

CIRCULAR GRASSROOTS

Circular Grassroots Innovations for Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Transitions

Cities and waste production

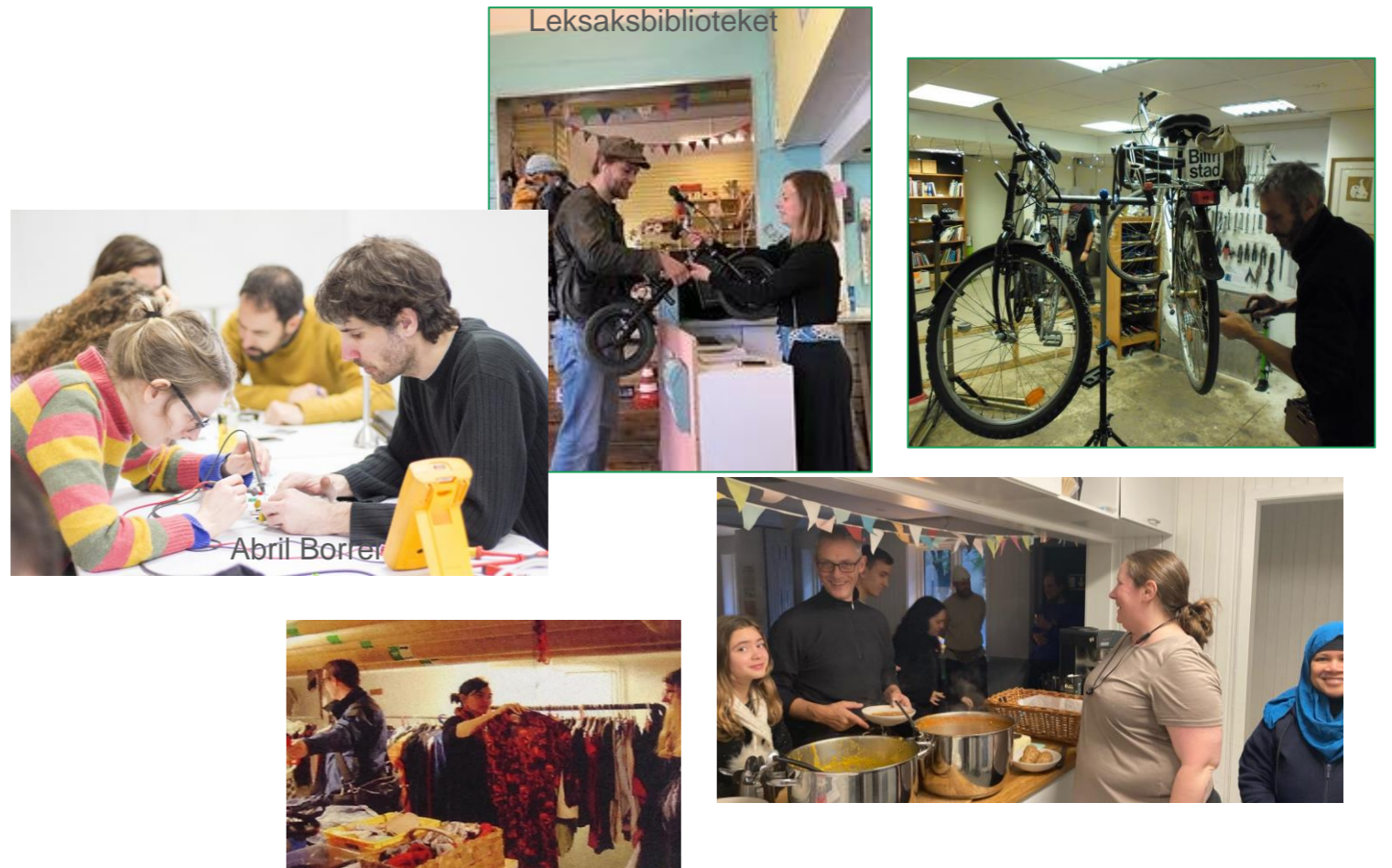
Cities are spaces of overconsumption, waste-intensive production, and high environmental footprints. Globally, food waste makes up a third of all food produced, the construction sector creates a third of the world's overall waste, and the generation of electronic waste is scaling at vertiginous rates. **This steady consumption growth and overuse of resources is being responded to by a wealth of emerging grassroots innovations engaging with ecological alternative practices.**



Grassroots initiatives: food sharing network, repair event, toys library, bike kitchen, free-boutique and people's kitchen.

Circular grassroots innovations

Circular grassroots innovations are constituted by **networks of citizen-driven initiatives, researchers, municipal officers and other actors generating bottom-up circular solutions** based in local needs and socio-cultural values of local communities. Some examples are recycling coops, repair communities, food-saving networks or housing cooperatives.



Grassroot project: aim and objectives

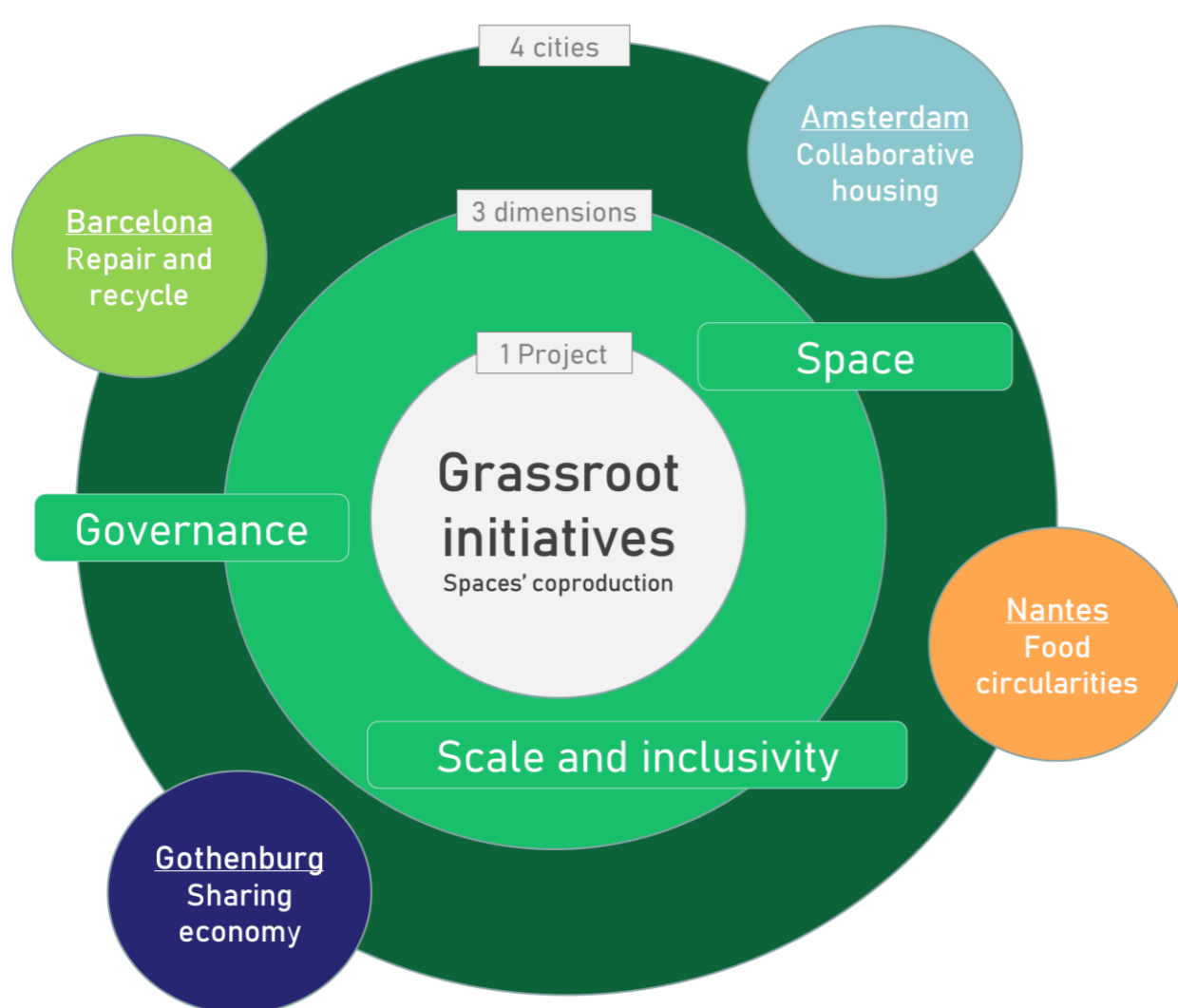
The project aims at **examining the challenges and opportunities that citizen-driven initiatives encounter to scale their circular grassroots innovations**, as well as the role of **space, democratic governance arenas, and inclusivity**, in their expansion.

A co-production approach

The project builds upon **co-production spaces between grassroots initiatives, scholars and policymakers in the cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, Gothenburg, and Nantes**. The transdisciplinary and cocreation approach will produce **applied research**, oriented to provide solutions to local challenges in each city. It will also advance inclusive policy interventions in collaboration with the local governments and the civil society organizations.

Methods

- **Ethnographic inspired methods** to capture everyday practices: participant and non-participant observations
- **Visual sociology**: photo-voice & participatory video-taping, with focus groups and photo/video exhibitions
- **Interviews, desk research**, and analysis of policy documents and regulations
- **Institutional mapping** and policy-tracing
- **Interactive workshops**: policy scenarios, study visits and living-lab inspired methods
- **Material metabolism** and **value-estimation**



With our cooperation partners

Barcelona Activa; BIT Habitat Barcelona; Rezero Barcelona; Restarters Barcelona; Waste Prevention City of Barcelona; Time to Access Architecture, Amsterdam; Democracy & Citizenship, City of Gothenburg; Majorna Collaboration Association and Solidarity Fridge, Gothenburg; REVES European Network of Cities and Regions for the Social Economy



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