CITY PORTRAIT CANVAS

Use the City Portrait as a tool to design city policies, programmes and initiatives in a holistic way, integrating the opportunities and challenges, synergies and tensions between its four lenses.

A3

STEP 1
Get acquainted with the four lenses of the City Portrait. Think about a strategy you are working on in your city. At a glance, which of the ‘lenses’ feels most relevant to the strategy you are looking to design?

STEP 2
Write your strategy inside a diamond shape in the centre of the City Portrait canvas.

STEP 3
Now, dive deeper into the lenses of the City Portrait. Think about its possible positive and negative impacts. You could use different colours to distinguish between positive and negative. Starting with LOCAL SOCIAL:

a. Read the question presented next to the lens on the City Portrait canvas. Think about the ways in which the strategy could be designed and/or implemented to enhance its positive impact. Write your insights on the canvas.

b. Reflect on whether the strategy could create any negative impacts, both direct and indirect. Ask yourself “how could the strategy be designed and/or implemented to minimise its possible negative impact(s)?”. Write your insights on the canvas.

STEP 4
Repeat a) and b) for each of the four lenses of the City Portrait. Think about how each of the lenses interconnect with one another, and the possible synergies and tensions that could arise.

Tip: While doing the exercise, you might find yourself alternating between the positive and negative impacts. We recommend that you find your own intuitive way to navigate between steps a and b.
1 LOCAL SOCIAL

How could the strategy enhance the ability of people in the city to thrive?

- Health
- Community
- Food
- Water
- Culture
- Mobility
- Housing
- Connectivity
- Equality in diversity
- Education
- Social equity
- Political voice
- Income
- Employment
- Peace & Justice
- Energy

STRATEGY:

2 LOCAL ECOLOGICAL

How could the strategy enhance the ability of the city to thrive within its natural habitat?

- Cleansing the air
- Regulating air temperature
- Preventing soil erosion
- Harvesting solar energy
- Managing water
- Storing carbon
- Generating biodiversity

4 GLOBAL SOCIAL

How could the strategy enhance the wellbeing of people worldwide?

- Health
- Networks
- Food
- Water
- Education
- Political voice
- Income
- Employment
- Social equity
- Gender equality
- Peace & justice
- Energy

3 GLOBAL ECOLOGICAL

How could the strategy enhance the health of the whole planet?

- Climate change
- Ozone layer depletion
- Ocean acidification
- Air pollution
- Overfishing
- Non-circular waste
- Excessive fertilizer use
- Excessive land use
- Freshwater withdrawals