

Open Landscape Academy ERAMUS Project WP 5: Athens OLA Living Lab : Overall Monitoring and Evaluation

Quantitative indicators:

(1) Number and diversity of practitioners, community members and students involved in the Living Lab.

The students of the Master of Landscape Architecture program of study of the Department of Crop Science of the Agricultural University of Athens are accredited by the International Federation of Landscape Architects – Europe (IFLA Europe): 40 students in total, 3 academic years. Additionally, per year (2023, 2024, 2025) 5 students from either the Floriculture & Landscape Architecture specialization undergraduate program or the Master of Landscape Architecture program of study of the Department of Crop Science of the Agricultural University of Athens participated in the Intensive Blended Programs of OLA.

(2) Number of living lab activities: meetings online and onsite, workshops, events

One meeting per month, organization of five networking and dissemination events, participation in two summer citizen science campaigns, and workshops for the dissemination of OLA methods.

(3) Number and diversity of stakeholders and multipliers reached through the living lab's networking activities

More than 100 countries, more than 1500 participants in two international conferences, and collaborative activities with the West Attica LAB and the Urban Heat Watch observatory. Those events were organized by the participatory LAB community (the main infrastructure of networking and dissemination of the LL Athens activities). Practitioners, academics, activists, students, artists, young researchers and opinion makers.

- <https://en.participatorylab.org/participatory-lab-conference-2025>
- <https://en.participatorylab.org/synedrio-2023>

(4) Number as well as cultural and disciplinary diversity of staff and students joining the Intensive Programme organised in this lab

Number: 38

(5) Number as well as cultural and disciplinary diversity of participants attending the Multiplier. Unique number of participants that participated in the 2 days:

101 participants: Landscape architects, urban planners, architects, arborists and greenery experts, geographers, social scientists, gender disciplines, mobility and surveying engineers, municipalities, funding authorities, representatives of scientific and professional associations, students, and professors. Mainly from Mediterranean countries, and all partners' countries.

(7) number of social media followers of the local living lab channels (in local language)

Followers: FB 2000, IG 1500, IN 1346

Qualitative indicators:

(1) Level of engagement of the local community in all phases of the living lab

In Year 1, local community engagement was primarily at the lower tiers of the engagement spectrum (mainly informing/consulting through lectures and networking), with core design and knowledge-production led by partners (commonspace and AUA). The second year, engagement advanced into involving and collaborating, as local participants co-designed processes, co-created interventions, and shaped agendas. At the last phase of OLA project, the LL core team moved toward empowerment, culminating in their central role in establishing the Participatory LAB NGO and anchoring landscape democracy in Athens.

(2) Intensity of dialogue and depth of reflection on sustainable development, assessed by direct observation, interviews and analysis of the local lab outcomes

The intensity of dialogue and depth of reflection on sustainable development in the Athens Living Lab evolved from exploratory to highly critical and sustained, as evidenced through direct observation and co-assessment in the form of a “long table” of the main actors. While early exchanges were mainly informative, the process matured through structured, multi-actor dialogue and action formats embedded in local activities and crystallized during the participatory Lab Conference 2023 and the participatory Lab Conference 2025, where sustainability, spatial justice, the right to nature, climate adaptation, and participatory governance were debated in depth across plenaries, workshops, and co-creation sessions. This sustained dialogue directly informed local lab outputs:

- Agricultural University of Athens: the systematic involvement of students from the Master of Landscape Architecture programme of the Department of Crop Science at the Agricultural University of Athens, accredited by IFLA Europe, with participation increasing and stabilising over time
- Commonspace: One of the main results is the transition of Participatory LAB from an informal initiative to the “Participatory LAB NGO” and the exploration of an open academy model in Athens, demonstrating a high level of critical reflection translated into institutional, educational, and socio-spatial innovation aligned with sustainable development principles.