

Analytical framework for Inclusive urban space design

by the urbanism workshop
Approche.s!

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URBAINES - PAPU



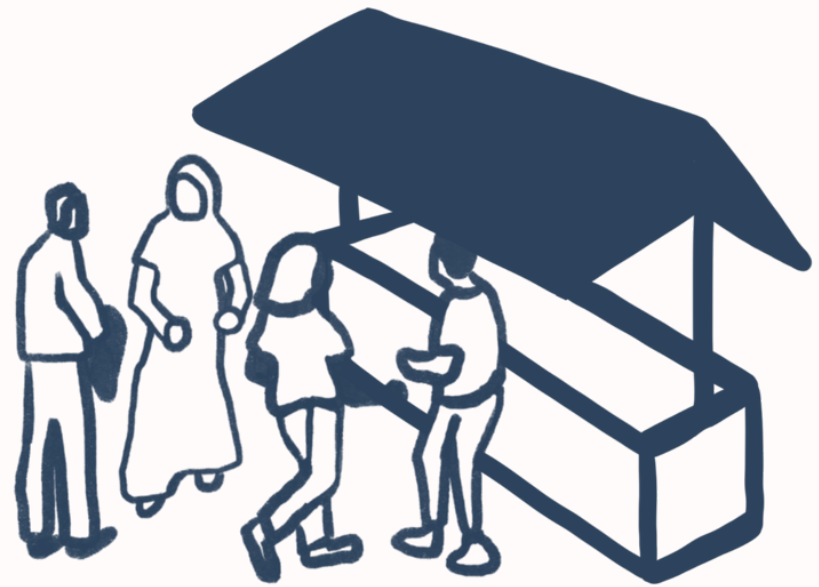
What is an Urban Fabric Initiative?

Urban Fabric Initiatives (UFIs) are collaborative initiatives for the design of public spaces, drawing inspiration from participatory, tactical or transitional urban planning practices.

They bring together public authorities, project implementers, citizens and urban planning professionals to work on the development of public spaces and local facilities.

Supported by the French Development Agency and linked to major structural projects, their initiatives focus on various types of spaces, such as cultural and community facilities, sports facilities, mobility and transport infrastructure, leisure facilities, green spaces and public spaces.

By placing citizens at the heart of their approach, the Urban Fabric Initiatives aim to promote an inclusive approach to urban development and to best meet the needs of residents.



The different phases of a UFI

This tool can be mobilised at each of the following stages of a participatory urbanism project:

Pre-project

These criteria can guide your project design right from the start, encouraging you to include specific activities and budget lines into a project proposal to ensure the initiative and the spaces to be developed are inclusive.

Diagnostic

The criteria can serve as a basis for developing specific diagnostic questions, to ensure that all aspects relating to inclusion (gender, but also accessibility, age etc.) are incorporated into the analysis.

Co-design

The grid can serve as a reminder of the different voices that should be included in the co-design stage, how best to create an inclusive atmosphere to favour contribution from all and certain design elements that are key for inclusion

Mid-term review and reorientation

If, during the course of the project, the project team observes that the use of the spaces by the most vulnerable groups is uneven, the criteria can serve as a basis for considering how to adapt the space to make it more accessible and welcoming.

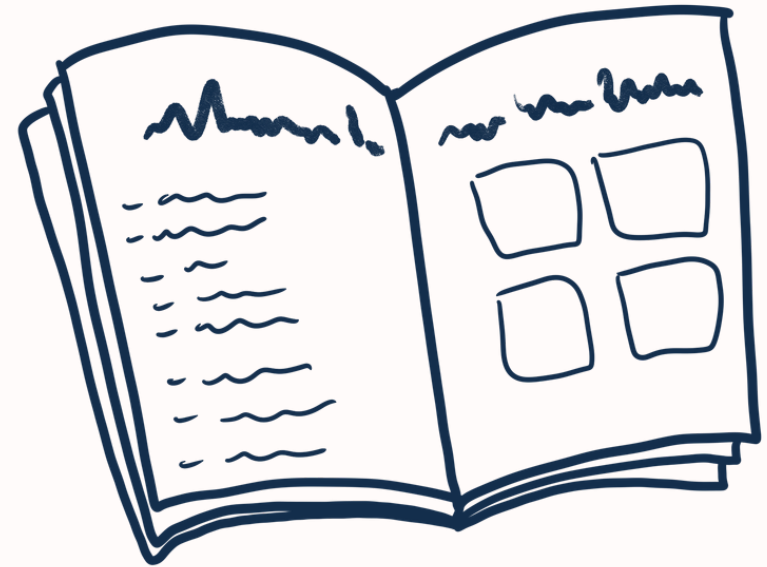
Monitoring and evaluation

The project team can draw on these criteria to identify relevant indicators for inclusion in a monitoring and evaluation framework or in the terms of reference for a final evaluation.

For what and by whom can this guide be used?

This handbook is intended for all those involved in Urban Fabric Initiatives, and by extension all participatory urban initiatives, including urban planners, architects, landscape architects, engineers, sociologists, community engagement officers etc., to support the consideration of inequalities in urban spaces based on gender, age, health or people's social circumstances. It aims to help better integrate the needs and ideas of the most vulnerable (older people, people with disabilities, young girls, children, cultural minorities, etc.).

This tool is designed to support your approach to all types of development (open air public spaces and built environments) and programmes (sport, leisure, culture, transport, community life, etc.).



How to use this guide?

The guide proposes an analysis grid organised in **six major urban themes**:



Mobility



Occupation



Sense of safety



Participation



Governance and O&M



Symbolic presence

These themes are broken down into 16 criteria, each one formed into a question to help structure reflection to elaborate or evaluate an inclusive urbanism project.

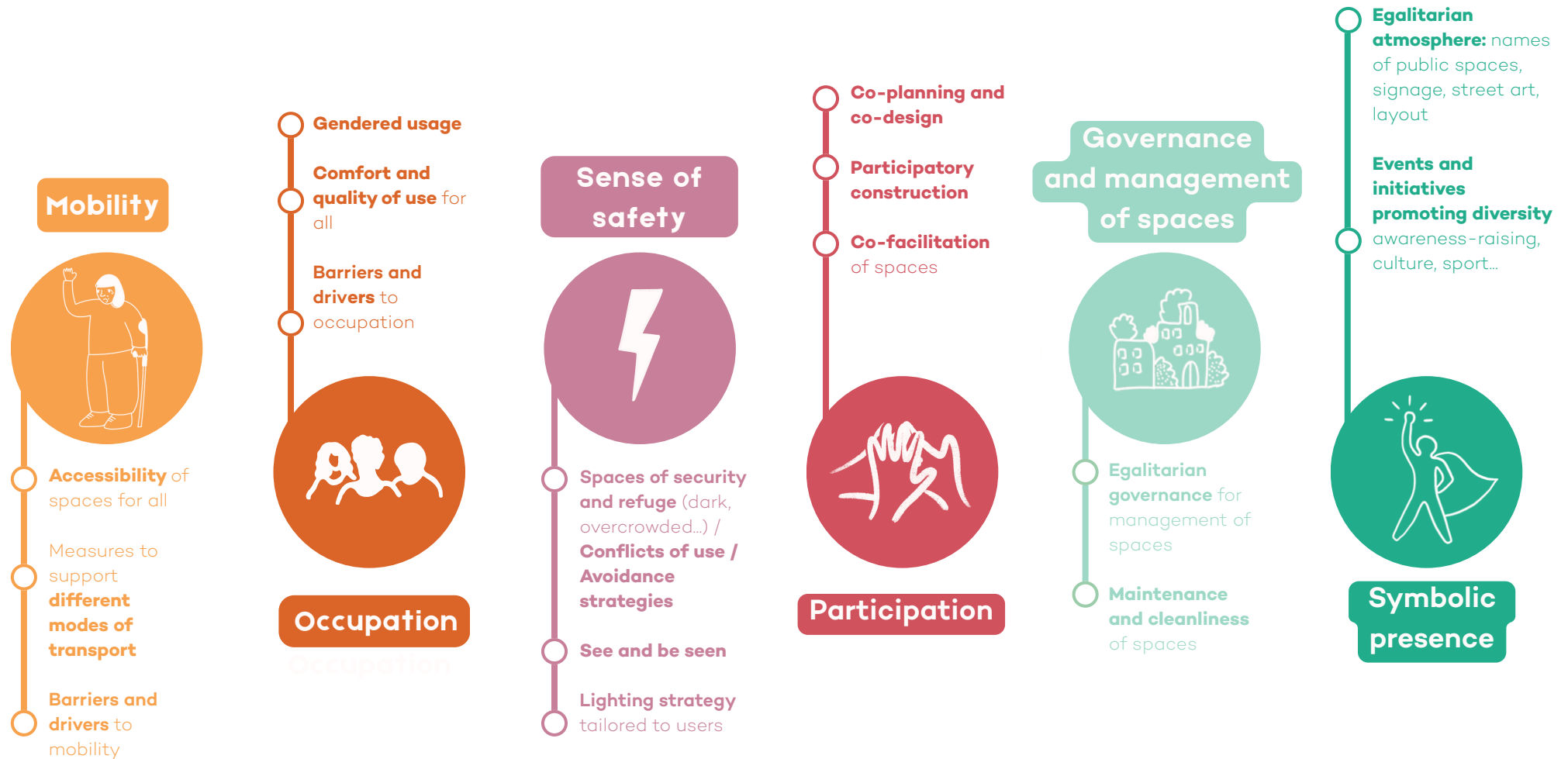


These questions will help you identify inequalities and explore possible solutions. However, the aim is not to provide exhaustive answers to all these questions, but to prioritise certain criteria based on the project's objectives, context and resources.

This checklist is designed to analyse a site in a very practical way, to help designers of spaces or facilities identify specific measures that can improve their accessibility. The criteria therefore apply at the **site level** rather than at the project level.

Analytical framework

Inclusive urban space design



ACCESSIBILITY OF SPACES FOR ALL

(wide, continuous walkways, without obstacles (potholes, ramps), accessible signage...)

Questions to ask

- ☐ Are there protected walkways for pedestrians? If not, can the one be created by reconfiguring the roadside and reducing space for cars?
- ☐ Is it possible to circulate without encountering obstacles or trip hazards?
- ☐ Are the surfaces of walkways adapted to wheelchairs or people with reduced mobility? (flat, smooth, inclination of 4-5% maximum) and to families (width of 1,4m minimum) so that an adult can comfortably walk with children?
- ☐ Is it possible to create regularly spaced rest spots allowing pedestrians to pause and chat, notably older people, pregnant people, young children etc.?
- ☐ How are sign posts use to help people to orient themselves? Are these signs accessible for people how have difficulty reading?

Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations and headcounts
- ☐ Active mobility data collection workshop
- ☐ Subjective mapping workshops

ACCESS FOR ALL TO DIFFERENT MODES OF TRANSPORT

(on foot, bicycle, public transport, motorbike, car)

Questions to ask

- ☐ What is the primary mode of transport of each target group (age groups, gender etc.)? : Walking, cycling, motorbike, bus etc.
- ☐ Are there any inequalities between men and women in terms of transport use ?
- ☐ Are the modes of transport primarily used by more vulnerable groups facilitated by the space? (accessibility on foot, nearby bus stop)
- ☐ Are changes between different modes of transport facilitated? (ex: comfort of waiting spaces, shelter from the elements, accessible at all hours, illuminated at night?)

Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with users

OBSTACLES TO MOBILITY

Questions to ask

- ☐ Are there informal activities (businesses) that take up space on the walkways, making it more difficult to access the space? Could these activities be relocated elsewhere? Can the space be better organised to reduce the conflict between these two uses?
- ☐ Are any costs related to mobility affordable for users?
- ☐ Are there social or cultural obstacles to mobility in public space, particularly for the most vulnerable (fear of judgement or harassment, difficulty for women to go out at night etc.)?
- ☐ Are there environmental obstacles to mobility in public space (heat, regular flooding) ?

Data collection tools

- ☐ Key informant interviews
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with users
- ☐ Subjective mapping workshops



Use of spaces



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GENDERED USE OF SPACES IN DAY AND NIGHT TIME



Questions to ask

- ☐ Are the spaces frequented by a diverse group of people, during the day and at night, during the week and on weekends?
- ☐ Are different uses made of the space by different genders or age groups? Do these uses vary by time of day or time of year?
- ☐ Are there spaces that particular groups may feel excluded from (ex: male dominated spaces intimidating for women)?
- ☐ Are there safe and welcoming spaces for children nearby amenities or sports equipment, allowing parents to use them while keeping an eye on the kids?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations and headcounts
- ☐ Exploratory walks
- ☐ Subjective mapping workshops

COMFORT AND QUALITY OF USE OF SPACES (space and equipment design adapted for all groups)



Questions to ask

- ☐ Are the spaces adapted to the needs of all, particularly to those of more vulnerable or minority groups (ex. adapted sports equipment, seating and tables of different levels - high, with arm rests for the elderly, lower for children...)?
- ☐ Do the amenities encourage different types of uses (rest, play, musical events, reading...) in a non-conflicting manner (notably sale of food, drink and other) by different types of users?
- ☐ Is the space designed to maintain comfort in all weather conditions (cooling by vegetation, shade, protection from wind, rain)? Should noise pollution be considered when designing the space?
- ☐ Is it possible to make essential basic amenities such as a water point or toilets available nearby?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations
- ☐ Key informant interviews
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with users

OBSTACLES TO USE



Questions to ask

- ☐ What are the obstacles to use of the space, particularly for more vulnerable groups (family pressure, fear of judgement, unequal sharing of households tasks, gender stereotypes regarding certain activities such as football)?
- ☐ Is there a dominant group that takes up more than their fair share of the space?
- ☐ Are any access costs affordable for users?
- ☐ Are there any actions or design changes that can be made to better encourage female ownership of the spaces (accompany equipment for women with play spaces for children, timeslots for female led activities, female-led initiatives fund for activities in the space).
- ☐ Post: After delivery of the new space is it used by a more diverse group of people? Is the distribution of these uses in the space more even?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Key informant interviews
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with users
- ☐ Subjective mapping workshops



Feeling of safety



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UNSAFE SPACES AND SAFE REFUGES / AVOIDANCE STRATEGIES / PROTECTION FROM RISKS

(accidents, theft, attacks)



Questions to ask

- ☐ Are there frightening or unpleasant spaces (risk of theft, of accidents, bad smells, rats, noise, poor lighting, risk of harassment or intimidation, places with low visibility)? Are there any spaces that represent risk of accidents or drowning particularly for children? Can they be mapped?
- ☐ What avoidance strategies are used by more vulnerable people (detours, behaviour changes, clothing choices)?
- ☐ Inversely are there safe refuge spaces that are calm, well maintained, sheltered and well-lit? Are there reassuring people present (mixed users, security personnel)?
- ☐ Do the access points to equipment and amenities feel secure (several entrances/exit points allowing for quick departure if necessary? Are there secure walking routes to reduce exposure to cars and thus accidents?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations and headcounts
- ☐ Active mobility data collection workshop
- ☐ Subjective mapping workshops
- ☐ Exploratory walks
- ☐ Interviews
- ☐ Focus groups

SEE AND BE SEEN/STREET LEVEL BUSINESSES



Questions to ask

- ☐ Do the spaces allow for users to see and be seen, to create visual interactions with other users creating a sense of safety, to observe the approach of any sources of danger and to call for help if needed (well trimmed vegetation to increase visibility; converting fences into openwork barriers; the opportunity to watch children play while women carry out activities in the public space)?
- ☐ Inversely are there spaces that allow to carry out certain activities in privacy if required (ex: certain all female exercise classes)?
- ☐ Are there ground floor properties in use nearby (ex: businesses, meeting spaces), particularly at night time?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations

STREETLIGHTING STRATEGY ADAPTED TO USES

including a strategy on their security and maintenance in the long term



Questions to ask

- ☐ Are the spaces well illuminated in a way that is pleasant and adapted to its uses? (ex. different lighting strategies to accompany static and mobile uses, colorful lights visible from a distance to provide reassurance along a path at a fork or intersection, mounted on a pole at eye level, aimed at pedestrians)?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations

INCLUSION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE PLANNING AND DESIGN STAGES

Questions to ask

- ☐ What number and percentage of women and men participated in each phase? (diagnostic, planning, design) ?
- ☐ What framework and what tools have been used at each step?
- ☐ Are the times and modalities of meetings adapted to all, notably to the needs of the most fragile or those regularly not included in such processes (hours adapted to parents' timetables, provision of a babysitting solution, non-mixed meetings for women/girls/people with disabilities if appropriate, accessible spaces)?
- ☐ Is the dialogue framework clearly established (clarification of subjects of discussion, upon which residents can have a genuine say, inclusion at each step, etc.)?
- ☐ Post: Was residents' input taken into account or were justifications provided where this was not the case?

Data collection tools

- ☐ Stakeholder mapping
- ☐ Key informant interviews with locals to help identify people to include in the process
- ☐ Quantifying people participating in each meeting (gender, age category, disabilities)
- ☐ Analyse the relevance of participant proposals in relation with the final project

INCLUSION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Questions to ask

- ☐ What measures can be taken to encourage the participation or hiring of women on the construction site, alongside local artisans or small businesses: promoting or teaching manual skills in addition to other related activities (e.g., cleaning, decorating, restoration)?
- ☐ Are there any female members on the team overseeing the project, thereby creating a positive "role model" effect, encouraging other women to participate?

Data collection tools

- ☐ Observation and counting gender of those present
- ☐ Awareness raising campaigns targetting women

INCLUSION OF LOCAL RESIDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IN THE LAUNCH AND ACTIVATION OF THE NEW SPACES/SUPPORT FOR FEMALE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Questions to ask

- ☐ Are there economic activities or local initiatives lead by women included in the event programming for the new facilities? (e.g. meals or food products, sporting activities, gardening or other pass times)?
- ☐ What number and percentage of women and men participate in organising events in the space?
- ☐ Do the facilities promote female entrepreneurship (e.g. dedicated spaces for micro-businesses to operate)?

Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations and headcounts
- ☐ Key informant interviews
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with users



Governance and O&M



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A FAVOURABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SPACES

(within the management committee of the economic operator,
the relevant local authorities or a hybrid committee)



Questions to ask

- ☐ What is the number and percentage of women and men in the decision making and management bodies?
- ☐ What mechanisms are put in place to favour a mixed governance structure (parity in the management committee, meeting times that are adapted to minority groups etc.)?
- ☐ Are there women in positions of responsibility in the governance bodies? Is their decision making role really exercised?
- ☐ Is the daily management of spaces undertaken in an inclusive manner, representative of people in fragile or minority groups (women, people with disabilities, youth)?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Key informant interviews

CLEANINESS, MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF SPACES



Questions to ask

- ☐ Is the cleanliness, maintenance or repair of equipment in the space shared equally amongst genders or are roles assigned in a way that aligns with typical gender roles?
- ☐ Are the spaces or facilities primarily used by women/children/people with disabilities as well maintained as those mainly used by men?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations



Symbolic presence



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INCLUSIVE ATMOSPHERE

place and facilities name, inclusive signage, street art theme and artists

ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS PROMOTING DIVERSITY

trainings culture, sport ...



Questions to ask

- ☐ Is the atmosphere of the space inclusive and representative of the diversity of those who live locally?
- ☐ Does the street art (e.g. graffiti, statues) promote the presence of women or of minority groups?
- ☐ Are the spaces mainly dedicated to typically feminine uses of public space, or those of other fragile groups, in the centre of the space or placed on the margins?



Questions to ask

- ☐ Are there activities organised in the space that celebrate and represent the local diversity, notably the presence of women, of people with disabilities: cultural activities (concerts, theatre), sporting activities (maracana tournaments, handibasket) ?
- ☐ What measures are put in place to facilitate and encourage the participation of a diverse group of people (adapted hours, timeslots reserved for people in minority groups)?
- ☐ Are there awareness-raising activities seeking to deconstruction stereotypes?



Data collection tools

- ☐ Observations
- ☐ Interviews



Data collection tools

- ☐ Key informant interviews
- ☐ Voxpop interviews with user of different genders



**The urbanism workshop Approche.s !,
specialised in inclusive, transitional
urbanism is the author of this guide
created in collaboration with GRET, the
French Development Agency and the
Urban Fabric Initiatives network.**

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