



ROBUST

Unlocking Rural-Urban Synergies

Living Labs - Innovations, outcomes, challenges

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Living Labs offer a flexible method of open (i.e. transparent) experimentation which can be applied to achieve innovation (rural-urban synergies in our case).

Characterised by (adapted from Voytenko et al 2016*):

- Locally embeddedness
- Experimental and targeted towards real life situations
- Collaborative and rely on users/beneficiaries
- Leadership is important (practitioners in ROBUST)
- Evaluation informs/adjusts the iterative process

*Voytenko, Y., McCormick, K., Evans, J. and Schliwa, G. (2016) Urban living labs for sustainability and low carbon cities in Europe: towards a research agenda. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 123, 45-54.

4-phase process followed in ROBUST

Phase 1 – Envisioning	Focus of the LL experiments was jointly formulated, discussed, agreed and articulated in a <i>Research and Innovation Agenda</i> (a LL plan – but a starting point, not a blueprint)
Phase 2 – Experimenting	Involved background research, consultations, prototype thinking and ideas testing.
Phase 3 – Experiencing	When experiments were implemented and refined.
Phase 4 – Evaluation	When the whole process was reviewed and reflected upon.