



DEMO DISTRICT

Kera, city-wide

PARTNERS INVOLVED



COMPLETION DATE

*Launch of the model 11/2022,
Final model 02/2023*

KEY NUMBERS

Individuals taking part in the development of the toolkit: 130 experts from over 40 different organisations & 140 residents; Unique site visitors (monthly, cumulative between 02/2022-11/2023): 6,300

CO₂ REDUCTION POTENTIAL

Model can be applied in themes of energy and mobility, which account for more than 90% of Espoo's climate emissions

CONTACT PERSON AND LINKS

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<https://co-creatingsparcs.fi/en/model/>

Co-creation model toolkit

Short description

- The co-creation model Toolkit for Sustainable and Smart Urban Areas is a tool that helps to support the development of sustainable and smart solutions for positive energy districts.
- The model sees the urban environment as **systems**.
- The co-creation helps to develop user-oriented urban structures that are flexible, able to withstand the shocks in the operational environment, and can optimise public and private sector resources, acting as a catalyst for the development of solutions by providing testbeds for innovation.
- The co-creation model offers a process for urban development that highlights equality and cooperation between different stakeholders.
- The model describes the processes, methods and practices that support the development of sustainable and smart urban areas and the implementation of urban solutions at district level with different stakeholders.
- Stakeholders can include city organisations, companies, universities, research institutes, NGOs, citizens and more.

Key results during the project lifecycle

- The toolkit is openly available as an open online toolbox (in Finnish and in English): www.co-creatingsparcs.fi/en
- Consultant partners WSP Finland and Korkia Consulting supported the co-creative processes and the model's development. Workshops (Design Sprints), interactive webinars, questionnaires, interviews, desk researcher and benchmarking were used in the model's development together with a wide network of actors during 2022.
- The co-creation model was shaped especially by the lessons learned from the development of the City of Espoo's Kera district.
- The stakeholders were invited through an open call. Especially partners related to the Kera development were emphasized in the process.
- Over 130 experts from 40 different organisations participated in the development process itself. Around 140 residents participated in the process.
- The co-creation model toolkit is available online, so actors outside of the SPARCS project can utilise it. All interested parties may also develop the model further or modify it to fit their own needs.

Insights and learnings

- Co-creation between a set of diverse stakeholders needs time and resources as the challenges are complex in nature.
- The needs, drivers, barriers and aims of the different stakeholders – i.e. their reasons for participating in the process – need to be understood in depth.
- Shared visions and goals between the co-creation actors are required for collaboration.
- Commitment and sharing of the lessons learned from past experiences and individual projects are key in developing a sustainable area.
- Further success will be ensured by offering an equal voice to the members involved in the process, without strict adherence to the field of expertise or ownership boundaries.
- Ensuring the feasibility of new ideas has proven to be vital.
- It is important to ensure continuous societal development without being anchored to a specific end state.
- A co-creation model can make city planning processes more presentable and understandable towards stakeholders and citizens.
- Cities can coordinate collaboration within district development better when there is a ready-made available model to follow.

Challenges

- The key issue during the project was to ensure the success of this process involving a wide range of stakeholders.
- The complex challenges of sustainable development are difficult to pinpoint and frame, so focus and effort need to be set on the initial stages of the co-creation process in defining the problem, the context and the relevant stakeholders.
- Reaching citizens for co-creation processes can be difficult since co-creation as a theme can be very far from the everyday lives of citizens, thus communication and applying citizen engagement tactics are important.
- Replication and scale up of model from Kera to other parts of the city: the effectiveness of district-level co-creation can be very case-specific, as the knowledge and motivation of local stakeholders, citizens and other actors may differ.
- Co-creation should be a never-ending process across the district lifecycle. Resources should be allocated for co-creation work even after the construction is largely completed, as this can increase community cohesion. The most efficient solutions may differ depending on the local profile.

Plans for replication

- The plan is to further develop the model by applying it to different contexts and cases.
- Espoo's Finnoo district has been identified as a possible replication area for the co-creation model. The goal of the area is to develop a new sustainable, green maritime area of 17,000 people. Other possible areas include Viiskorpi, Kivenlahti and Espoo Centre.
- Meetings with the project managers of different districts are being held to identify further replication potential.
- The co-creation model is also presented to other identified important actors within and beyond the municipal boundaries.
- Brainstorming with Espoo SPARCS – team and other members of Espoo's Centre of excellence for sustainable development to further utilise the co-creation model in different contexts.
- The co-creation model is promoted in upcoming events in 2024 and communication materials are created to further spread the knowledge of the toolkit.

Questions and comments from partners

Comments to be added during poster session at Consortium meeting in Leipzig

