

## Challenge

A 12-month programme to develop public spaces and participation in Messina, in Sicily, Agorà di Messina set out to improve resident's capacity to effect change and build networks. Guided by a local steering group appointed for the programme, our team worked with people from a range of backgrounds, political persuasions, and from different parts of the city.

## Approach

Working collaboratively with a group of residents, the programme ran a series of events and activities in the city. These events explored people's memories and attitudes towards their city. It included urban explorations, sharing experiences of democratic change from other cities, and a 'Festival of Participation' with workshops on urban spaces, women and inclusion, and democratic innovation.

# Citizen-led innovation, Messina



The  
Democratic  
Society

## Impact

People who have been involved in the programme have become more confident and more knowledgeable about ways of pursuing democratic change for themselves. The events have given people a forum to talk together about the future of their city, and develop their own responses to challenges without having to rely on local government.

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