



TRANSFER REPORT

IGUALADA

Striving for a more playful city



Author: Marta Gràcia



Table of content

1. Our starting point	3
2. Our achievements!.....	7
3. Local Learning Process	20
4. Benefits at city level	22
5. Overall conclusions on the transfer experience.....	22

1. Our starting point

What were the key characteristics in our Transfer Roadmap? What assets/barriers did we have? What were our expectations for the end?

The Playful Paradigm journey in the Municipality of Igualada it's being created and developed in the Child Services Department, so we have done every step thinking of our kids and teenagers from the city, as we are sure our children are the experts in playing. However, as Francesco Tonucci says, "The most important learning in life is achieved by playing", so we want to involve all ages in this project, as we should never stop playing and learning.

As a Municipality we asked ourselves why we wanted a playful city and how could we involve the citizens and stakeholders in it. So here we have our initial goals and needs at the beginning of the project. We want a playful city...



In order to achieve these goals in Igalada and without knowing yet which path we had to take, we thought that the biggest challenge we would have at the beginning would be to increase the collaboration between the local departments, entities and all the organizations, and also to spread the project within the City Council.

To ensure the participation of the entire municipal departments and all the stakeholders we started the journey with an important meeting on the beginning of february with Emma Cortés. In order to identify the needs of our city and look for challenges and opportunities to move towards a playful and more inclusive city with play as the main tool, on this first day we designed the Urbact Local Group with all those participants who wanted to be part of it.

It is made up of different agents from entities, organizations and **departments of the Igalada City Council** that work with children and adolescents in the city, as well as in the promotion of social cohesion, social inclusion, healthy habits and/or sustainability.

As we had said on our Roadmap, the most important stakeholders participating in the Local Group would be the **Children's City Council**. This Council is composed of about 40 children between 11 and 12 years old from different schools of the city.



First ULG meeting – February 12th

The city of Igalada showed, already in the first months of the pandemic in 2020, the power of collaborative innovation and the coordinated efforts of everyone, including volunteers, who were key to providing effective responses to this great challenge. For

example, in conjunction with the efforts of health personnel, a citizen community was organized in the city that generated solutions, such as the production of masks, that helped alleviate the problem.

Igualada is a city full of youth and leisure entities, and after the pandemic it has shown the power of our citizens and the importance of designing more public and green areas to promote the social inclusion, participation and healthy lifestyles. In order to work with them and listen to their needs, we wanted the **leisure entities** to become also an important part of our Local Group.

The Local Group counted also with **APINAS – Escola Àuria**, an organisation whose aim is to improve the quality of life of people with intellectual disabilities or developmental disorders and their families in the region of Anoia and to facilitate comprehensive and personalised care, favouring prevention, early detection and social inclusion, acting as a socially responsible entity. As we wanted to redesign our green areas, parks, playgrounds and events, we thought this organisation would help as highly in the process.

In addition to all these agents, the **Schools** from Igualada and the **Students Families Associations** also had an important place in the Local Group. As a Child Services Department we are always in contact with them to promote our activities and to organize actions with the Children City Council.



First ULG meeting – February 12th

Our ambitions and expectations after the first ULG Meeting:

MODULE 1: PLAY FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGENERATION

Expectation: Inclusive and playable new area at Parc Central

As Module 1 mentions, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown a true need for outdoor spaces, green areas and parks, especially in cities. By adapting and designing the Parc Central area and opening school parks to all citizens, we wanted to work on transforming them into great places to live in, play, work, create relationships, through innovative ways to engage and empower citizens to take a playful approach.

MODULE 2: PLAY FOR INCLUSION & PARTICIPATION

Expectation: To program activities with our toy libraries

In Module 2, the toy libraries are involved with the creation of programmed activities and games in city parks and school playgrounds which are accessible during the day. We wanted to create new activities involving leisure entities and the Elderly Services Department to cocreate participatory and inclusive activities for all ages during the year.

MODULE 3: PLAY FOR EDUCATION

Expectation: The Olive Tree Park

Module 3 emphasises education outside the school, which is why the olive tree park project brings us closer to this objective. Throughout the process, the children of the city will learn about the process of olive oil production, the importance of olive oil for a healthy diet, the history of olive oil in our city and region, the process of production and distribution of olive oil, among others.

MODULE 4: PLAY FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Expectation: To have more inclusive parks, "asphalt games" and design a map of the city play areas

Module 4 promotes health and wellbeing programmes for the whole community. With the project of the traditional games painted on the ground "asphalt games" we wanted to invite all the families and collectives of the city to play in the street. One of our aims was also to create a map of the city play areas, once they would become more sustainable and inclusive. To accomplish this, we wanted to work with the Urban Planning Department.

2. Our achievements!

What were the key successful activities? What worked well, how and why?

When we started working with our ULG, different commissions were created to work on different objectives and some actions changed from what we wanted to do at the beginning. So we designed an organization chart with a provisional calendar of the actions we would try to achieve and the commissions in charge.



COMISSION	STAKEHOLDERS	ACTION	CALENDAR 2022
Free play in urban areas	Ludoteques El Pati - board games assoc. Tata Inti (private sector) Joc Net (private sector)	- Ludomòbil: 5 outlying districts - Free & Creative Area: Cal Font Square	Saturdays during September and October
Map of Playable Areas	Elderly Services Dept. Health Dept. Sports Dept. Urban Planning Dept.	creation of a map of the city highlighting green areas, playgrounds, public toilets and greenways so that citizens can discover and walk around the different districts of the city.	Start in February
Inclusive Playgrounds	Urban Planning Dept. Escola Àuria Elderly Services Dept. Children's City Council	Internal work of following up on the process of new creation and/or maintenance of parks, green areas and inclusive public spaces in the city.	Start in March
Children's participation	Children's City Council Local Government Schools	Participatory process throughout the school year to detect needs and develop projects to make the city more playable.	School year
Intergenerational actions	AEIG Jaume Caresmar i M ^a Antònia Salvà (scouts) AE La Flama (scouts) Els Verdums Choir Coral Gatzara Choir	To create a network and support among leisure entities and to make themselves known in the city in order to open up to other children and young people in Igualada. To organize intergenerational activities to claim their right to play.	May 28th December 3rd
School Playgrounds	Education Dept. Schools Students families associations	Workshop on coaching and assessment to change the pedagogical approach to school playgrounds, by the Institut d'Infància i Adolescència (Institute of Children and Adolescents).	October 22nd

EXPECTATION

MODULE 1: PLAY FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGENERATION

Expectation: Inclusive and playable new area at Parc Central



ACTIONS ACHIEVED

Inclusive new area in Parc Central

Codesign a new Playable area with the Children City Council

COMMISSIONS INVOLVED

Children's participation

Inclusive Playgrounds

MODULE 2: PLAY FOR INCLUSION & PARTICIPATION

Expectation: To program activities with our toy libraries



Ludomòbils

Free & Creative Area

Free play in urban areas

MODULE 3: PLAY FOR EDUCATION

Expectation: The Olive Tree Park



The Olive Tree Park

Workshop on coaching and assessment to change the pedagogical approach to school playgrounds

Children's participation

School Playgrounds

MODULE 4: PLAY FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Expectation: To have more inclusive parks, "asphalt games" and design a map of the city play areas



Work together with the Urban Planning Department

Intergenerational activities: World Game Day, Traditional Games Day, Second Intergenerational Gymkhana.

Map of Playable Areas

Intergenerational actions

Children's participation

MODULE 1: PLAY FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN REGENERATION



Inclusive new area in Parc Central
Codesign a new Playable area with the Children City Council

INCLUSIVE NEW AREA & CODESIGN A NEW PLAYABLE AREA

At the beginning of the project, one of our objectives was to provide the city parks and green areas, mainly the "Parc Central", which is a large area with many opportunities, with more playful and inclusive areas and elements. We also wanted to transform the playgrounds and schoolyards into open spaces where everyone can play, learn and organize community and healthy activities.

In this sense, we have been able to collaborate together with the Children's Council in the design of the new Garcia Fossas Park and also the one at the Parc Central. The Children's Council, together with Escola Àuria were evaluating and deciding which inclusive elements they wanted to add to the new parks. The students from Escola Àuria showed to our little councilors which elements they already have in their School Playground and would love to have in our city. They also teach them some inclusive games to play together with children with disabilities or development disorders. After that day, the little councilors brought their demands to the City Council Plenary, requesting the mayor personally.

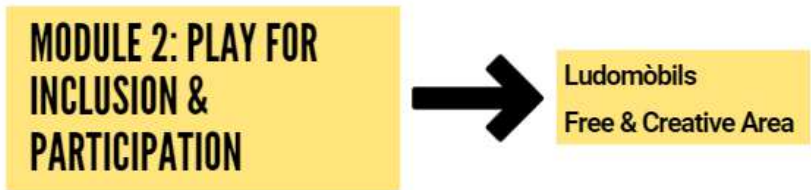
At the beginning of 2023 the chosen inclusive elements will be added to the two parks and in addition, they have the assignment to design and **create a new playable area** in the neighborhood of Les Comes. The little councilors will be responsible for leading a participatory community consultation among them and the neighbors to co-design this new space during the school year that has just begun.





Little councilors at the City Council Plenary requesting the new inclusive elements.

Here you can see a video that shows this process:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4ipn09UGPU>



On our trip to Paris during the Urbact First Springtime Meeting, we bump into the Ludomobile they have at the Place de la République. We were impressed by that initiative and we had the pleasure to meet the team that is working there every week.



Inspired also by the *Ludobus* from Udine and the *Esplujuga* from Esplugues de Llobregat, the city from Catalonia that was on the Playful Paradigm First Wave, we decided to bring the idea to Igualdada. We created two activities with the help of our toy libraries and with that inspirations: A Ludomòbil in 5 outlying districts and the Free&Creative Area in the main square of the city during three consecutive Saturdays.

LUDOMÒBILS - 24th September 1st, 15th, 22nd & 29th October 2022

Installation of a ludomobile with different elements and activities for children from 0 to 12 years old. This proposal truly transforms the public space into a friendly place for children and families, thus meeting the needs of the community and neighbors who want to fill their public spaces with healthy and sustainable uses full of life, play and color.

In Tata Inti, the cooperative that organizes these activities, they watch over children's right to play from a rich, innovative, creative and respectful point of view, betting on child-friendly cities where they can play and run, recovering streets, neighborhoods and squares with and for people.

We wanted to take this free play space to different neighborhoods of the city of Igualada, decentralizing its playful and organized activities to reach all groups and citizens with the aim of creating and weaving community.

Depending on the district, there were between 80 and 150 participants per hour.





FREE & CREATIVE AREA - 15th, 22nd & 29th October 2022

Pilot activity during three consecutive weekends to see what would happen if Cal Font Square had scheduled activities every Saturday afternoon. The objective of the Free & Creative Area is to give value to autonomous and family free play in public spaces.

We encouraged creativity as well as we made visible the second use of many products that usually end up in the trash. We wanted to improve the autonomous activities with

different materials, so that children are free to experiment and create whatever they want.

There were between 100 and 150 participants per hour.



MODULE 3: PLAY FOR EDUCATION



The Olive Tree Park
Workshop on coaching and assessment to change the pedagogical approach to school playgrounds

THE OLIVE TREE PARK – February 26th

The Children City Council with the help of an specialized team, planted 70 Olive Trees on the new Olive Trees Park. Throughout the process, the children of the city learnt about the process of olive oil production, the importance of olive oil for a healthy diet, the history of olive oil in our city and region, the process of production and distribution of olive oil, among others.





WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS - October 22nd

As the Schools and Families Students Associations had asked us information about how to change the perspective of their playgrounds, we organized a Workshop with Emma Cortés, from the Institute of Children&Adolescents from Barcelona. In that Workshop Emma provided us different experiences and their views on how to transform playgrounds so that they remain a key space for the full development of children. There were 15 participants.



CODESIGN WITH THE URBAN PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One of our aims was to create a **map of the city play areas**, once they would become more sustainable and inclusive. To accomplish this, our wish was to work with the *Urban Planning Department* in the city and our network of toy libraries to design activities in the new and redesigned areas. We started creating a *Comission* with also the *Elderly Services Department*, as we wanted to include in the map the public WC to let families know where they could find them if they wanted to go playing in the city. We realized that in Igualdada we need more public WC before making a map and as we would like to re-

design the green areas so in a soon future we would have now playable zones we didn't go forward and we started a new journey with the Urban Planning Department. From now on, the *Child Services Department* and the *Urban Planning Department* are in contact everytime a new green area or children's area has to be done. So, the achievement here is to **work together to co-design** the new and the ones that we already have, making them more inclusive, playful and sustainable.

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES – May 28th

The projects we've achieved with the Elderly Services Department is the creation of the **Intergenerational Gymkhana** together with the two Scout Groups we have in Igualada: *AEiG Jaume Caresmar* and *M^a Antònia Salvà* and the *AE La Flama*. Given the need detected in the first meeting of the Local Group, this activity aimed to create a network and support among the scouts entities and to make themselves known in the city in order to open up to other children and young people in Igualada.

We pretend to work in order to understand the game as a tool to promote inclusion, participation, education, health and welfare. That is why we framed it in the Week of the Elderly, co designing it with the Elderly Services Department and linking children, families, grandfathers and grandmothers.

The gymkhana had seven activities/games in seven squares of the City Center, and there were between 150 and 200 participants. The Scout Groups were the ones who organized everything, from the design of the poster to the coordination of the activities and participants.

We celebrated it on the World Game Day – May 28th as all the Partners were celebrating it together in our cities so it was a great opportunity for Igualada to establish the date from now on and celebrate it year by year.



Here you can see the video of the activity:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hl762V_cKTU



TRADITIONAL GAMES DAY

At the end of the School Year, the Children City Council was thrilled to organize an activity for the children and families from de city. They decided to design an action dedicated to their families, as they wanted them to become part of the Playful Paradigm journey as they did during all the year sessions.

So they organized the “Traditional Games Day” on the 4th of June based on traditional games from all over the world: construction with wooden elements, spinning top throwing, cooperative skis, bottle collecting, board games, Catalan bowling, badge race, etc.

This activity is the result of the work done with the Children's City Council throughout the course 21/22. The objective of the little councillors was to carry out an activity for everyone: inclusive and for all ages. The message they want to claim is the right and the importance of the intergenerational play in the urban spaces.

It was a very participative day, with about 50/60 participants per hour.



Here you can see the video of the activity:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4ipn09UGPU>



3. Local Learning Process

Our learning process started the day we decided to invite the stakeholders from our city in order to create our ULG. We contacted a huge list of leisure entities, schools, community centres, various departments of our city council, and different stakeholders who at our first ULG meeting, they all showed interest in the project.



As a result of this first session, where many interests and concerns were expressed, a series of commissions had been created to focus on various shared needs with the aim of building a network, get organized to carry out joint actions and thus, and move towards a more playable, friendly and inclusive city for all. The Children's Department is part of all the commissions and follows up on them. As we mentioned, the ones we have in operation until the end of the project are the following:

- Free play in urban areas
- Map of Playable Areas
- Inclusive Playgrounds
- Children's participation
- Intergenerational actions
- School playgrounds.

We were privileged to have Emma Cortés from “*Institut d’Infància i adolescència de Barcelona*” in our team, a specialist in game pedagogy, playable cities and the transformation of public space. She helped us to guide these sessions with the ULG and to work through all the ideas, insights and needs that were coming up during the sessions.

Another crucial element that helped us on our local learning process was the activities organized by the different commissions. Through the pilot actions we were able to detect if they were actions that the city needed; fortunately all of them had a very good response.



4. Benefits at city level

For all the members of the ULG it was a great experience in all dimensions. It's been a pleasure to discover the playable sight of everything and for everyone.

One of the things we are most proud of is the interdepartmental connections that have been developed inside the City Council. We have been able to transmit the value and importance of play in all ages and spaces of the city. As a result, we have created a process of increasing consciousness that has led all departments to work with this global vision in all the projects they are working on.

Also, the connections created by the stakeholders will help to create or establish future projects as the Intergenerational Gymkhana organized by the Scouts Groups that they want to do every 28th of may from now on.

5. Overall conclusions on the transfer experience

One of the risks we believed we would have to deal with was the lack of participation and motivation of the local group. We were convinced that this was the most important part of the project, as we wanted it to be a citizen and participative project. Luckily we consolidate a working ULG, interested and involved in the project and in all the decisions made.

By learning from the other partners and experts, the GP from Udine and all the experiences from the first wave partners, we have been able to design activities and actions that respond to the needs of our citizens. The transnational meetings and workshops we have shared during the project and having fantastic partners and friends have been more than helpful to live our Playful Paradigm journey to the fullest.