

# 7 Lessons Learned

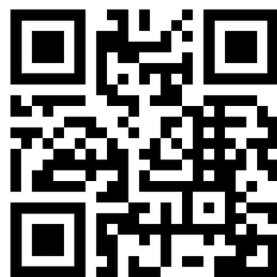
## for urban planning transformation

*I*n an era of aging populations, the URBANAGE ecosystem (digital urban planning platform) makes it easier for urban planners, decision makers, and older adults to better co-design and develop inclusive, healthier, and happier cities where people can retain their independence for longer.

Powerful big data analytical models, citizen co-creation channels, and digital twin capabilities help people understand the impact of existing and potential planning actions on older generations. As a result, cities can make better evidence-based planning choices to solve real citizen needs and address societal challenges to develop age-friendly cities.

This document presents a snapshot of lessons learned in our work modernising urban planning in Flanders, Helsinki and Santander within the URBANAGE project. A more comprehensive policy brief based on complete project results will be published in early 2024.

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# Lessons Learned



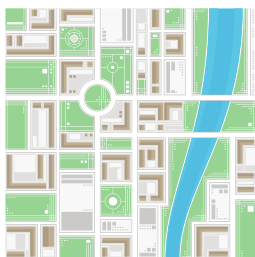
**1. Collaboration:** Achieving age-friendly cities requires participation and data from many city departments. In the case of Urban planning for older adults, we need civil servants in charge of the wellbeing of seniors, urban planners + IT department.

**2. UX:** Good UI design is a must, especially for older citizens. All the studies conducted within the project can be rendered unusable if the target group can't see its potential and use it. Senior citizen's needs, regarding tech are simpler than cutting edge promotes. Natural language in UI is preferable than remarkable look and feel.



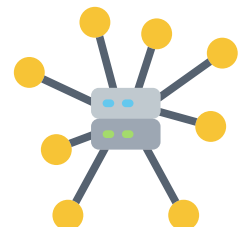
**3. Engagement:** Older adults often already organize themselves in action groups, councils etc. These organizations are extremely valuable in maximising participation. They are often also very willing and able to cooperate and be listened to.

**4. Data Quality:** Quality of planning decision output depends on available data: in the ideal case there is high quality public data. Otherwise developments depend on OpenStreetMap where the quality varies.



**5. Open Data:** Open data must be improved. Route planning algorithms such as AFRP rely heavily on Open Street Map data. Civil servants should periodically update their internal data and upload it to open data sources such as OSM so tools can get better as they have access to accessibility info.

**6. Data Sharing:** A more central approach to opening existing data assets should be encouraged. Larger cities have an open data portal and resources to maintain it. whereas smaller cities do not have these resources, and often don't see the need for an open data approach.



**7. Timing:** Replication is a task that escalates exponentially and should be allocated a large amount of time because it involves not only new data but translations and design concerns.