

The Trans-Disciplinary Dimension

Co-production process

The project aimed to empower the community through participatory workshops on safety, recreation, ownership, and responsibility, resulting in a shared vision and a replicable model for inclusive urban development.

The project adopted a structured, participatory approach combining co-design, co-production, and implementation phases to foster collaboration, trust, and sustainable urban development in the Mezran neighborhood of Tripoli.

The Community Design Roghata, held on 25 May 2024 in Tripoli, brought together architecture students from the University of Tripoli, the Municipality of Tripoli Center, and Mezran residents to co-design the neighborhood park.

- Co-design phase began forming a steering committee of residents, youth, professionals, and students. The committee organized the “Roghata” activities, set priorities, and

launched a community survey.

- Co-production phase (21–23 May), students and volunteers prepared materials on-site and collaborated with local designers to generate innovative ideas, strengthen trust, and encourage

Building a sense of ownership.

citizen participation despite the complex political context.

- Implementation phase (Community Design Roghata) on 25 May brought together the university, municipality, and residents for site analysis, workshops, and collaborative visioning focused on health, recreation, belonging, and civic responsibility.
- Continuation and outcomes: Subsequently, the municipality allocated funds for park improvements, bridging communication gaps and reflecting community-driven ideas, demonstrating the lasting impact of participatory urban governance in Tripoli.

Competences and Skills

A multidisciplinary team worked together under a shared, facilitative leadership model that bridged academic, institutional, and local knowledge systems. Technical coordination, project management, and stakeholder engagement were led by Tripolis Umran Lab in collaboration with the Municipality of Tripoli Center, ensuring cross-sector alignment and strategic implementation. Faculty and students acted as mediators and change agents, applying participatory methods, event organization, and time management skills to co-produce knowledge and strengthen participatory urban governance.

The Open Science Dimension

Inclusivity

Inclusivity was achieved through the active involvement of local residents, including women, elders, and children, in all phases of the process. Community surveys and meetings gathered local knowledge and priorities, integrating these into the design themes. A parallel “children’s program in the park” led by students

ensured youth perspectives were included, while structured breakout sessions enabled direct dialogue between residents and experts. This citizen-led approach grounded the design in lived experience, blending community insights with professional expertise to ensure relevance and equity in outcomes.

Equity

Roghata promoted equity by ensuring broad representation across age, gender, and social groups. Women and elders participated in community meetings and design sessions, while a dedicated children’s program addressed intergenerational equity by in-

cluding youth voices. The event was held in an accessible public space (Mezran mosque’s event hall adjacent to the park), enabling participation of people with limited mobility. Design themes such as safety, recreation, and responsibility reflected diverse concerns, ensuring that proposed solutions addressed the needs of marginalized groups and supported inclusive, community-driven urban development.

Sustainability

Sustainability was embedded in the design of the Mezran neighborhood park by addressing social inclusion, environmental quality, and long-term usability. Community input shaped culturally relevant, low-cost solutions that reflected local needs. Green elements were prioritized to enhance climate resilience and public health. Youth and women’s participation fostered social ownership, while collaboration with the Municipality and University ensured institutional support, promoting a sustainable model for community-led public space development in Tripoli.

Foreign missions in Libya, particularly from Italy, the UK, the UN, and the World Bank, have shown growing interest in community-led initiatives, recognizing their potential to be leveraged through future “roghatas” as platforms for knowledge exchange across the Mediterranean.





The Knowledge Valorisation Dimension

- **Social Value:** Strengthened social cohesion by fostering dialogue and collaboration among residents, students, and municipal actors. The participatory process empowered community members, reinforced civic agency, and built a sense of ownership over the neighborhood park.
- **Educational Value:** Provided hands-on learning for architecture and planning students in participatory design and community engagement, while facilitating ongoing knowledge exchange between academia, local government, and residents.
- **Economic Value:** Proposed low-cost, locally adaptable design solutions, laying the groundwork for future community-led improvements and creating potential for local employment in park development and maintenance.

Outputs & Impacts

Outputs

Design outcomes and community feedback were showcased at the Mezran Street Fair. A comic booklet about Roghata is currently under development to document and communicate the process in an accessible format, aiming to foster knowledge exchange with regional and international universities and inspire cross-border academic collaboration.

Following the success of the “Roghata,” the Municipality of Al-Khums partnered with the University of Tripoli’s Department of Architecture to co-develop [Al-Khums Vision 2050](#).

Breakout sessions.



Roghata functioned as both a design exercise and a political act—demonstrating how participatory approaches can challenge top-down norms and seed more inclusive, accountable urban governance in Libya.

Despite the isolation of the country in recent years, due to the complex geopolitical situation, experiences like Roghata have triggered the interest of international partners paving the way for potential future collaborations.