

Fab City Consortium Zagreb 2018

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Background

FabLab association in Zagreb (FabLab.hr) is working since funding in 2013 on promotion of digital fabrication but even wider makers promotion as part of international makers movement. This is recognized by different consortiums which involve FabLab.hr in EU project proposal, and projects. Since 2013 we build network of our partners in region and on EU level, working together on EU proposals and project. Project such as Make-IT, http://make-it.io/, make us understand importance and impact of our role in society not only related to innovation incubation and Startup establishing related to Digital Innovation what significant part is also activities in FabLabNet project.

Even we are not directly involved in Fab City engagement activity as part of FabLabNet project, we understand potential and contribute to strategic document of the project.

All that was somehow was recognized by FabLab Barcelona who is leading Fab City Global Initiative and in February 2018, we received invitation to to bring City of Zagreb to Fab City Global Initiative on Fab City Summit in Paris in July 2018.

Since we already had contact with the City of Zagreb administration from previous activities such as organizing European Makers Week in Zagreb in 2017, we were able to describe what we were offered. City representative prepared Letter of Commitment and Video which was shown at Fab City Summit in Paris





Fab City Summit Paris

During Fab City Summit in Paris, on July 11th was Fab City Lab, prepared for city leaders, where some of city officials signed Fab City Memorandum (unfortunately Zagreb officials were not there), what was preparation for Fab City Conference on 12th and 13th July, 2018.



Fab City Conference was for city professionals with several workshops related to new vision of city of the future. During Fab City Conference, on 12th July Zagreb official join 28 cities around the World who are part of Fab City Global Initiative, with cities such as Barcelona, Amsterdam, Paris or London.

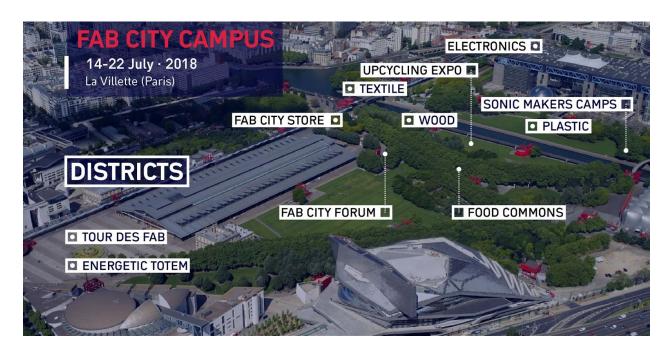








Third part of of Fab City Summit was Fab Lab Campus unveiled on July 14th, and open to general public in La Villete







Impact and benefits

FabLab.hr with City of Zagreb, became part of 28 cities who started to work together on global goal, how to make cities Locally productive and globally connected cities and have 40 years (now 35 years) until cities produce everything they consume. To be part of such network and learn from cities like London, Paris, Amsterdam or Barcelona, just to mention some of EU most significant cities, is great opportunity and benefit for City of Zagreb. On other hand, FabLab.hr have opportunity to make our activities even more attractive and under one identity with more public presence and more impact.

Sustainability and transferability

Track of each city is individually shaped and planned, thereofor it is a bit hard to describe transferability of Fab City initiative. However, it is possible to share experience about process which is prior to actual joining process. Also, sharing existing experience and knowledge is in essence of this global initiative, therefore FabLab.hr is open to all partners and future fab lab network of SE Europe to share experience from Zagreb.

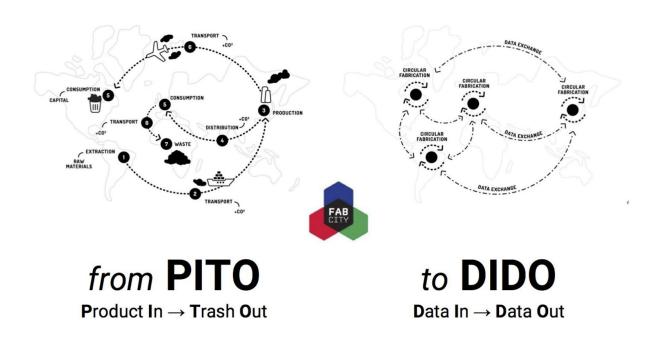


IMAGE 2 : «From PITO to DIDO». Source : Fab City White Paper.





Lessons learnt

With experience since 2013, with organization or to co-organize similar events, such as 3D Printing Open Days, or Science Picnic, or participating on various Makers events in region, and Europe, but also design related events such as Design District or art related like Q'art Zagreb, we were encouraged by FabLabNet project and activities to organize first STEAM Week event not directly related to FabLabNet project, but also FabFest | New Technologies Open Day. Those are our lessons learnt after this event.

Do Not

- Start with some lower city representative, at least not officially. Present this to high level city officials
- Confuse them with other initiatives or projects which might be similar, but opposite in mindset, such as Smart City, which is top down, and Fab City is bottom up approach
- Wait last minute, and prepare all on time, because city administration can be very slow.

Doing

- Engage local communities to have background, and not just makers but all who are dealing with participative design or circular economy
- Prepare Fab City consortium asap, and involve not so many partners. City and FabLab, are two essential partner, and in case of City of Zagreb, we involved Faculty of Architecture, not only to give more importance to consortium, but to have more impact on city

Start doing

- Involve media, prepare press conference when commitment is official, and also after joining global initiative
- Use media for your goal, because this is long term initiative (40years), and politicians tend to give promises and do a bit less





Future activities

After officially joining Fab City Global Initiative, translate all documents to national language, and prepare core consortium partners to sign Consortium document as part of their commitment based on memorandum, similar as city made.

We would like to have regular Fab city Consortium meetings, to discuss about future activities. Fab City Zagreb portal would be prepared to invite other partners to Fab City Zagreb initiative.

Majority of FabLab activities we would like to bring in relation to Fab City, similar as all our project activities, so more people and citizens identify with Fab City. Inspired by FabLabNet strategic document, we would like to hold annual event in cooperation with the City of Zagreb.

As long term idea, we would like to bring Fab City Summit to Zagreb in 2022, as part of regional Fab18+. We believe, role of future SE Europe fablab network would have important role in this.

Hope to see you all in Zagreb in 2022!