanding but feasible public outcomes¹⁷”. The Regulation supports a conceptualization of co-governance that does not entail only a relationship between the public authority and the private sector but also various combinations of

⁴ J. Ackerman, Co-Governance for Accountability: Beyond “Exit” and “Voice”, *World Development*, 32(3), (2004) at 455.

⁵ E. Ostrom, *Beyond markets and states: polycentric governance of complex economic systems*, American Economic Association, vol. 100, no 3, June 2010

⁶ Iaione, F. C., & Paola, C. *The collaborative and polycentric governance of the urban and local commons* (2015).

⁷ M. Finck & S. Ranchordis, *Sharing and the City*, 49 *Vanderbilt Journal of Transnational Law*, 1299 (2016).

⁸ Craig Antony Arnold, *Resilient Cities and Adaptive Law*, 50 *Idaho Law Review*, 245, 246-47 (2014).

⁹ E. Ostrom, *Governing the Commons* (Cambridge University Press, 1990).

¹⁰ C. Rose, “The comedy of the commons”, in *The University of Chicago Law review*, Vol. 53, (1986) pp. 711-781.

¹¹ Y. Benkler, “Open access and information commons”, in Francesco Parisi (ed.), *Oxford Handbook of Law and Economics: Private and Commercial Law*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016); Y. Benkler, “Commons and Growth: The Essential Role of Open Commons in Market Economies” in *Chicago Law Review*, vol. 80 (2013) pp. 1499-1595.

¹² E. Ostrom & C. Hess, *Understanding knowledge as a commons*, (MIT Press, Boston 2007).

¹³ M.J., Madison Strandburg K.J., Frischmann B.F. (2016), “Knowledge commons”, in *Research Handbook on the Economics of Intellectual Property Law* (Vol. II – Analytical Methods), Menell P. & Schwartz D. (eds. 2016) Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham.

¹⁴ B. Frischmann, *Infrastructures: the social value of shared resources* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

¹⁵ T. De Moor, *What Do We Have in Common? A Comparative Framework for Old and New Literature on the Commons*, 57 *International Review of Social History*, 269 (2012).

¹⁶ Foster, Sheila and Iaione, Christian, *The City as a Commons*, 34 *Yale L. & Pol’y Rev.* 281 (2016). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2653084> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2653084>

¹⁷ Anchor Fung, *Accountable autonomy: toward empowered deliberation in Chicago schools and policing*, *Politics and Society*, 29 (1) (2001), at 87.

modes of governance, including a relationship with private actors, in the pursuit of the general interest¹⁸.

The new Turin Regulation frames all legal tools within the legal category of the civic deal as a tool to institutionalize and recognize a plurality of legal solutions recognizing or granting rights of use, management, stewardship and ownership therefore implementing the general principle of civic or collective autonomy.

2. Shared governance of urban commons: the pact of collaboration

The second Title regulates shared governance, providing administrative streamlining of procedures describing them step by step. The legal tool defined in the new Turin Regulation to implement shared governance is still the pact of collaboration. The pact defines a collaboration between the City and one or more civic actors. Its content depends on the complexity of the collaboration and its duration. In other words, the pact must define among other things the goals, duration or possible causes for suspension, modalities for adaptation or adjustment, modes of collective use, co-governance tools, responsibilities and consequences in case of damage or failure, documenting, monitoring and evaluation measures.

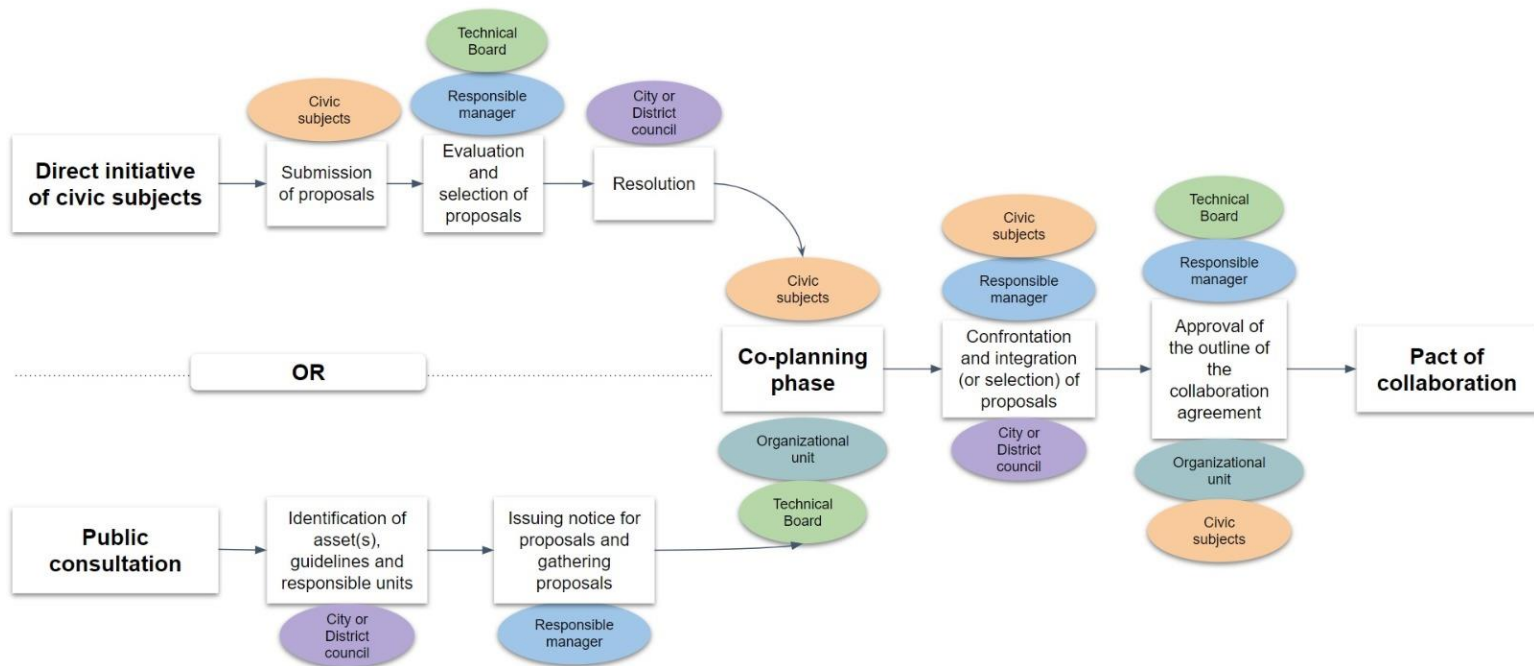
The procedures are detailed both for city initiative (implying a public consultation process) and for direct initiative from civic subjects. The second and third Title of the regulation establishes the areas and limits of collaboration for co-governance. The collaboration which aims at the regeneration, care, and management of urban commons, must be ensured at all phases of the civic deal, and the pact defines its methods. The general provisions of the regulation include the creation of a Technical Board in charge of evaluating the proposals, in particular their feasibility and compliance with the regulation's principles. A mechanism of selection is proposed when multiple proposals are presented for the same urban commons. If the proposals cannot be integrated or coordinated, the City council (or competent District council) shall choose a proposal, after consulting the Permanent Council of urban commons.

Whether the initiative comes from the local public administration or the civic subjects, a responsible manager gathers and assesses the proposals along with the Technical Board. Each project undergoes a co-planning phase gathering civic subjects, the organizational unit and the Technical Board to make them work together. Adequate reasons must be provided to civic subjects in case the City chooses not to proceed with a proposal, and the results must be communicated in sixty days in case of direct initiative from civic subjects. The responsible manager enters the pact once the outline of the pact of collaboration has been approved.

Finally, the regulation sets the frame of ordinary collaborations for shared governance of urban commons. Collaborative care and management activities addressing small public spaces, small green areas, urban furniture elements, city's premises and schoolyards, other city's buildings including cemeteries are thus considered ordinary. Administrative procedures for this type of collaboration are streamlined in the regulation: the manager in charge of the urban commons prepares a model of collaboration agreement to limit the length of deliberative measures.

¹⁸ Jai Kooiman, *Modern Governance. New Government-Society Interactions*, (London: Sage, 1993).

SHARED GOVERNANCE: PACT OF COLLABORATION



Source: author, adapted from Turin Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons.

3. Self-governance of commons: civic and collective urban use, civic collective management, urban commons foundation

The third Title is the most innovative part and the heart of the new Turin Regulation. It establishes, in addition to the pacts of collaboration which are described in the previous title and were the heart of the old Turin Regulation, three innovative legal tools: the Civic and Collective Urban Use; the Civic Collective Management and the Urban Commons Foundation. Procedures, modalities and general provisions are described for each of these forms of self-governance.

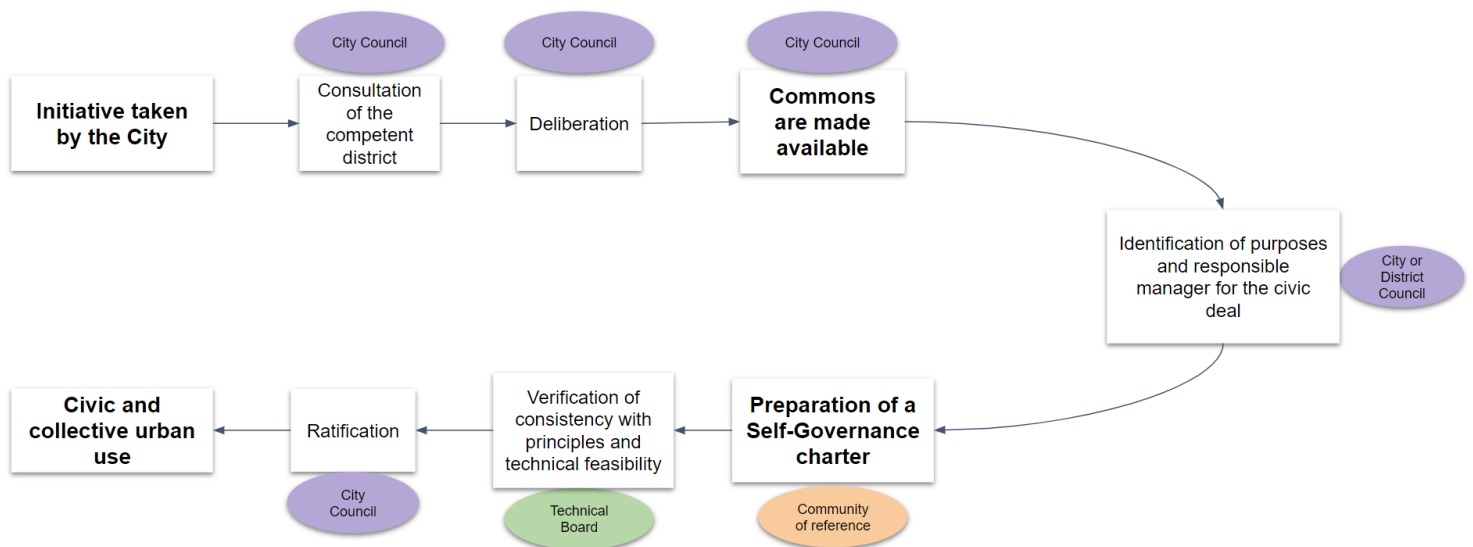
Civic and collective urban use and civic collective management are both characterized by the presence of a community of reference - a coalition of local actors that recognizes and organizes itself as a neighborhood urban commons unit. The urban community of reference uses, manages and takes care of the urban commons in accordance with the principles of the regulation, such as inclusion and accessibility, guaranteed by a Self-Governance Charter democratically written and approved.

The regulation also specifies some modalities and general provisions of self-governance. In particular, it highlights the need for democratic and accessible processes at every stage of the public-community partnership, which implies a proper publicity of activities, proposals and results to ensure a large outreach for the governance of the urban commons, hence enabling a large involvement of urban actors.

3.1 Civic and collective urban use

The civic and collective urban use is a form of diffused collective rights to use¹⁹. They foresee that a community (an informal group of civic actors, both individuals and organized groups such as NGOs) defines a Self-Governance Charter to regulate the ways in which to use an urban commons. The initiative is assumed by the public administration, which checks the coherence with the principles of the regulation and the technical feasibility of the Charter before approving it, therefore closing the civic deal. This form of self-governance implies the provision of a municipal good or property to the community of reference. The administration keeps monitoring the modalities of use of the urban commons to ensure the respect of public use and regulation principles. Through this legal tool, the administration agrees to the carrying out of self-managed activities by the community of reference, but the property and custody stays with the City administration. The responsibilities are shared between the public administration and the civic subjects.

SELF-GOVERNANCE: CIVIC AND URBAN COLLECTIVE USE



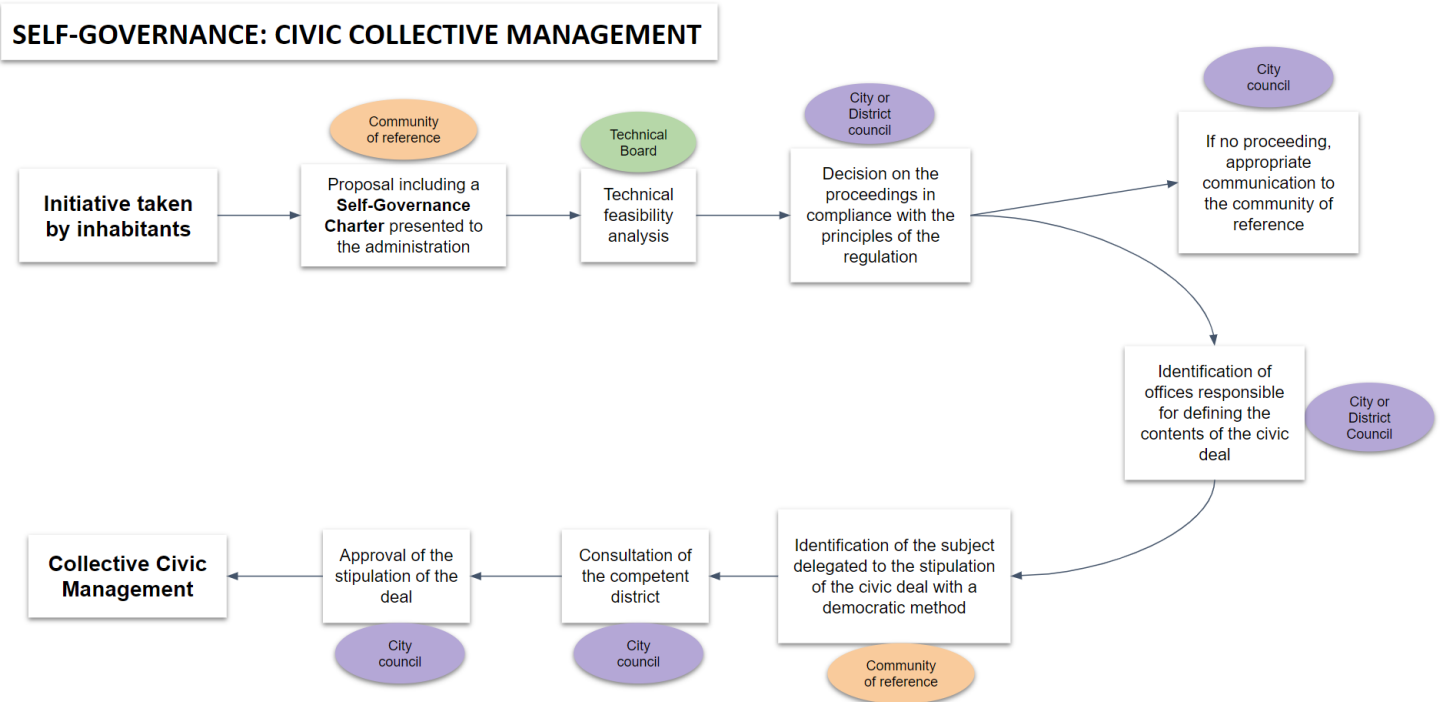
Source: author, adapted from Turin Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons.

3.2 Civic collective management

The civic collective management goes a step further in terms of intensity of self-governance. First of all, in this case the initiative for the definition of the civic deal for the management of urban commons is taken by the community of reference. In addition, when the civic collective management is approved, the municipal asset or property is entrusted upon the community of reference that must manage it in

¹⁹ M.R. Marella, *The commons as a legal concept*, Law and Critique volume 28, (2017), pages 61–86.

accordance with the regulation principles through the Self-governance Charter, which still defines the management methods. However, in this case the community of reference takes on all the relevant liabilities, even though the property remains with the City administration. Thus, the collective civic management is not an expression of the administration's will. It is rather a manifestation of collective



autonomy, provided that the principles of openness and democratic accessibility of the space are respected and that the administration recognizes it, closing a civic deal of which they do not directly determine the content.

Source: author, adapted from Turin Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons.

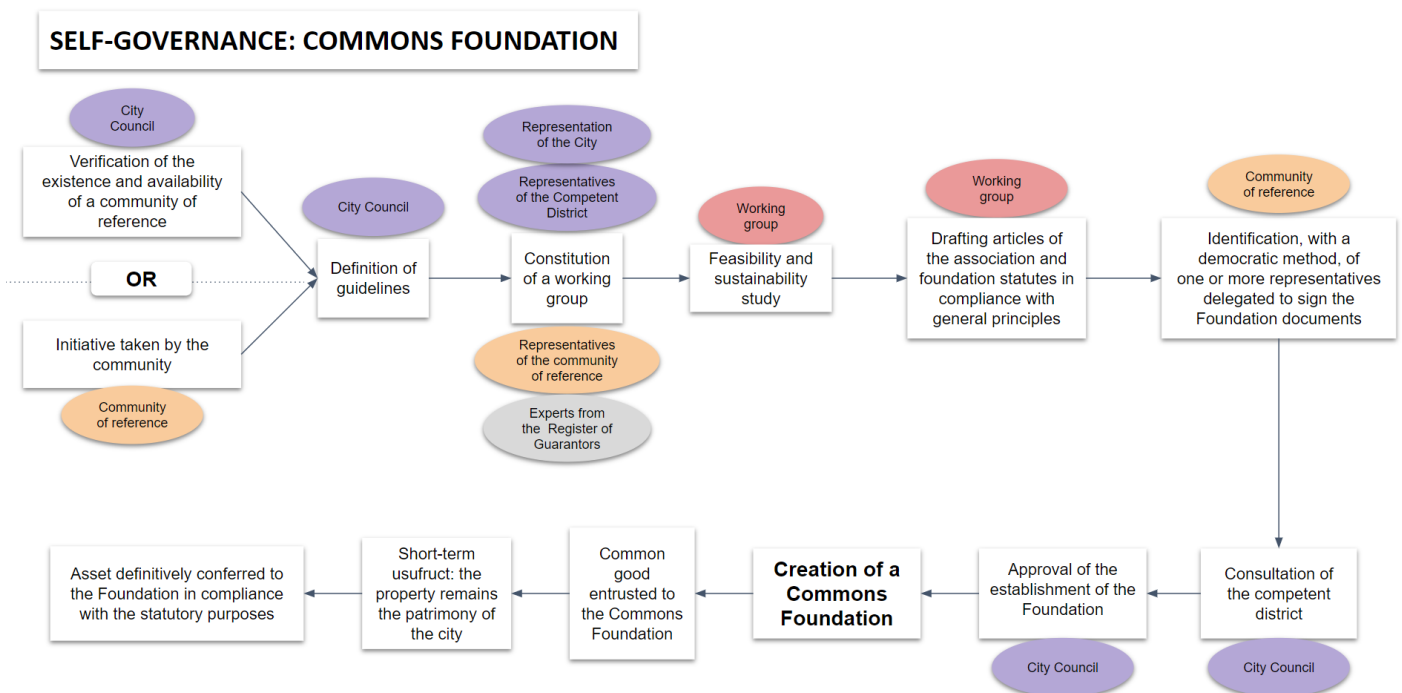
3.3 Urban Commons Foundation

The Urban Commons Foundation is probably the most advanced instrument for the governance of urban commons. Through this legal tool, the City can transfer one or more of assets to a Foundation established for the sole purpose of managing urban commons in the general, public, common interest. The transferred assets constitute a patrimony of the Foundation with restricted and inalienable destination by the same Foundation. The basic idea is to transfer to a new legal entity, the Urban Commons Foundation, not only the rights of stewardship and ownership over critical assets or properties for the community of reference, but also the duty to carry out the interventions and activities normally carried out by the community of reference, through the aforementioned forms of urban commons co-governance (i.e. pacts of collaboration, civic). The establishment of such Foundation aims at maximizing the value for future generations, which is particularly relevant for commons that have specific characteristics such as cultural heritage or architectural importance. The administration divests itself of the asset and steps out of the picture in favor of a collective governance in the interests of present and future generations. Each decision regarding the management and use

of the assets is taken by one of the bodies of the Foundation, but always with the general and common interest as a guiding star.

The implementation of this legal tool is divided in two phases. First, only the usufruct rights of the assets are provided to the Foundation for a given time. After this “trial period”, the asset can be permanently conferred to the Foundation. Given the importance of the decision to give up a municipally owned good, the constitution of the Foundation must be approved by the City Council. The constitution and the status of the Foundation are drafted by a group composed of members of the administration, democratically designated representatives of the community of reference and experts chosen from the Register of Guarantors.

The regulation also includes some rules, principles and criteria such as the democratic composition of the control and decision-making bodies to guarantee the representation of all the actors involved in the governance of urban commons. The framework foresees that the assets would be given back to the City that would maintain its public use, should the Foundation be dismantled. Finally, the City can join the Foundation for the governance of urban commons, but only through the use of its private law capacity/autonomy, not bearing its administrative powers.



Source: author, adapted from Turin Regulation for Governing the Urban Commons.

4. Sustainability, communication, risks and liabilities.

The fourth Title defines some general aspects concerning benefits and liability of civic subjects and administration, as well as the City participation, the form of financing, the communication and evaluation activities.

The regulation indicates some exemptions, concessions and charges related to the urban commons. For instance, the civic deal might be exempted from some of the municipal taxes and fees for the use of public land or for public fundraisers. The public administration can also take on the cost of utilities, depending on the methods and limits defined in the provision approving the partnership.

The diverse forms of participation and support the city can provide in terms of human and financial capital are established in the fourth Title. The civic deal might include the employment of some City staff, civil service projects or community service as a substitution of criminal justice sanctions. The City can directly carry out activities or freely provide instrumental goods for the civic deal. With regards to financial support, the administration cannot allocate direct contributions or subsidies to civic subjects, but the latter can participate to public calls and tenders and the city facilitate fundraising for the civic deal partnership.

Article 24 of the new Turin Regulation, “Self-Funding” is dedicated to the economic sustainability of the urban commons enabled by the City. The main innovations that the Regulation introduces are the possibility of sponsorship and profit-oriented economic activity as forms of self-financing of the activities of care, regeneration and co-management of urban commons. The new Turin Regulation acknowledges that economic activities are often necessary for the long-term sustainability of the civic deal and urban commons co-governance, as public or private grants or sponsorships may not be sole source of funding if economic self-sustainability and therefore urban polycentricism and civic autonomy are the true ultimate goal of a policy designed to enable urban commons co-governance. In this regard the City as a Commons - Co-City theoretical, empirical and applied research enabled to develop a complex, open, diverse, and pluralistic framework with thorough indicators to measure the degree of pooling economies, as a form of collaborative economy that support the efforts of city residents and urban stakeholders partnering and cooperating for the general interest²⁰.

The Fourth title highlights the requirements regarding collaborative communication to inform the community about urban commons via all possible channels and a dedicated online platform. It aims at improving information with various experiences, consolidating networks of relationships as well as mapping subjects and projects to facilitate the identification of initiatives by potential contributors.

Measuring the impact produced by the civic deal is of the utmost importance under the new Turin Regulation. The modalities for conducting monitoring and evaluation activities are agreed upon as part of the civic deal. The documents produced for this purpose must be comparable, accessible, verifiable, complete, and produced at least yearly by an independent evaluator. The evaluation reflects the social and economic impact of the activities carried out within the civic deal and must be widely disseminated.

Finally, the prevention of risks are division of responsibilities foreseen in the fourth Title. The basic idea on this matter is that the City must not assume a role of employer or of customer towards the civic subjects, and no dependence of any type should characterize the relation between the civic subjects and the City. Risk prevention within the civic deal is ruled by a principle of civic autonomy and mutual

²⁰ LabGov.City, *The Co-Cities Open Book*, 2018, available at <http://commoning.city/the-co-cities-open-book/>

trust. Civic subjects are not workers but rather subjects with rights comparable as those granted to volunteers. The civic deal might be completed with documents describing the places and risks specific to the assets and activities carried and the measures adequate. Civic subjects are considered custodians for the urban commons, but the partnership regulates the punctual division of responsibilities with the administration.

Conclusion

The new Turin Regulation as a revision of the regulatory framework that led the UIA initiative to invest on the Co-City project is the result of a collective effort carried out by many subjects (i.e. city inhabitants, CSOs, experts, stakeholders, UIA Co-City project partners, scholars and civil servants, etc.) who entered into a sort of knowledge and experimentation deal. Such a significant advancement would not have been possible without the UIA Co-City project methodology and infrastructure. It made room and created also a path to channel some (sometimes critical) contributions from civic and social organisations in order to improve and adapt the previous regulation passed in 2016.

This collaborative work enabled to achieve a text that could arise as the new standard-of-art at the global scale in the field of urban regulations setting forth legal instruments enabling urban commons co-governance. It was also able to adapt a cross-nation approach and by now global standard to the specificities of the City of Turin and to the local scale.

The group of local legal scholars who supported more closely the City in the drafting of the new updated version of the Regulation published also an interesting collection of scholarly papers containing a legal reflection on critical aspects of this legal experiment²¹.

In order to take a step further following the Co-City project and to consolidate the urban commons co-governance approach, the new Turin regulation must however find ways to create a stable cooperation with the social finance ecosystem in Turin, the Torino Social Impact program. As a matter of fact a new relationship between civic subjects, the Public Administration and long-term, sustainable finance investors through public-community and public-private-community partnerships is according to literature and policy landscape currently the only way whereby urban commons can truly win the challenge of long-term self-sustainability and the therefore long-enduring civic autonomy²². Thus, within key European programs such as URBACT, some cities including Naples, Barcelona, and Amsterdam are building bridges between urban commons projects and long-term, patient, ethical investors, cooperating with institutions such as the European Bank of Investment²³.

Public-community or public-private community partnerships can become a new fundamental model to foster sustainable and long-term innovation on public infrastructure and services, offering both a robust legal framework and a sustainable financial scheme²⁴.

²¹ R.A. Albanese, E. Michelazzo, *Manuale di diritto dei beni comuni urbani*, Celid, 2020:

http://www.comune.torino.it/benicomuni/bm~doc/manuale-diritto-beni-comuni_unito.pdf

²² S. Foster & C. Iaione, *Ostrom in the City: Design Principles and Practices for the Urban Commons*, in *Routledge Handbook of the Study of the Commons* (Dan Cole, Blake Hudson, Jonathan Rosenbloom eds.), 2019, available at <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3130087>

²³ See the URBACT Civic eState project <https://urbact.eu/urban-commons-civic-estate>

²⁴ C. Iaione & E. De Nictolis, *The role of law in relation to the New Urban Agenda and the European Urban Agenda*, in *Law and the New Urban Agenda: A Comparative Perspective* (2020).



Urban Innovative Actions (UIA) is an Initiative of the European Union that provides urban areas throughout Europe with resources to test new and unproven solutions to address urban challenges. Based on article 8 of ERDF, the Initiative has a total ERDF budget of EUR 372 million for 2014-2020.

UIA projects will produce a wealth of knowledge stemming from the implementation of the innovative solutions for sustainable urban development that are of interest for city practitioners and stakeholders across the EU. This journal is a paper written by a UIA Expert that captures and disseminates the lessons learnt from the project implementation and the good practices identified. The journals will be structured around the main challenges of implementation identified and faced at local level by UIA projects. They will be published on a regular basis on the UIA website.

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