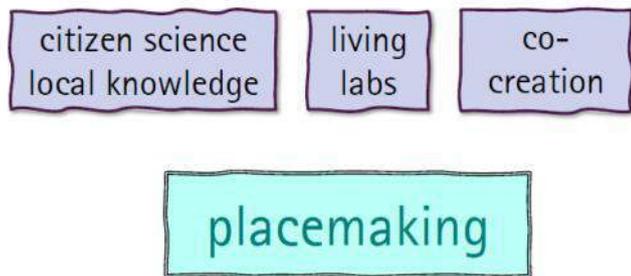


13. Informal Planning Approaches in Activating UBH

By Carlos Smaniotto Costa (Universidade Lusófona, Lisbon, Portugal)

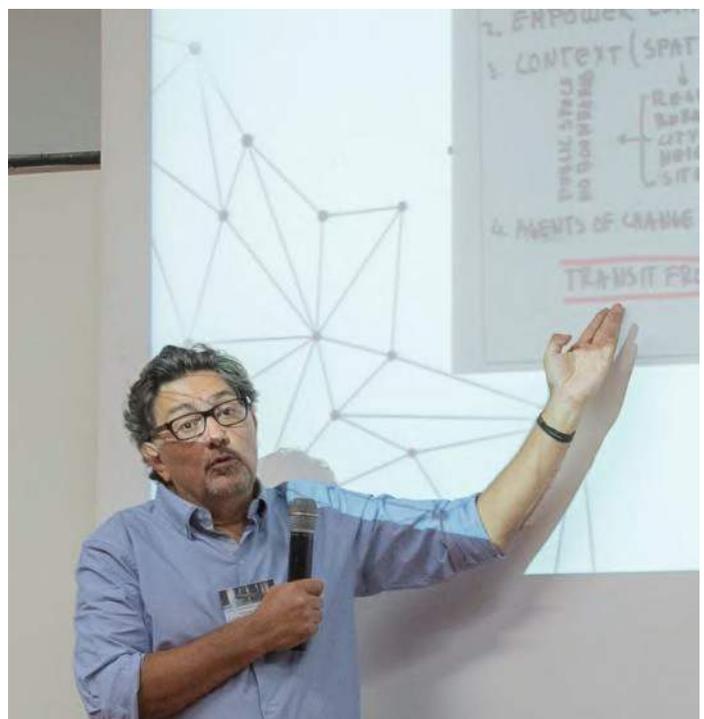
As a landscape architect and urban designer my research interests are spatial transformation of urban spaces - in particular of ecological systems and open public spaces; places that spots nature in cities and where the public life takes place.

The Underground Build Heritage (UBH) introduces the



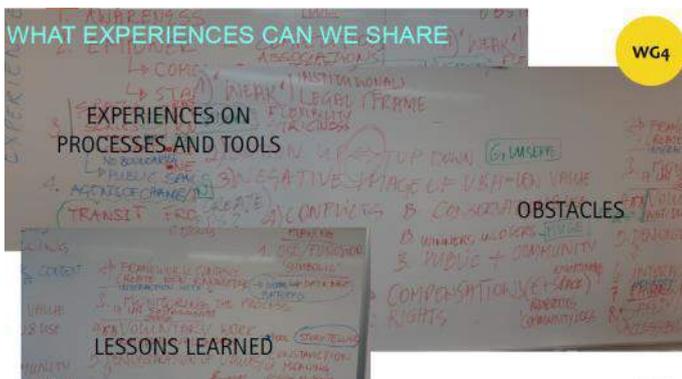
aspect of heritage - a unique but in many cases not valued asset. This is especially true for underground build heritage. Activating UBH, in the sense of managing its transformation from a hidden/forgotten place to a valued asset, raises the challenge how to design and guide the transition.

Such transformation requires in turn a reflection on suitable approaches to initiate and establish a stable take-off process, one that is simple, effective, flexible and open to accommodate correctional changes.



approaches which have such characteristics, and additionally are able to generate innovative outcomes. I refer to informal approaches, such as citizen science and local knowledge, living labs, investigative participation and co-creation. More than being buzzwords, these approaches have proved to be effective in placemaking, and placemaking is what one seeks when it comes to activating UBH. Placemaking means transforming a space into a meaningful place by capitalising the local assets and the community.

Placemaking has the potential to re-engineer processes, lower costs and enrich the experiences. And this is the aim of this contribution, to address informal approaches that can be put in place to establish a take-off process and aid a sustainable development, considering also the digital advancements and culture change. Indeed, the top challenge to achieving sustainable goals is the management of changes. Informal planning approaches are also useful in managing changes.



To tackle both, ecosystems and public spaces, in a holistic and sustainable way, there are some recognised key