RESIN

SUPPORTING DECISION –
MAKING FOR RESILIENT CITIES

Co-creation – what, how, and why?
Reflecting on the RESIN project

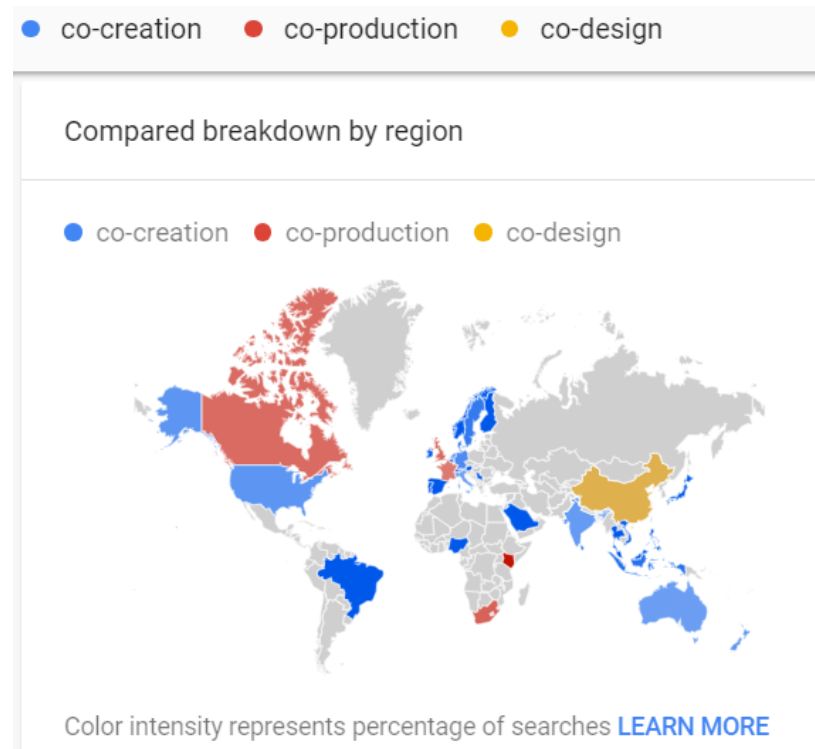**Angela Connelly, University of Manchester**

www.resin-cities.eu

Overview

- ❑ **Why co-creation in urban climate resilience planning?**

- ❑ **Defining co-creation**

- ❑ **Review of benefits and barriers**

- ❑ **Conclusions**

● co-creation ● co-production ● co-design

Compared breakdown by region

● co-creation ● co-production ● co-design

Color intensity represents percentage of searches **LEARN MORE**

- Climate change adaptation - driven by the 'science first' perspective (O'Brien et al. 2007)

- The 'useability' gap between data and policy (Lemos and Morehouse 2005)

- *Europe 2020* Growth Strategy provides the framework for co-creation approaches to address societal needs.

- Co-creation drives innovation and provides greater validity

EUROPE 2020

A European strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth

…co-creation [is not] just a question of formal consultation in which professionals give users a chance to voice their views on a limited number of alternatives. *It is a more creative and interactive process which challenges the views of all parties and seeks to combine professional and local expertise in new ways*.

Cottam and Leadbetter 2004: 22

A typology of co-creation in urban climate resilience planning

Approach A

- Joint knowledge creation for climate services
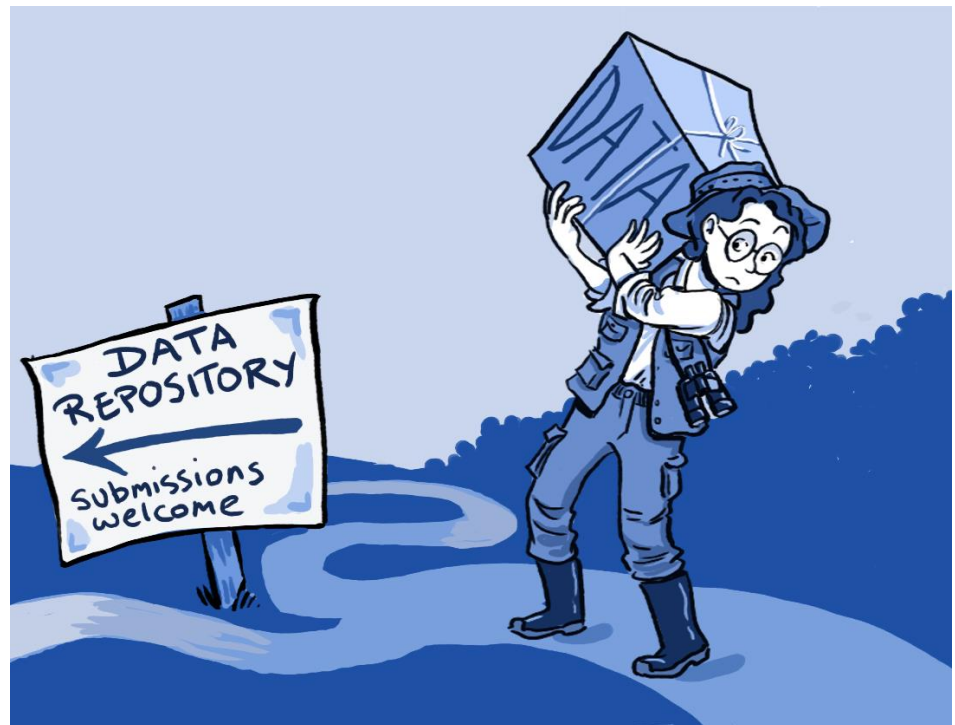
Example activities

- Data sharing
- Ground-trothing of outputs
- Consultation
- Citizen science

Timing and Intensity of engagement

- Low/passive
- No involvement in research design

Ownership

- Stays with the IP holder

Approach B

- Co-design of tools and services

Example activities

- User-testing of tools and service design
- User-shaping of tools and service design

Timing and Intensity of engagement

- Low

- Timing at specific points in the process including design

Ownership

- Limited

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Approach C

Co-creation of policies and strategies

Example activities
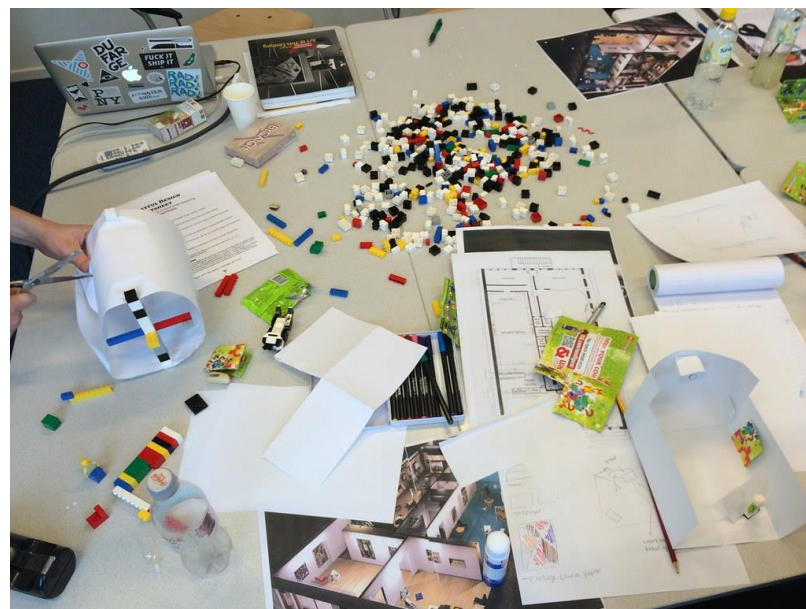
- Design workshops
- Participatory workshops

Timing and Intensity of engagement

- Medium
- Engagement at specific points in time

Ownership

Reasonable ownership over outputs

Feeling of contribution to outputs

A typology of co-creation in urban climate resilience planning

Approach D
- Adaptation option co-testing

Example activities
- Living lab approaches
- Prototype testing

Timing and Intensity of engagement
- High
- Involved in shaping research

Ownership
- Increased feeling over ownership.
- Limited to small-scale

Approach E

- Co-implementation and monitoring

Example activities
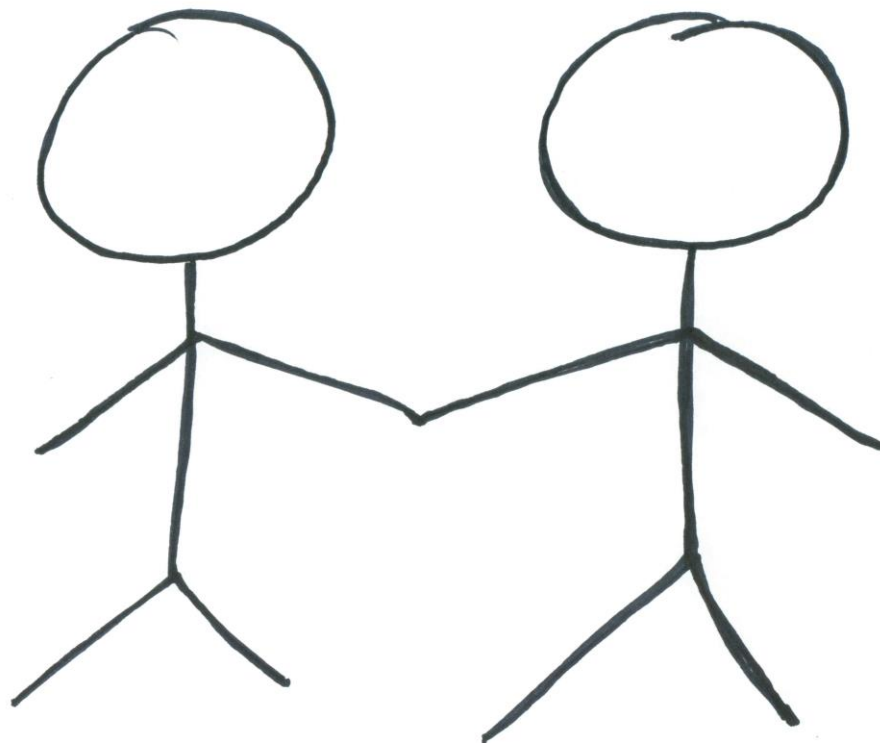
- Activism
- Co-creation of service delivery
- Citizen monitoring

Timing and Intensity of engagement

- High
- Intense engagement throughout

Ownership

Shared ownership

Benefits of co-creation

- Increased innovation

- Increased capacity

- Increased validity

- Access to wider networks

- Increased efficiency

- Increased acceptance of, and/or ownership over, results

Barriers to co-creation

- Mismatched terminology
- Unrealistic expectations
- Lack of integration and leadership
- Unshifting role perceptions
- Imbalances in power relations and lack of conflict resolution process

Selected recommendations

- A clear and coherent work plan, timeline and adequate resources (time and money) for testing and co-creating;

- A clear and common collective understanding of what co-creation is should be established at the outset

- Research partners could benefit from initial training on co-creation;

- Establishing and maintaining trust and commitment between the various partners are crucial;

- Face-to-face meetings (both formal and informal) are the best facilitators of active co-creation;

- There is no one 'best' way of undertaking co-creation - dependent on the specific task for which co-creation is to be employed and the different partners/stakeholders involved.

Summary

- Co-creation can be a useful means of ensuring that research and innovation can be **practically applied**.

- Different types of co-creation depending on the level of **engagement**, **intensity** of activities, and levels of **ownership** over the process and outputs.

- Co-creation can be a very rewarding process and **enable new insights**

- However, there are **potential obstacles** that need to be guarded against.

- Above all, co-creation is time-consuming and needs **adequate resources**.