

HOW TO PROMOTE GENDER INCLUSIVE URBAN PLANNING POLICIES IN VALENCIENNES MÉTROPOLE?

A Policy Learning Platform peer review
April 17-18, 2024

Final Report



1. Our background and motivation for conducting the Peer Review

General presentation of Valenciennes Métropole

Valenciennes Métropole is an urban community situated in Northern France, at the crossroads of European capital cities such as Paris, London and Brussels. It is a dense, attractive, active and human-sized metropolis of nearly 200.000 inhabitants and 35 cities (urban, peri-urban and rural), part of the Hauts-de-France region.



The territory has been suffering from massive industry and mine closures in late 1980's and early 1990's, with massive loss of employments. Jean-Louis Borloo, mayor of Valenciennes from 1989 to 2002 helped renewing the territory, managing to catch new companies (such as Toyota), maintain others (Bombardier, Alstom) with huge growth potential and employment opportunities. Even though the number of jobs grew by 30% between 1990 and 2010, with new areas of excellence such as transport, logistic and digital economy, the employment rate is today as high as 20%, sometimes approaching 30% to 40% in some neighbourhoods (qualified as "priority neighbourhoods"). Valenciennes Métropole could then be qualified as a two-speed territory.



From 2006 onwards, Valenciennes Métropole has been engaged in a huge urban revitalization program - The National Program for Urban Renewal (PNRU) and the National Program for the Rehabilitation of old and rundown districts (PNRQAD) -, launched nationally by Jean-Louis Borloo, the then Minister Delegate for Urban Affairs and Urban Renovation. Thanks to the relations between Valenciennes Métropole and Jean-Louis Borloo, the territory has always been one of experimentation for social and urban policies.

Valenciennes Métropole's gender action plans

In 2019, Valenciennes Métropole signed the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life. This Charter recognises 6 fundamental principles : (1) Equality of women and men constitutes a fundamental right, (2) To ensure the equality of women and men, multiple

discrimination and disadvantage must be addressed, (3) The balanced participation of women and men in decision making is a pre-requisite of a democratic society, (4) The elimination of gender stereotypes is fundamental to achieving equality of women and men, (5) Integrating the gender perspective into all activities of local and regional government is necessary to advance equality of women and men, (6) Properly resourced action plans and programmes are necessary tools to advance equality of women and men.

Following this signature and the 2020 local elections, Valenciennes Métropole created a gender delegation in its Community Council and a gender head of mission full-time job, with a dedicated budget.

Before launching its first action plan, Valenciennes Métropole dedicated one year to raise awareness and train local officers and representatives on gender issues. We organised general training sessions to share a gender common culture, and then organised specific sessions targeting one policy: gender and social cohesion, gender and communication, gender and public procurement, gender and public spaces, gender and economic development, etc.

Following these sessions, Valenciennes Métropole launched its first action plan at the end of 2021, addressing equality with an integrated vision in 11 public policies: social cohesion, social clause, culture, sport, economic development, public procurement, communication, social economy, urban planning and urban renewal, agriculture, mobility. Each roadmap (one policy = one roadmap) is ran by a “gender specialist” or “ambassador” working with the gender head of mission, in order to ease the application of the roadmap within each direction of Valenciennes Métropole.

From 2021 to 2023, this first action plan mainly aimed at raising awareness among both Valenciennes Métropole’s officers, local representatives and partners. For instance, we organised more than 10 training sessions for social organisations in order to support them in integrating gender in their projects, we organised training sessions for job prescribers to deconstruct gender stereotypes and avoid misleading guidance... In total more than 1000 people (from Valenciennes Métropole or partners) were trained on gender issues during this first action plan.

Simultaneously, concrete projects were implemented, such as:

- an equality bonus within our social cohesion call for projects for partners developing gender mainstreaming: extra 10.000€ were given to 3 social organisations with a real wish to integrate gender in their project. For instance, a social driving school bought a videoconferencing system to allow mothers follow driving lessons at home when children were sick, nominated and trained a “gender specialist” within the organisation.
- the publication of a non-discriminatory communication guide, with rules to respect both on visuals and language.



- the enlargement of our social clause to integrate more women: historically, social clauses mainly concern building and public works industry. In Valenciennes Métropole, we enlarge them to gardening, waste sorting, cleaning, school canteen, etc. At the same time, we organize company visits to allow women discovering and testing new jobs, wrongly considered as “male occupations”.

In order to spread our action plan on the territory and involve more people on gender issues, we created a network in 2022 “Réseau Egalité Valenciennois”, to discuss gender issues 3 to 4 times a year. More than 50 partners (social organisations, private and public sectors) actively participate in this network.

The main challenge we faced for this first action plan was to convince our colleagues and partners considering gender as an important issue to be addressed in each policy or project, and to “wear gender glasses once and for all”. We were quite successful in addressing this challenge, except for economic partners (companies), municipalities and projects related to public spaces.



Thus, our second gender action plan 2024-2026 aims at tackling these challenges. Valenciennes Métropole offers municipalities a support to produce gender action plans and created a specific working group with municipalities in order to share best practices among peers.

We have a new strategy to approach economic partners, and we addressed gender inclusive urban planning issues through the peer review as a starting point.

Our gender action plan 2024-2026 is enlarged with 15 public policies, sorted among 3 categories:

priority projects	projects to sustain	projects to launch
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> social cohesion social clause gender inclusive public spaces public procurement communication economic system / companies social economy women health violence against women and children 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> culture sport 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> mobility education climate issues heritage

This second action plan will keep on training partners, civil officers and local representatives so as to keep a good level of awareness on gender issues, but especially aims at concretizing actions (reach 25% of women in our social clause, launch a call for projects on 3 topics related to gender issues – health, socio-professional insertion and violence against women –, create a network of responsible companies, etc.)

A need for European expertise

Despite positive outcomes of the first gender action plan, Valenciennes Métropole faced difficulties implementing its urban planning road map to create “gender inclusive public spaces”.

Multiple reasons for this situation:

- Cities and Valenciennes Métropole as project manager lead these urban projects; usually cities do not consider gender as a priority in urban planning but as an extra that could slow down the project implementation. Local representatives sometimes consider that urban projects are *de facto* neutral with no need to work specifically on gender issues. They do not understand that women and men have different uses of public spaces and that this situation results from differentiated learning on how one should behave in public spaces from preschool.
- Moreover, Valenciennes Métropole’s operational services do not have specific skills on gender planning and do not have time to question their work habits. Procedure and requirements specification must be written very quickly and they do not collectively take the time to reflect on innovative measures to be asked to consultants and companies who will work on the project.
- Finally, most of the consultants and companies we work with are not trained to gender planning. Thus, even though Valenciennes Métropole asks for specific skills on gender urban planning, usually none of the applicants is able to bring it.

Hence, the necessity to apply to the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform and solicit a peer review. Through this peer review, Valenciennes Métropole sought exchanges with other experienced urban communities in order to glean essential good practices on gender-integrated urban planning and benefit from their feedback on governance issues, leverage and concrete tools. Hosting this peer review also aimed at raising awareness among municipalities and stakeholders on gender inclusive urban spaces.

2. Our two main policy challenges

We addressed two main policy challenges to our peers during this 2-day workshop:

[How to design a governance and process to involve stakeholders in a gender mainstreaming approach?](#)

Valenciennes Métropole aimed to understand which strategies could be used to convince each stakeholder with his specificities, with a need to raise awareness among Valenciennes Métropole's civil servants (urban planning, urban renewal, social cohesion directions), local representatives (and reassure them that this is not a loss of time nor money), consultants and companies on gender-inclusive urban planning.

Civil servants both from Valenciennes Métropole and from cities were invited to this 2-day workshop, as well as local representatives.

We wanted this peer review to be inclusive, in order to offer each stakeholder the possibility to take this issue into account and become ambassador of the process.

[How to operationalise gender inclusive urban policies through interregional good practices?](#)

If governance issues are major in the process, we also needed concrete advice from peers to operationalise the debate and give concrete tools to the different stakeholders. Valenciennes Métropole was looking for good practices and tools in order to concretize a gender-inclusive urban project and enable stakeholders' projection. We were particularly interested in getting examples of public procurement integrating gender issues, aiming to encourage project owners and prime contractors considering the issue. Another point of interest was around concertation procedures that should be implemented to develop inclusive approaches in urban projects.

These inputs from peers aimed at helping Valenciennes Métropole design awareness, communication, promotion tools, such as a good practice guide for civil servants, local representatives, consultants so as each stakeholder could understand his role in a gender inclusive urban project, understand the ins and outs of such process.

Private companies working with Valenciennes Métropole were also invited to the restitution of this peer review to better understand what could be expected from them, and discuss obstacles to gender inclusive projects.

3. List of participants in the peer review

Peers		
First and last name	Organisation	Position
Julia Girardi-Hoog	City of Vienna	Expert for gender planning
Melina Bergström	RISE - Research Institutes of Sweden	UX & Service Designer - Innovation and Process manager
Rebecca Eliasson	Region Kronoberg, Sweden	Gender mainstreaming officer
María Dolores Ruiz Sánchez	Diputación Provincial de Jaén, Andalucía, Spain	Deputy for Equality and Youth
Silvia Visciano	Puglia Region, Puglia, Italy	Head of the Research and International Office
Simona Lembi	Metropolitan City of Bologna	Responsible of the Gender Equality Plan of the metropolitan city of Bologna

Informed observers		
First and last name	Organisation	Position
Elsa Pougin	Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France	Officer in charge of gender equality and evaluation of public policies
Delphine Gaudart-Brunet	Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, France	Officer in charge of gender equality and evaluation of public policies

Beneficiary organisation and stakeholders		
First and last name	Organisation	Position
Marion Sevrin	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of gender equality policies
Sylvain Broussard	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Deputy General Director in charge of territorial cohesion and development
Véronique Pierre	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Director of urban planning and urban renewal
Florent Klein	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Urban renewal manager
Ella Odile Diatta	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of territorial coordination
Sophie Gruyer	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of urban renewal

Thibaut Cousin	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of urban renewal
Isabelle Gobert	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of external financing
Isabelle Choain	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Vice-President for gender equality and for educational success
Emilie Clément	Communauté d'Agglomération Valenciennes Métropole, Hauts-de-France, France	Officer in charge of communication and events
Guillaume Hébert	Une Fabrique de la Ville (project manager)	Associate Director
Rémi Tandonnet	Ville d'Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes	Deputy General Director in charge of culture, sport, youth, school life
Nadia Duval	Ville d'Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes	Deputy General Director in charge of urban planning and major projects
Anne Gozé	Ville d'Aulnoy-lez-Valenciennes	Deputy in charge of communication and digital technology
Antoine Boquillon	Ville d'Anzin	Deputy General Director in charge of urban planning, housing, major projects
Betty Droisy	Ville d'Anzin	Director of public spaces
Philippe Golinval	Ville de Crespin	Mayor
Frédéric Chouan	Ville de Vieux-Condé	Officer in charge of urban policies
Nicolas Hernier	Ville de Condé-sur-Escaut	Technical Services Director
Christian Chatelain	Ville de Marly	Local representative
Pauline Prévôté	Agence Paysages (project manager)	Project officer
Ludovic Durieux	Ad'auc (project manager)	Urban planner
Isabelle Tison	Département du Nord	Territorial engineering Advisor
Sallah Noui	Région Hauts-de-France	Officer in charge of urban planning and social cohesion
Christophe Uliasz	Région Hauts-de-France	Officer in charge of Interreg Europe (European cooperation service)
Simon Didry	Direction Départementale des Territoires et de la Mer	Référent projet ANRU
Sébastien Martin	Territorial Council for Security and Crime prevention – Cities of Fresnes-sur-Escaut, Condé-sur-Escaut, Vieux-Condé	Coordinator
Inès Tavernier	IREV (Regional Institute for urban policies)	Urban policy mission head

Interreg Europe		
First and last name	Organisation	Position

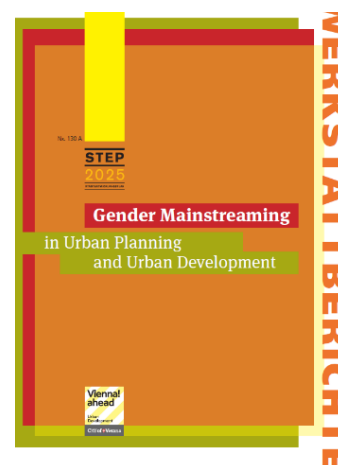
Magdalini Anagnostou	Interreg Europe	Coordinator-Policy Learning Platform
Elena Ferrario	Policy Learning Platform	Senior Thematic Manager
Astrid Severin	Policy Learning Platform	Thematic Expert Citizens
Arnault Morisson	Policy Learning Platform	Thematic Expert Citizens

4. Policy recommendations

How to design a governance system and process to involve stakeholders in a gender mainstreaming approach?

Initiating the process

- **Benchmark different Manuals for Gender Mainstreaming** (short-term) to get inspired and select what is important.
- Align with European guidelines such as the **Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025**.
 - o Invite to workshop to brainstorm and prioritise manual
 - o Use pilot project to develop guidelines
 - o Small working groups to analyse the data
 - o Have scoping document – brainstorming apps (AYOA)
 - o Engage in a drafting process about a vision, mission, and strategic objectives (collaborative process)
 - o Proactive involvement the Region (not compulsory, but welcome to create allies and gain visibility), political and institutional support
- **Create your own** gender mainstream manual (long-term goal) for urban planners (collaborate with innovation stakeholders, artists, clusters, experts, research, universities, state-services (DDTM), companies, research institutes, urbanists, architects).
 - o Example from the City of Vienna: *Manual Gender Mainstreaming in Urban Planning and Urban Development*
 - o Example from the Metropolitan City of Bologna: *Manual “Guidelines for gender inclusive projects in Bologna”*
- **Adopt evidence-based gender mainstreaming approaches.** Before precise goals can be formulated, it is necessary to complete preliminary studies. **Gender-specific surveying and data analysis** and their evaluation form the basis to integrate gender aspects into the subsequent planning process.



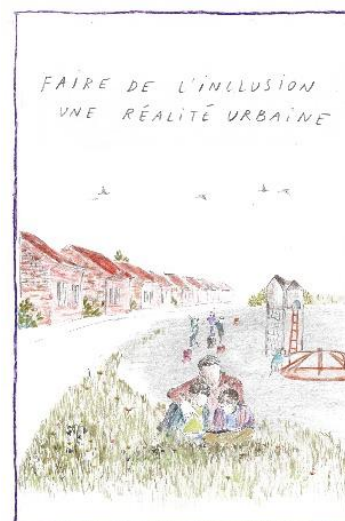
- **Practical applications of gender analyses are important tools for communication.** It is suitable to create a “technical group”, i.e. a group composed by people coming from the public administration that is getting involved in the process. The group analyses statistical data from internal, regional, national and international sources and define potential objectives, then defines a starting draft (a scoping document) with a) critical issues, b) vision, c) strategic objectives.

Continuing the process

- **Raising awareness.** Work together with different stakeholders to raise awareness about gender equality challenges.
 - Postcards from Valenciennes Métropole
 - Festivals in Sweden
 - Les Elles in La Rochelle with themes such as public spaces, gender equality or familyfriendly prize
 - Igualcamp in Spain
 - Equal pay campaigns or seminars for 30 minutes with experts to discuss during lunch in Bologna
 - Umeå gender landscape bus tour, night walks, walks, design...



Age-adjusted dots



Methodologies and tools for participatory processes

- **Continuous learning and knowledge.** View the work as a long-term learning process that needs to be maintained and continually developed. The individual is key in this process. Her/his knowledge and awareness of gender equality and anti-discrimination is crucial for practical implementation in everyday work. Knowledge is the key to change.
- **Allocating resources and time** to build and ensure expertise within the organisation is essential for how implementation is carried out in decision-making, collaborations, and setting requirements.
- **Educational platforms with toolboxes** (long-term objective). A collaborative platform is created as a meeting place and an information exchange point where stakeholders can contribute offering proposals, tools, actions in response to the scoping document. They register themselves and they choose their specific intervention area.
 - Toolboxes include what are the right stakeholders, guidelines (in Valenciennes in NGOs for social cohesion, city policies), checklist, norms, digital training modules (podcast), goals with key performance indicators, projects, definitions of gender concepts, branding materials, posters to send to Municipalities

- Take inspiration from shyst.se or Centre Hubertine Auclert, egaliteque.fr, Kronoberg, Sweden
- Examples from the City of Vienna or Metropolitan City of Bologna.

Involving the community

- **Work with public servants:**
 - **Make officers responsible for their jobs** – bring the urban planners onto the streets and make them think from different perspectives such as woman or men, intersectional perspective or disable (childcare, elderly care, other?)
 - **Are they gatekeepers or gate openers?** Identify resistance (Resistance report from Sweden), provide them with a space to express their thoughts, make them allies
 - **Each municipality of the metropole could have a gender plan**, crossing all sectorial policies. And town officers will have to report on it. From the 'REV' (*Réseau Égalité Valenciennois*), finding the change agents in the municipalities and having ambassadors from the civil servant for gender mainstreaming and distribute responsibility between municipalities – according to their interests
 - Have an **innovation award** or incentives for public servant (example of Vienna)
 - Internal games for gender issues with incentives (see La Rochelle)
- **Engage to break the bubble and reach beyond usual suspects.**
 - **Use monitoring tools for decision-making:** social space analysis, gender equality readiness level, fairness check, etc.
 - Perform **statistical research** about the age and social situation of the people living in the area. Spend time directly on the area at different times and ask the different user groups, what they want in the future. If groups are missing anything, e.g. teenage girls, we ask in nearby schools or youthwork
 - Involve youth: **hackathons** (Igualecamp in Spain) to propose projects
 - **Integrate from the very start the gender aspect** in each project
 - **Involve the research institutes**, academia, external experts to give you input (e.g. University of Lille)
 - **Map who you are missing** (involve in different times, workdays, weekends) organized by social workers, planners
 - **Involve relevant stakeholders from the outset**, such as organisational leaders, human resources teams, diverse employee groups, as well as children, youth, and adolescents

Communication and branding

- **Internal communication** for Valenciennes Métropole is important (work with public relation departments, 'no women no panel' in events or workshops, example of the website expertes.fr), inclusive communication template from Sweden).

- **External communication.**
 - Change narrative: no gender, more family-friendly, or future-oriented projects. Still, keep the gender mainstream policy at the political and institutional level
 - Branding the urban spaces as family-oriented, intergenerational
 - Create visibility of your actions. Branding is important
 - Communicate and offer participation in a tailor-made way to different user groups (time of day, accessibility, ...)
 - Work with commissions (urban planning, growth) to include user groups in the process
 - Include a feedback loop to be transparent through different channels (platforms, public meeting)
 - Use the public furniture to communicate and to raise-awareness

Valenciennes Métropole: A Laboratory for Urban Gender Mainstreaming Experimentations

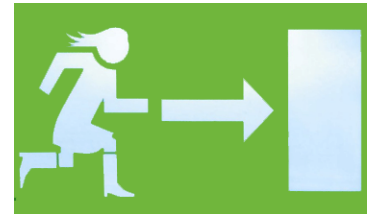
- **Pilot new urban spaces through temporary spaces.** Temporary uses can be key to experiment approaches to gender mainstreaming. They provide an opportunity to embrace flexibility, experiment with various functions, and engage with the community before determining the most suitable permanent uses.
- **Pilot to learn-by-doing** instead of gender mainstreaming everything at the same time and use it as best practice and use it for finding the right requirements and specifications.
- **Codify what was learnt from experimentations and iterative trials- and - errors.** When developing method manuals and checklists – think about designing platforms where stakeholders can ask and receive help to implement the tools.

Public procurement

- **A Framework for Change.** The Metropole of Valenciennes holds a significant opportunity to establish robust frameworks and incentives aimed at fostering gender equality integration within stakeholder organizations.
- By prioritizing policy development, particularly through clear public procurement requirements, project calls, recruitment procedures, and financial allocations, Valenciennes can create tangible pathways for gender mainstreaming. Setting explicit criteria and expectations, coupled with active demands for gender equality, will be pivotal in driving substantive progress. Embracing a proactive stance in demanding gender equality across collaborative endeavors will pave the way for comprehensive integration efforts.
 - have specific requirements for public procurement rather than general ones (see the Manual in Vienna)
 - Example from Strasbourg Métropole with public procurement (SPASER)
 - Special training and capacity-building for public procurement officers
 - Meeting with companies for their ideas on public procurement


Monitoring

- **Have monitoring in place.** The systematic monitoring and evaluation of planning processes and activities creates transparency regarding the goals achieved as well as any desirable or undesirable effects.
- Continuous monitoring of progress is a necessity of gender analyses and directly interrelated to the effective formulation of goals.
- Final evaluations are necessary once strategy/planning projects have been completed to identify possible areas for improvement and future development.
 - o Having focus groups
 - o Reporting in a public meeting every year of the activity with different stakeholders in Bologna to discuss next steps (rapport annuel égalité)
 - o A monitoring report is an opportunity to meet with stakeholders and people
 - o Summary of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to communicate and be transparent



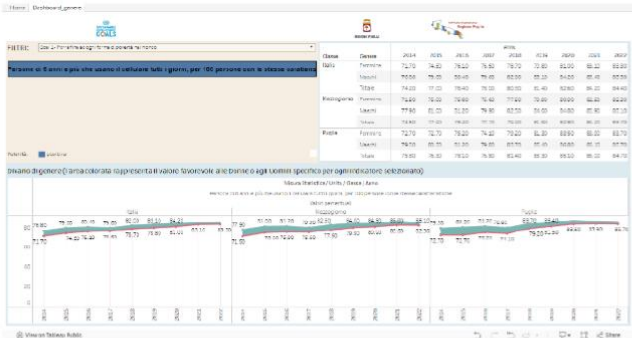
1. How to design a governance and process to involve stakeholders in a gender mainstreaming approach?

du texte




MONITORING

Gender gaps in the UN 2030 Agenda Indicators



<https://www.regione.puglia.it/web/ufficio-statistico/i-divari-di-genero>




- Work and life balance
- Education and training
- Politics and institutions
- Economic well-being
- Delute
- Social relations
- Quality of services

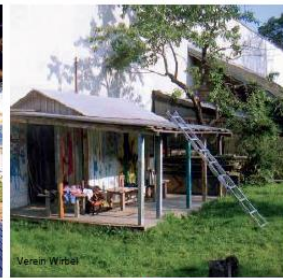
How to design gender inclusive urban spaces

Valenciennes Métropole: Public Spaces for Everyone!

- **Experiment with public spaces with a women-focused.**
 - o Streetnames after famous local women

- pictograms, monuments, symbolic
- **Use Interreg Europe matchmaking services** to explore different approach for lighting spaces (security vs biodiversity > security with biodiversity).
- Example of a gender sensitive park design in Vienna, Austria.

Gender Sensitive Park Design



5. Possible calendar of implementation

Calendar of implementation of the proposed recommendations														
Applicability [1]	Recommendations	month 1	month 2	month 3	month 4	month 5	month 6	month 7	month 8	month 9	month 10	month 11	month 12	Comments
	Initiating the process													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Benchmark different Manuals for Gender Mainstreaming													We already started the process (examples from Vienna, Paris, and other technical manuals from urban planners)
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Align with European guidelines such as the Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.													As we signed the European Charter for Equality between men and women in local life, we already aligned our action plan on the European strategy
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Create your own gender mainstream manual for urban planners													this is a long term project, and could be the end of the process (after month 12)
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Adopt evidence-based gender mainstreaming approaches.													To build our gender equality action plan, we already adopted this approach, continuously looking for local data.
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Practical applications of gender analyses are important tools for communication. It is suitable to create a "technical group"													We have "equality ambassadors", composing a "gender equality technical group" in Valenciennes Métropole whose role is to monitor each roadmap (and data) of the gender action plan
	Continuing the process													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Raising awareness. Work together with different stakeholders to raise awareness about gender equality challenges													We already started to raise awareness through training sessions, through postcards, and we will keep on doing (conferences, special events, etc.)
	Methodologies and tools for participatory processes													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Continuous learning and knowledge													We regularly organise training sessions on gender issues, it is a compulsory session for every civil servant at Valenciennes Métropole. We have a dedicate budget on gender issues, we trained "gender ambassadors" in each service
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Allocating resources and time to build and ensure expertise within the organisation													
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Educational platforms with toolboxes													Is a long term objective. We already have documents (guidelines, podcasts) on our website but do not have a specific platform for gender issues.

	Involving the community															
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Work with public servants - Make officers responsible for their jobs															We would like to organise a work group on gender inclusive urban spaces, directed by an external expert and including our urban planners colleagues - bringing them onto the streets and make them think from different perspectives could be part of this work group
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Work with public servants - Are they gatekeepers or gate openers? Identify resistance															it will be easier to identify resistance when the work group will be in place
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Work with public servants - Each municipality of the metropole could have a gender plan															We already started to work with municipalities : we organise frequently a work group on gender issues for municipalities, we accompany 3 municipalities to build a gender plan and hope to embark more municipalities in the future
<i>Rather seen as not applicable at the moment</i>	Work with public servants - Have an innovation award or incentives for public servant															this is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to organize awards for civil servants
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Work with public servants - Internal games for gender issues with incentives															Could be organized on March 8 2025
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Engage to break the bubble - Use monitoring tools for decision-making															could be created with the work group on gender inclusive urban spaces (as part of a future manual)
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Engage to break the bubble - Perform statistical research about the age and social situation of the people living in the area / Map who you are missing															We need to embark urban planners on this topic, and they need to dedicate some time to do so. Thus, the necessity to raise awareness before
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Engage to break the bubble - Involve youth															we could launch a call for projects on gender issues for youth (depend on the budget...). We start working with high schools on the project but it is rather informal for the moment
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Integrate from the very start the gender aspect in each project															this is a long term process. For the moment we will select some specific projects
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Engage to break the bubble - Involve the research institutes, academia, external experts to give you input															We could involve them within the work group
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Engage to break the bubble - Involve relevant stakeholders from the outset															They could be part of the work group

	Communication and branding													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Internal communication for Valenciennes Métropole is important													We already work with the communication department on gender issues, we have an inclusive communication guide, but this is also a long term process to embark each service
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Change narrative: no gender, more family-friendly, or future-oriented projects. Still, keep the gender mainstream policy at the political and institutional level. Branding the urban spaces as family-oriented, intergenerational.													We could work on this particular communication issue within the work group
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Communicate and offer participation in a tailor-made way to different user groups (time of day, accessibility, ...)													We could try this on the "Place du Canada" project, but needs to be discussed and validated by local representatives
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Work with commissions (urban planning, growth) to include user groups in the process.													We could try this on the "Place du Canada" project, but needs to be discussed internally with colleagues from urban planning services
<i>Rather seen as not applicable at the moment</i>	Include a feedback loop to be transparent through different channels (platforms, public meeting).													This is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to do so, but could try on one project. It needs to be discussed with our local representatives
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Use the public furniture to communicate and to raise-awareness													We have never done that before but we could experiment, with a group of local artists? Needs to be discussed with colleagues from urban planning and culture services and local representatives
	Valenciennes Métropole: A Laboratory for Urban Gender Mainstreaming Experimentations													
<i>Rather seen as not applicable at the moment</i>	Pilot new urban spaces through temporary spaces.													This is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to do so, but could try on one project. It needs to be discussed with our local representatives
<i>Rather seen as not applicable at the moment</i>	Pilot to learn-by-doing instead of gender mainstreaming everything at the same time and use it as best practice													This is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to do so, but could try on one project. It needs to be discussed with our local representatives
<i>Rather seen as not applicable at the moment</i>	Codify what was learnt from experimentations and iterative trials- and - errors.													This is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to do so, but could try on one project. It needs to be discussed with our local representatives

	Public procurement													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Setting explicit criteria and expectations, coupled with active demands for gender equality													We have a specific roadmap for public procurement in our gender equality action plan, we are currently defining the projects where we could set explicit criteria
	Monitoring													
<i>Very likely to be applied</i>	Have monitoring in place.													We have a general monitoring report every year on our gender equality action plan (novembre of each year)
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Final evaluations through focus groups, public meeting every year, monitoring report													This is not the culture of Valenciennes Métropole to conduct final evaluations of urban projects through focus groups, but we do organise evaluation procedures on our gender equality action plan
	Valenciennes Métropole: Public Spaces for Everyone													
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Experiment with public spaces with a women-focused: streetnames, pictograms, monuments, etc.													We could include this reflection within the work group
<i>Depends on specific political decisions/conditions</i>	Use Interreg Europe matchmaking services to explore different approach for lighting spaces													We first need to identify our needs on the subject, but we could definitely use this service

6. Conclusions

The peer review hosted by Valenciennes Métropole turned out to be a real success. Thanks to the support from the team of the Policy Learning Platform and the meticulous selection of peers, this 2-day workshop have really been inspiring for Valenciennes Métropole and our local stakeholders.

The peer review has proved to our territorial community the value of European cooperation and the necessity to become more active on the European scale and involved within European innovation projects.

We have been particularly impressed by the peers' capacity to understand the ins and outs of our policy challenges and to precisely answer to them, with inspiring examples from home. We also appreciated their frankness when sharing difficulties, not trying to water down their experiences.

Valenciennes Métropole wishes to stay in touch with the peers to build a common expertise on gender equality, share our further experiences and potentially answer a future European call for projects.

We will stand in touch with the Policy Learning Platform to offer our collaboration and competences on gender equality or any other subjects that could interest European communities.

Valenciennes, June 5th 2024