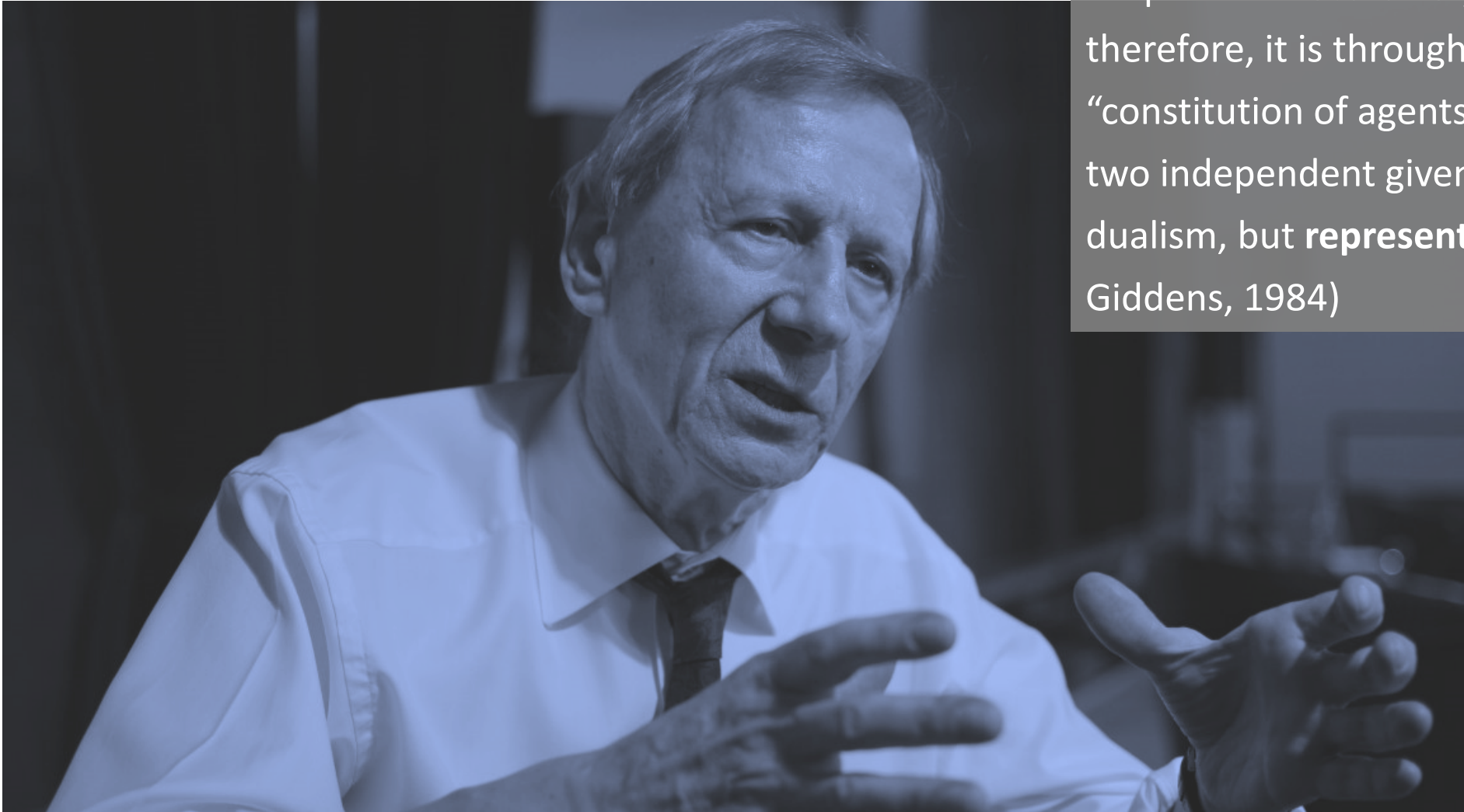# Heritage-led Participation Cases from Naples
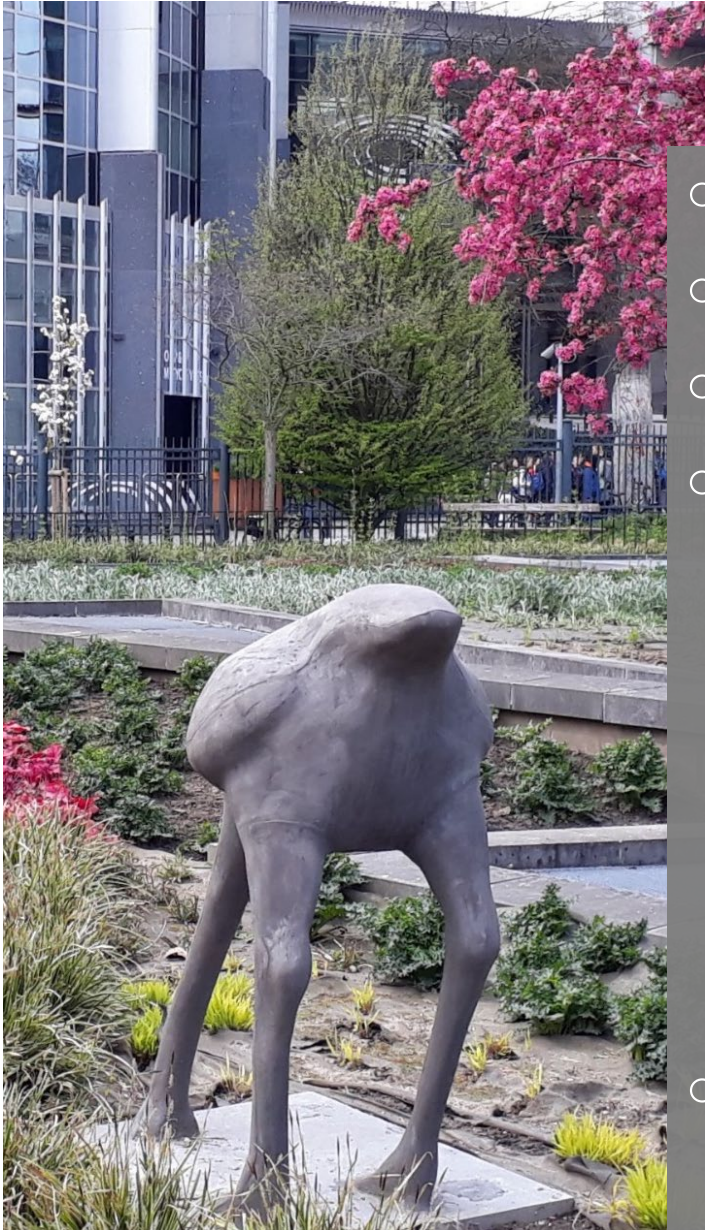
Giuseppe Pace

IRISS-CNR, **LD***net*

Online: Tuesday 21 January 2025, 17:00 - 18:30 CET

Preamble

Human activity and the **social structures** that shape it are **recursively related**, and, therefore, it is through **practices** that the "constitution of agents and structures are not two independent given sets of phenomena, a dualism, but **represent a duality**" (Anthony Giddens, 1984)

Heritage-led Participation – Pace, LDnet

Introducing participation

o **Participation does not guarantee development and sustainability**

o **It could incur significant costs**

o **Participation is a responsible exercise of democracy and citizenship**

o **Emphasis in participatory interactions:**

  o not on what experts know, but on how to distribute their knowledge

  o not on their ability to solve problems, but on opening up debate about them

  o not on public trust in their expertise, but on individual trust in their integrity,

  o not on consent to their plans, but on consent to their mediating debate

o Problems related to roles, power, parameters, forms of co-optation, activism, and resistance within the community create **practical ambiguities for both observers and participants**

A COST Action: Underground4value

- Funded by **COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)** in the framework of the EU Horizon programme (2019-2023)

- **Challenge**: Promoting UBH as a valuable resource to celebrate and preserve and, when sustainable, to re-use and valorise, realising its full potential to support local communities' development.

- **How**: Establishing a expert network to promote interaction with local communities, disseminate innovative thinking, and support them to explore alternative social trajectories

- 35 Countries and more than 200 members collaborating in 5 working groups, with 4 training schools and 13 living labs

COST Action "Underground Built Heritage as catalyser for Community Valorisation - Underground4value"

The Strategic Transition Practice (STP)

Preliminary phase
1. Searchlight
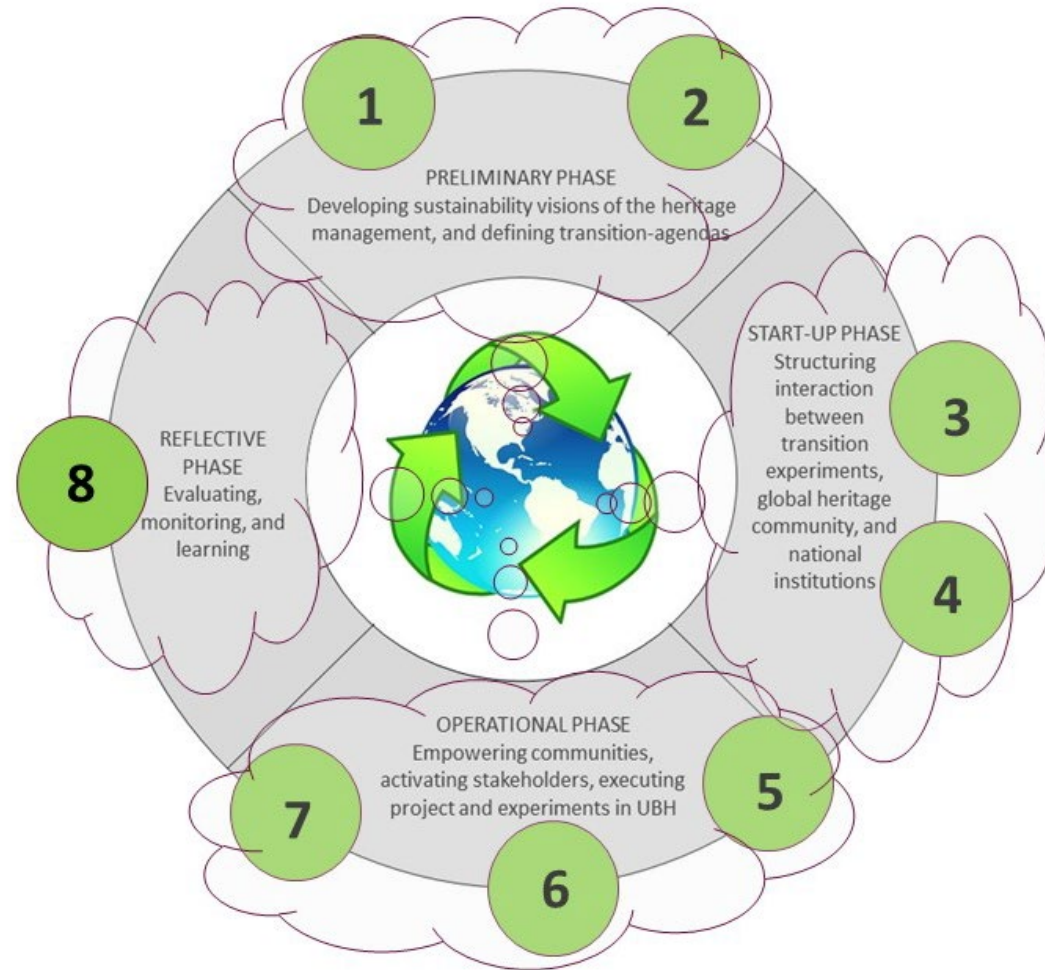2. Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement

Start-up phase
3. Living Lab Establishment and organization
4. Deepening the knowledge

Operational phase
5. Structuring the options
6. Choices and construction of meaning
7. Experimentation

Reflective phase
8. Storytelling, evaluation, and monitoring

PRELIMINARY PHASE
Developing sustainability visions of the heritage management, and defining transition-agendas

START-UP PHASE
Structuring interaction between transition experiments, global heritage community, and national institutions

OPERATIONAL PHASE
Empowering communities, activating stakeholders, executing project and experiments in UBH

REFLECTIVE PHASE
Evaluating, monitoring, and learning

- Multi-level governance – **circular**
- Flexible and adaptable approach based on three components:
  - **Strategic Stakeholders Dialogue (SSD)** →Process-oriented
  - **Transition Management (TM)** → Goal-oriented
  - **Social Practice Theory** → Practice-oriented, community-led heritage values
- **Step-by-step methodology:**
  - To **guide local promoters**
  - To **facilitate** the **dialogue** between professionals and citizens
  - To develop a **dynamic and iterative process**

Introducing the context

Infrastructure barrier for urban cohesion (social & economic)
Corso Amedeo Di Savoia

Catacombs San Gaudioso

o Naples is characterised by a **rich cultural heritage** - since 1995 its historic centre has been included in the **UNESCO list of World Heritage Sites**

o The **Rione Sanità is a popular and authentic neighbourhood**, which today enjoys a revival of its heritage and tourism through local projects integrating social, cultural, economic and public policy dimensions

o Despite its significance, for long time the **district faced socioeconomic struggles and limited recognition of its cultural assets**. It is an area defined by many as '**a ghetto in the middle of the city**'

o The site's underground heritage offers a **unique opportunity for community-driven revitalisation**

o However, **prevailing practices are not based on participation**

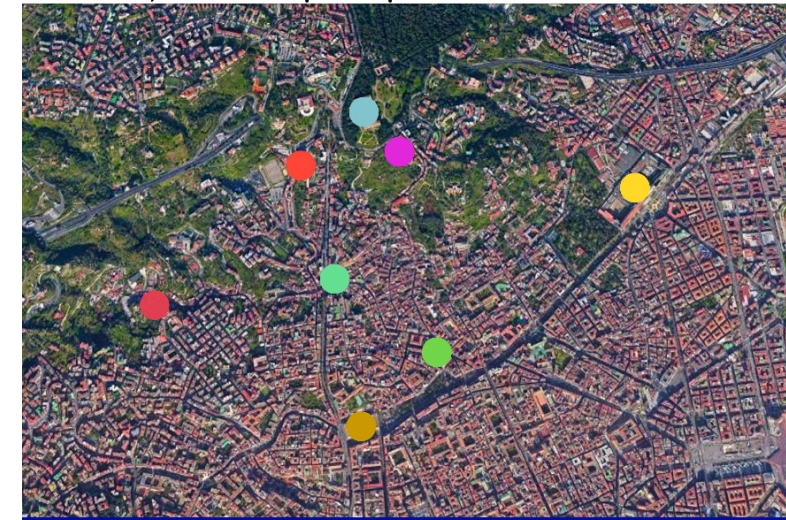Rione Sanità, Comune di Napoli. Map

- Cimitero delle Fontanelle
- Catacombs San Gennaro
- Catacombs San Gaudioso
- Museo Capodimonte
- Real Albergo dei Poveri
- Museo Archeologico
- Stª Maria Misericordia
- Pallazzo dello Spagnnolo
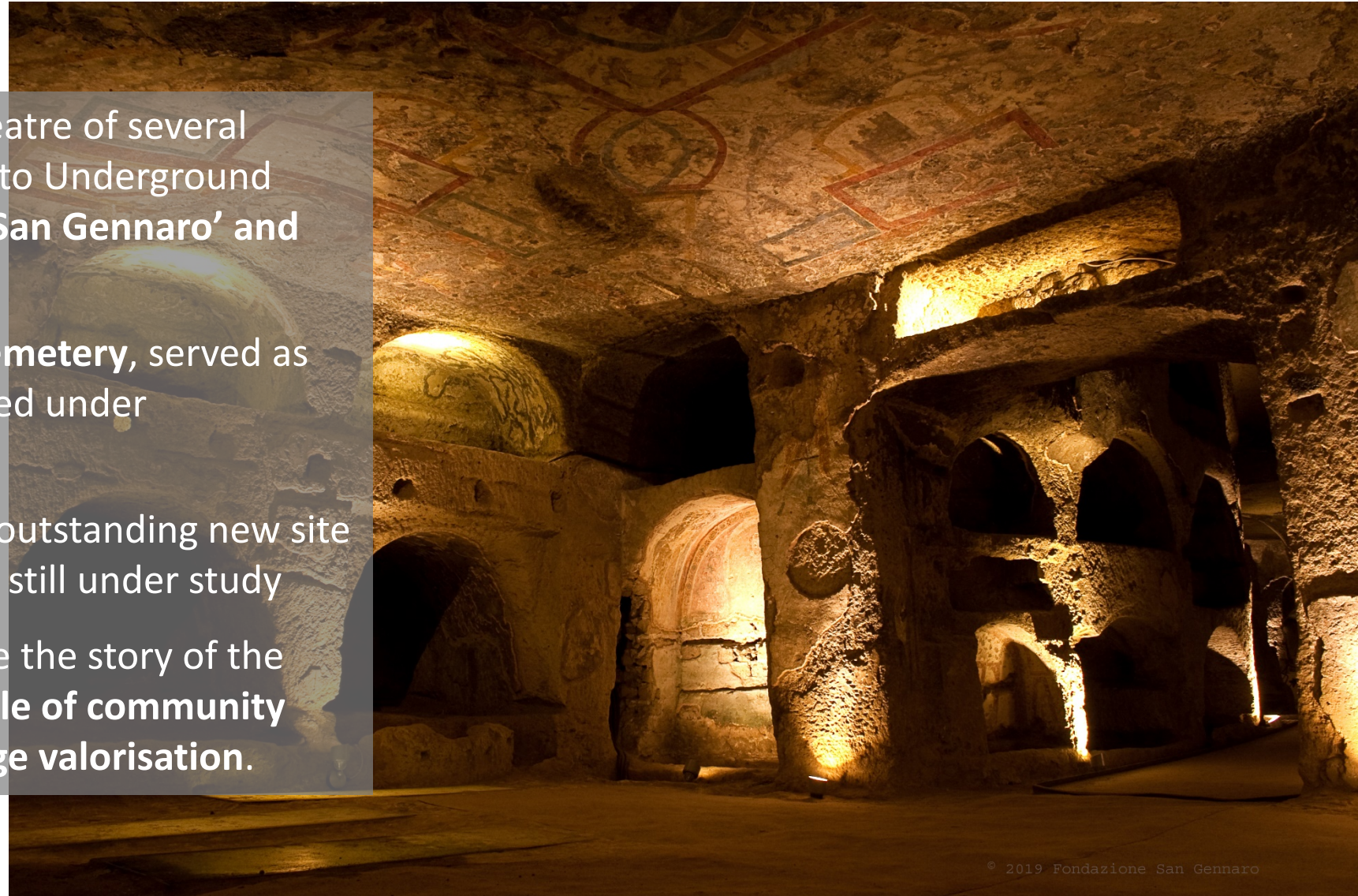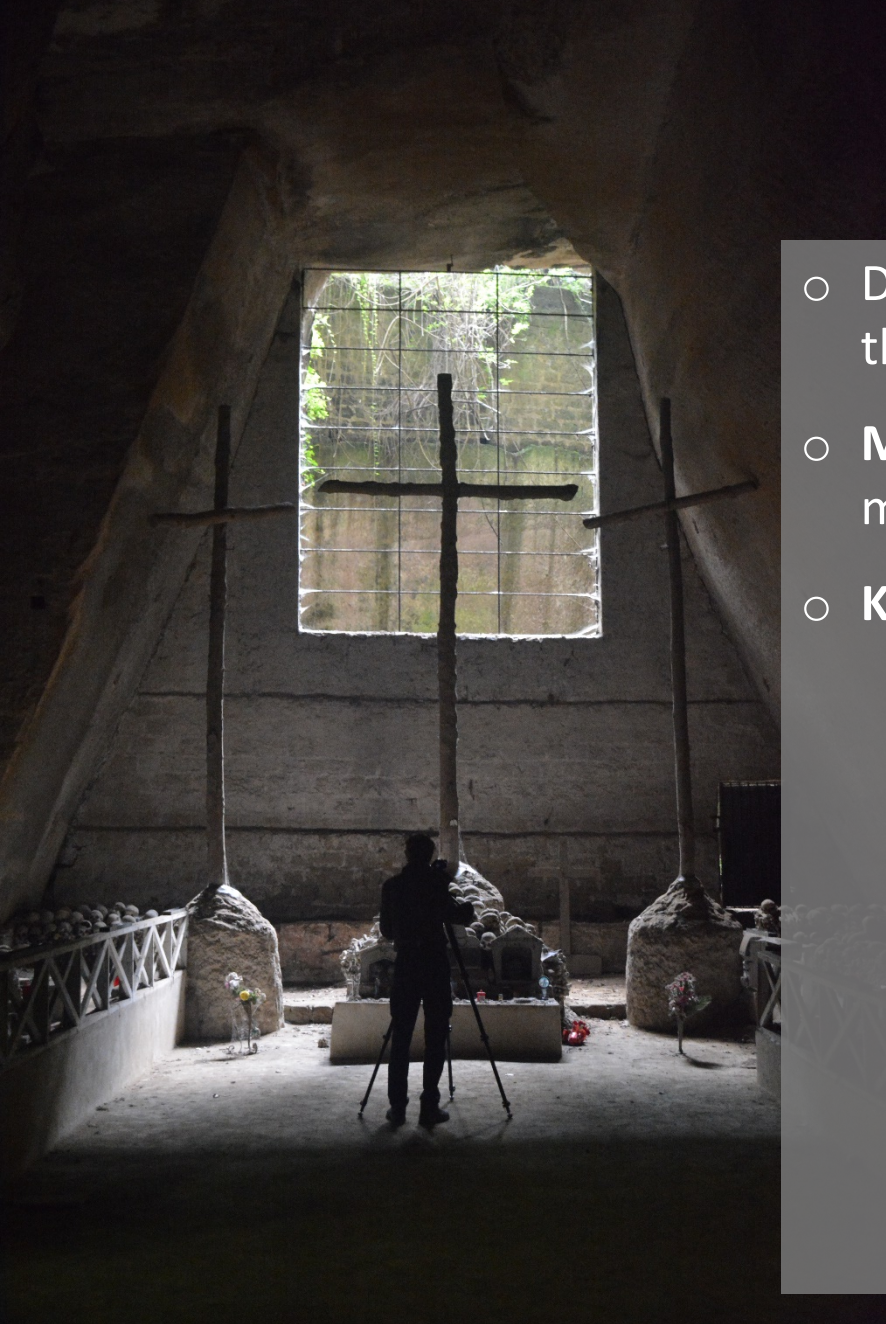
Introducing the context

o The Rione has been already theatre of several regenerative initiatives related to Underground Built Heritage - **Catacombs of 'San Gennaro' and 'San Gaudioso'.**

o Another site, **the Fontanelle Cemetery,** served as the focus of a living lab organised under Underground4value.

o In the same area, a potentially outstanding new site – the **Hellenistic Necropolis** - is still under study

o This presentation aims to share the story of the living lab, its results, and the **role of community participation in cultural heritage valorisation**.

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The Fontanelle Cemetery Living Lab

- Developing a **Public Private Partnership** to ensure the conservation of the Fontanelle Cemetery and promote its public use and valorisation.

- **Methodology:** Strategic Transition Practice (STP) with multi-level and multi-stakeholder strategic dialogue in form of a living lab

- **Key Activities:**

  - **Mapping Stakeholders** - Local community members and leaders; San Gennaro Community Foundation; International experts and researchers.

  - **Starting the Living Lab** - Interviews, bilateral meetings, dialogue sessions and workshops with the local stakeholders.

  - **Deepening the knowledge** - Training school programs for academics and practitioners. Consultations with visiting researchers and tutors.

  - **Structuring the options** – Supporting the Partnership agreement

Process of Mapping and Engagement

o **Initial Challenges**: to **facilitate dialogue** between different actors and monitor impacts; to **create a partnership** on experiments in heritage-led urban development.

o **Problems**: Building on the success of the Catacombs, we believed local participation already mature. On the contrary, we were too optimistic.

o Underestimation of the local community's complexity

o **Incomplete stakeholder mapping** limited the representativeness and variety of voices involved

o Importance of **promoter's role recognition**

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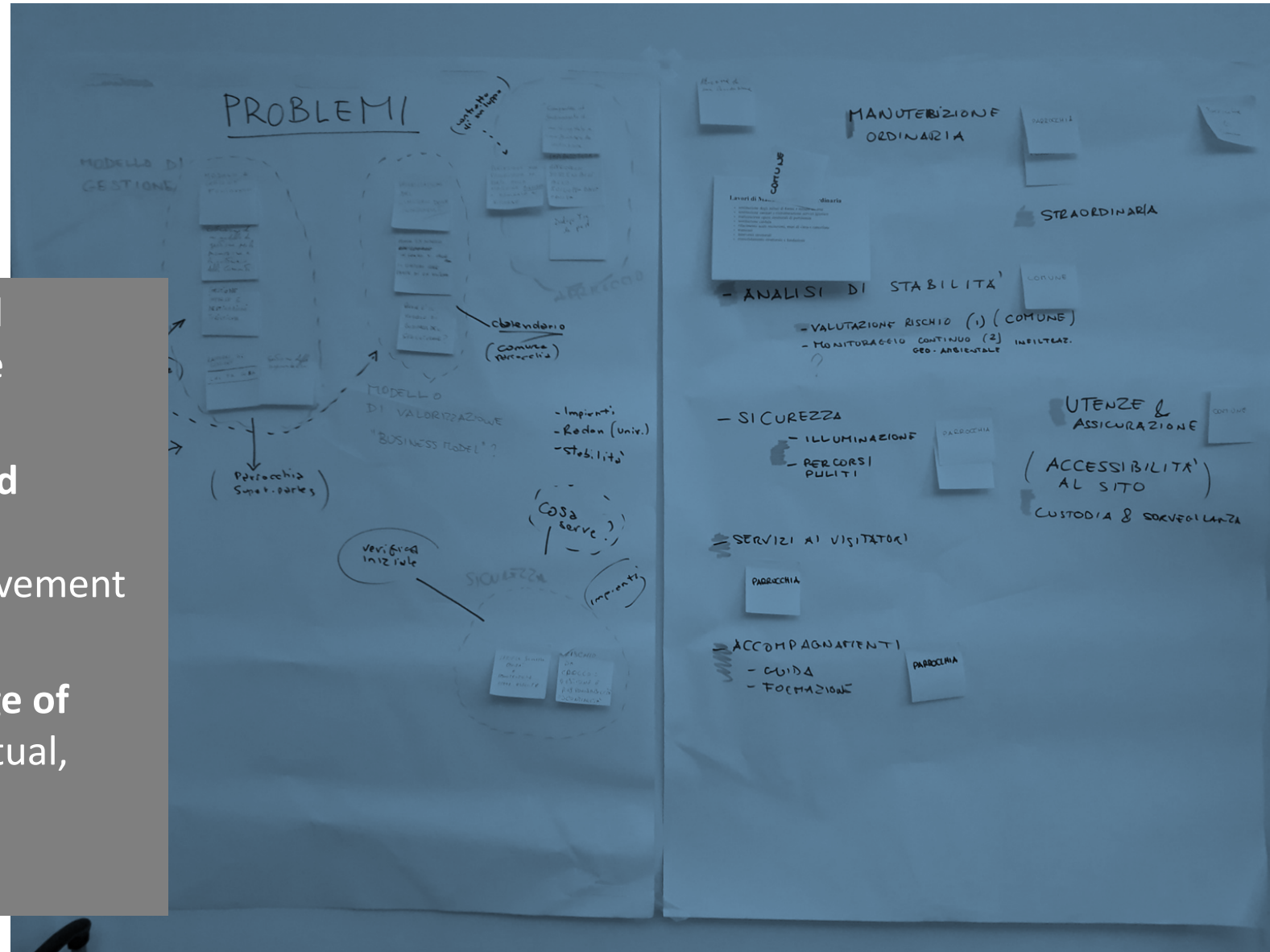Heritage-led Participation – Pace, LDnet

Living Lab meetings

o **First meeting** - *Participants*: Municipality of Naples, Fondazione San Gennaro, Third Municipality, CNR - *Results*: Identification of problems and solutions through brainstorming. *Main topics*: general approach, management, valorisation, security.

o **Second meeting** - *Participants*: Extension with technical experts (security and urban analysis) *Focus*: Rationalisation of ideas gathered. Definition of competences, responsibilities and necessary resources. Commitment of the municipality for security audits.

o **Third meeting** - *Participants*: New City Council managers, La Paranza Cooperative. *Focus*: Review of the draft management agreement. Discussion on maintenance and resources.

o **Final workshop** - *Objective*: Formalisation of the agreement and promotion of the underground heritage. *Results*: Presentation of enhancement projects. Promotional videos and reflections on sustainable management.

Lessons learned

- **Expanded stakeholder mapping** and engagement to include more diverse participants.

- The need for a **more transparent and continuous participatory approach** emerged, ensuring community involvement at **all stages of the process**.

- Necessary to **include a broader range of perspectives** to reflect also the spiritual, cultural, and scientific values of the cemetery

Main Findings and Contributions

- **New Naples' mayor and councillors**. Structural analysis of the site, declaring some areas unfit for use – site **closed since March 2020.**

- **Critical reflection on the agreement** - Exploration of cultural, spiritual and inclusive aspects of the site.

- **Identification of gaps** in the involvement of the Rione Sanità and the city community → Meetings with **excluded key figures**

- Demand for **more inclusive approach to site management** to strength its historical and cultural values.

- **Overcoming the previous partnership agreement**. Publication of a **public tender** for a special public-private partnership (October 2022) → we organise a workshop.

- On 31 October 2023, Partnership Agreement between the Municipality and the Social Cooperative 'La Paranza' → we publish a book and present the case at the RAI
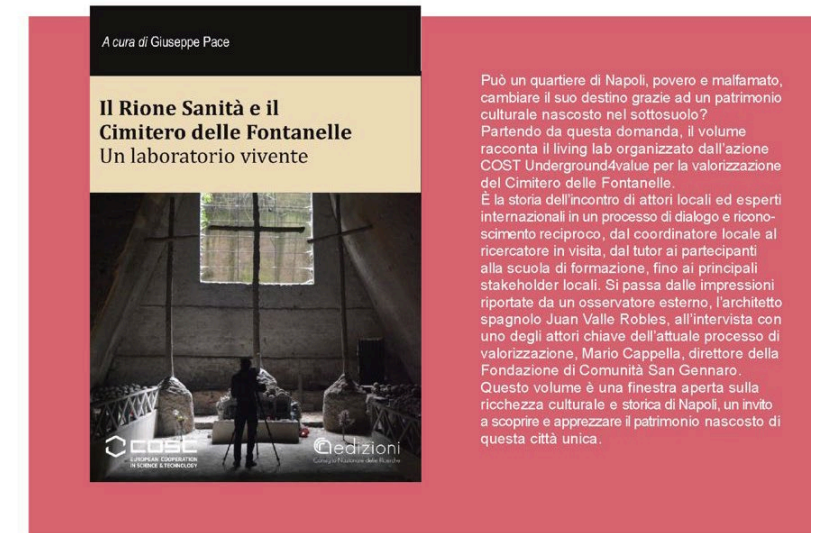

Presentazione del libro
Il Rione Sanità e il Cimitero delle Fontanelle
Un laboratorio vivente
a cura di
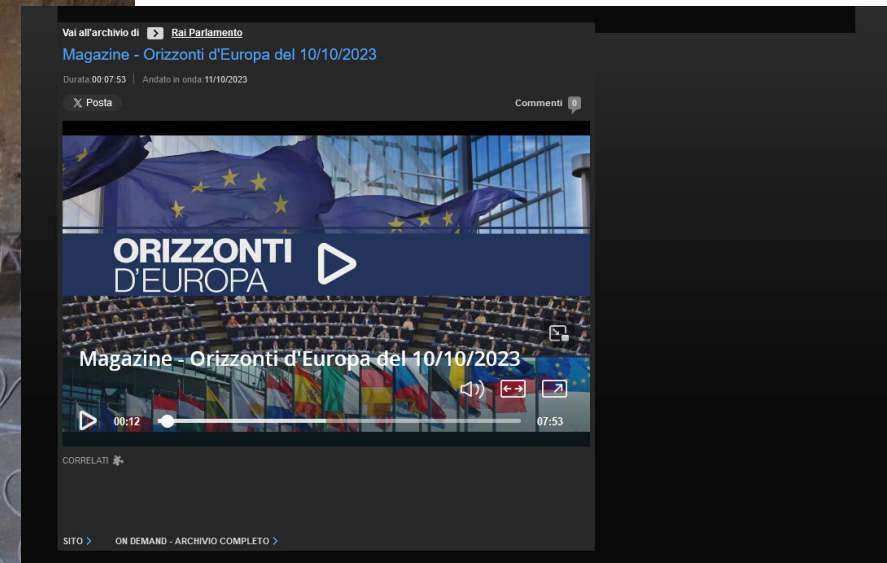**Giuseppe Pace**

Può un quartiere di Napoli, povero e malfamato, cambiare il suo destino grazie ad un patrimonio culturale nascosto nel sottosuolo?
Partendo da questa domanda, il volume racconta il living lab organizzato dall'azione COST Underground4value per la valorizzazione del Cimitero delle Fontanelle.
È la storia dell'incontro di attori locali ed esperti internazionali in un processo di dialogo e riconoscimento reciproco, dal coordinatore locale al ricercatore in visita, dal tutor ai partecipanti alla scuola di formazione, fino ai principali stakeholder locali. Si passa dalle impressioni riportate da un osservatore esterno, l'architetto spagnolo Juan Valle Robles, all'intervista con uno degli attori chiave dell'attuale processo di valorizzazione, Mario Cappella, direttore della Fondazione di Comunità San Gennaro.
Questo volume è una finestra aperta sulla ricchezza culturale e storica di Napoli, un invito a scoprire e apprezzare il patrimonio nascosto di questa città unica.

17 aprile 2024 | ore 16.00
Via Cardinale Gugliemo Sanfelice, 8 | Napoli
Sala Convegni | Sesto piano| Polo delle Scienze Umane e Sociali

Main Findings and Contributions

THANKS!

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UNDERGROUND4VALUE

www.underground4value.eu

U4V Toolbox

Welcome to the U4V Toolbox! U4V Toolbox is a collection of recommended methodologies and workflows, case studies, reference documents, external web sites and other supporting materials, guidance documents and best practice documents addressed to supporting local communities to make value in a sustainable way of their Underground Built Heritage (UBH) sites.

The Toolbox's scope is giving to the users a feel of what can be achieved on their own and addressing issues with a fraction of the cost. U4V Toolbox is based on the **Strategic Transition Practice (STP)** , structured in four phases and 8 flexible building blocks to help communities to develop their specific social practices and find their way for valorising their Underground Built Heritage.

Discover More