



International Superblock Meeting hosted by the City of Barcelona **Conclusions & Reflections**

25. March 2023, 9:30-11:00 AM, Casa Golferichs Civic Centre



Table of Contents

1	Introduction.....	2
2	Question:«What are your learnings from the International Superblock Meeting?»	3
2.1	Summary of responses	3
2.2	Responses in detail.....	4
3	Question:«What is your feedback on the event? What did you like? What did you not like?».....	6
3.1	What I liked during the International Superblock Meeting	6
3.2	What I didn't like during the International Superblock Meeting	8

1 Introduction

In a concluding session on 25 March 2023 the participants of the first International Superblock Meeting came together to reflect on the event itself and the learnings they made during the event.

Seated in a round circle the workshop participants collected their answers for two questions posed by the event organizers:

- 1) What are your learnings from the International Superblock Meeting?
- 2) What is your feedback on the event itself?
 - a. What did you like?
 - b. What did you not like?



2 Question: «What are your learnings from the International Superblock Meeting?»

Responses were collected on post-it notes. See a high resolution of all post-it notes in appendix A to this document.



2.1 Summary of responses

9x good international exchange, good to learn from each other, visit each other

9x importance of temporary interventions/ tactical urbanism/pilots

8x SB is more than mobility

7x schools as multiplier

6x importance of participation

6x importance of community management

5x good narrative (marketing)

3x important to work with activist, NGO's

2x greenery is a must

1x measure subjective indicators (people's perception)

1x SB process needs more support from the government

1x simulations demanded

2.2 Responses in detail

Each bullet point represents one post-it note submitted.

- *Great to see different stages of superblocks/different types of superblocks*
- *it is more about the marketing, all the numbers to prove the effects are just helping the internal argumentation*
- *from traffic claim-measure to beyond mobility- but also challenges(gentrification, climate), strong role of communication management, Participation early in process (as internal process advisors)-forming support groups of different actors, Key question for next meeting „how to achieve with current administrative structures/ xxx -logic, Community-/local based approach is key, understand children, Youth, schools to start with play streets*
 - *bringing parents, siblings, grand-parents, ask and understand better the goals*
 - *allow children to move more freely*
 - *„normalization“ of new mobility culture from early on*
 - *helps to feel the need of change for allowing a better future for their children*
- *Simulations are relevant and demanded, the superblock concept needs to be adapted for each city(but there are similar patterns too), Poblenau SB is quite different from St. Antoni*
- *I learned the importance of including activists and NGOs in the project (Governance). Also the importance of site visits, we cities should visit us more and work more hand in hand*
- *the importance of site visits, we are in a process of transition and we need to learn more from each other*
- *step by step process, involve community by every step, involve experiments in strategy/tactical urbanism*
- *Mobility is only one aspect, SB are just the tip of the iceberg of a holistic strategy*
- *community management =key participation process to create support, bigger narrative and language, - positive approach*
- *Try out solutions = part of the same family, no matter why you start you will get more positive effects*
- *move away from the only mobility objective, community/neighborhood is key in the narrative, we are right but we need to be prepared to fight xxx*
- *that without a coalition of believers+activist nothing could be changed actually*
- *the problems we encounter are not unique, usually it's a group of passionate people behind the project, nobody has the money, people protest everywhere, that's just what they do, schools are great to start with*
- *bikes are the future, obviously community management, greenery is a must, action is needed, not plans only(?), learning from the pilot „not going permanent“*
- *Follow the energy, we are operating in the traffic code/laws make for xx xxx streets & law needs to be changed, my cities problem was depopulation, other cities other starting points, SB solve all problems*
- *it's not only a project but a movement full of vision, climate crisis is now we need to act now and tackle uncomfortable questions*

- *schools are a catalyst for change, investing in designing in temporary furniture is worth it*
- *in my city we have to improve the communication about /things/ we do/ actions*
- *important of measuring SB progress & impact als with subjective indicators (people's perception)*
- *create a good narrative, involve locals directly, take time to learn + reflect on pilot results*
- *from SB project to process, process needs a higher level of coordination like the Superilla office*
- *attractiveness of temporary measures vs. permanent redesign, strade aperte School program*
- *the vision, professional design, temporary steps*
- *I learned that we are all doing the same :) :)*
- *play happens in the street, focus school areas
(bulb drawing)challenges are quite different in different cities, different contexts require different solutions, exchange is really helpful, involvement seems to be a challenge for everyone and never perfect*
- *it is all about the blick(?), no asphalt, for the pedestrian experience*
- *I'm much more interested on how tactical solutions can save time and money to speed the change*
- *Brace, brace, the shitstorm will come, but you will survive, 3x communicate*
- *SB and co can/should/need to be conceived of beyond surface space, they also go into the ground and the sky*
- *cooperation with schools, need for communication strategy, start with an easy-win SB, resist the resistance because it will mostly not last, the need for getting in dialog with the people in the block and exchange, dedicated team for Sbs*
- *:) Do a second international Superilla day and include environmental and greening and paisatgistic vision :(little talk about the environment in the international superilla actions*
- *the lesson I learned is that there are different methods or strategies to posseficate the public space for pedestrians*
- *use positive stories, tactical is not the goal*
- *it needs participation of the civil society but the implementation has to be done by the government/petition(in Germany), use of water(rain)»pipe System, prototype of streets: 1 type that is reproduced quickly in large scale, to see how far other cities are max help in coming people action*
- *Que els problemes son comuns, que les solutions s'haxx adaption a code local, que cal molta pedagogina, que cal molta enqueta peno que sio ni ne marxa emera*
- *interdisciplinary working together on public space can improve in almost every city» for example to figure out how to deal with gentrification, from Lods:working space in the project area» being accessible for people who have questions, ideas, criticism*
- *change happens at the combination (intersection?) between vision (»strategy) and first step(»implementation)*

3 Question: «What is your feedback on the event? What did you like? What did you not like?»

Responses were collected on post-it notes. In the tables that present the detailed answers, each cell represents one submitted post-it note. Like/dislike responses on the same post-it were allocated to the respective table

See a scan of all post-it notes in appendix B to this document.

3.1 What I liked during the International Superblock Meeting

<i>Interesting people; New perspectives; Good vibe & discussions; Inspiring examples & approaches</i>
<i>New perspectives</i>
<i>Good vibe & discussions & examples</i>
<i>Interesting people</i>
<i>Very relevant people were present. Good networking. => shows significance & relevance</i>
<i>The right mix of activities (meetings, work, parties, walks,)</i>
<i>The format of the workshop worked very well (various sessions, formats, ...)</i>
<i>I was impressed by Superilla design & strategy</i>
<i>Walking through Barcelona, different locations => very nice impression of the city</i>
<i>Discussion both technical and political vision and details</i>
<i>Las conversaciones informales en pausas de café, almuerzo y cena!</i>
<i>I liked the spirit. It's good to know that we are not alone in our struggles and there are best practices.</i>
<i>There is so much local knowledge & visions everywhere! Together we are stronger</i>
<i>Locations + food</i>
<i>What we have in common / what is different</i>
<i>There are so many cities working for public space for people</i>
<i>Different perspectives</i>
<i>– City representatives</i>
<i>– Technical staff</i>
<i>– Citizen initiatives</i>
<i>+ many different cities</i>
<i>Age, gender, balance, competencies</i>
<i>Diverse / various formats, brief inputs, committed working</i>
<i>– Enough time & flexibility</i>
<i>– Great improvisation by facilitators</i>
<i>Short presentations of each city good format, interesting, many cities</i>
<i>Organisation of the event worked very well ... Schedule</i>
<i>Time in-between the sessions => get to know each other discuss further</i>
<i>Everyone was open to talk/exchange</i>
<i>Presentations session of the technicians of the cities</i>
<i>Conversations/networking</i>
<i>Meeting so many nice people</i>
<i>So much knowledge</i>
<i>Getting hope for urban future</i>
<i>I very much liked the exchange and meeting so many great inspiring people.</i>
<i>Very motivating seeing and learning about great projects</i>
<i>Lovely program + we would have needed two more days!</i>
<i>Learning about the challenges and strategies from other cities</i>
<i>Venues – so nice</i>
<i>Timeframe (time for every city to present their topic)</i>
<i>Very professional organisation</i>
<i>Discovering the great team / human beings behind the great superblock project.</i>

<i>Feeling the international energy rushing toward better streets worldwide.</i>
<i>Getting to know the other kids on the block / self-help group vibe</i>
<i>Organisation of the event.</i>
<i>Exchange with the participants</i>
<i>I am not alone!</i>
<i>The thing I liked most is see so much cities linked and sharing experiences.</i>
<i>Talking to the Superilla team personally and other technicians</i>
<i>Walking the Superillas</i>
<i>The honesty</i>
<i>Broad view on superblock topics</i>
<i>Cycling enable understanding and enhance urbanistic idea of the city experts + politicians</i>
<i>Permanent solutions vs. temporary (tactical)</i>
<i>Questions about reuse and cost/benefit</i>
<i>Fantastic organisation</i>
<i>Great to meet people from other cities that face the same difficulties</i>
<i>The huge involvement of the technicians and politicians in the change</i>
<i>Meeting the people that has the same concerns from other cities</i>
<i>Site visits</i>
<i>City presentations</i>
<i>Direct exchange</i>
<i>Dedication and commitment</i>
<i>I loved how much knowledge I could gain, how inspiring the event was. The participants were so talented and passionate, the program and organisation was amazing! Congrats to all of you, great job!</i>
<i>Being able to experience all these spaces that I only know from images.</i>
<i>Meeting all these people that are facing similar challenges</i>
<i>I like the exchange with other cities that make the same work</i>
<i>Feeling very welcome by the city of Barcelona</i>
<i>Great balance in site visits and discussions</i>
<i>Actually experiencing the superblocks</i>
<i>Networking with peers</i>
<i>Site visits, interactive programme, city presentations, general exchange</i>
<i>Great to walk through what we were speaking about</i>
<i>Inspirational presentations and committed people</i>
<i>Great locations</i>
<i>Discuss what did not work</i>
<i>Very great organisation</i>
<i>Picking up of people from the hotel</i>
<i>I like the opportunity to share ideas/challenges/solution but the most I like is being all together and continue working together on making cities liveable</i>

3.2 What I didn't like during the International Superblock Meeting

<i>Some long speeches</i>
<i>Very much programme points</i>
<i>Presentations too brief</i>
<i>Discussions too short</i>
<i>Non me ha gustado poco tiempo para hacer debates</i>
<i>Little time for detailed in-depth conversations on challenges and solutions</i>
<i>Vitamino (?)</i>
<i>Too much sitting (still). More action, beach, leisure => slot</i>
<i>Missed doing more with the information / questions of the presenters</i>
<i>Programme was sent very late</i>
<i>Some more break would have been good / less presentations / more time for discussion</i>
<i>Lack of time during the workshops</i>
<i>As I was in the organization of the event, I couldn't relax and enjoy the events completely.</i>
<i>Cycling through the blocks please</i>
<i>Longer session focussed on other cities</i>
<i>Short time for workshop</i>
<i>(Suggestion for improvement): introductory round on 1st day to get to know people</i>
<i>Short time to discuss</i>
<i>No bicycle trip for the technical group</i>
<i>The second day was a bit stressful</i>
<i>It could have been even longer</i>
<i>I would have liked to discuss more about the cities presentations. The workshops were focussed on the TOB research and we also had takeaways from the lessons of the cities.</i>
<i>Less garbage form catering!</i>
<i>Programme was quite a lot, possibly some breaks in between could have helped</i>
<i>(interpreted) My concern is whether the modelblock taken from model city could be applied</i>
<i>Too much compress</i>
<i>I don't like because it is too short time</i>
<i>There is still a lot of resistance to develop superblocks!</i>

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the vision
professional design
temporary steps

I LEARNED THAT
WE ARE ALL DOING
THE SAME 😊😊

Superblocks are
just the tip of
the iceberg of a
wholistic strategy.

- 1) it's not only a project but a movement full of vision
- 2) climate crisis is here, we need to act now and tackle uncomfortable questions

TACTICAL
IS NOT THE
GOAL

it needs participation
of the civil society
but the implementation
has to be done
by the government
position (in Germany)

FOLLOW THE ENERGY

WE'RE OPERATING IN
THE TRAFFIC CODE / LAWS
MADE FOR XX CENTURY STREETS
& LAW NEEDS TO CHANGE

It is more about
working in the
end. The numbers
are more important
for the Business.

beyond mobility →
out of car culture (disruptive...)
↳ strong role of community
↳ communication, participation early in process (as internal process evolution)
↳ forming support-groups of different areas

Mobility is only
one aspect.

In my city we have
to improve the
communication about
(think) we do
actions!

investing in designing
in temporary furniture
is worth it

schools as catalyst
for change

USE
POSITIVE
STORIES

- use of water (rain) → 2. pipe system
- prototype of streets: 1 type that is reproduced quickly on a large scale
- to see how far other cities can help in convincing people often

MY CITY'S PROBLEM WAS
DEPOPULATION; OTHER
CITIES - OTHER STARTING POINTS
SUPERBLOCKS SOLVE ALL
PROBLEMS

IT'S GREAT TO SEE
DIFFERENT STAGES OF
SUPERBLOCKS

DIFFERENT TYPES OF SUPERBLOCKS

Lessons learnt:

Simulations are relevant
& demanded

Pobleman SP
is quite different
from
St Antoni SP

The
superblock concept
needs to be
adapted to each city
(but there are similar
patterns for sure...)

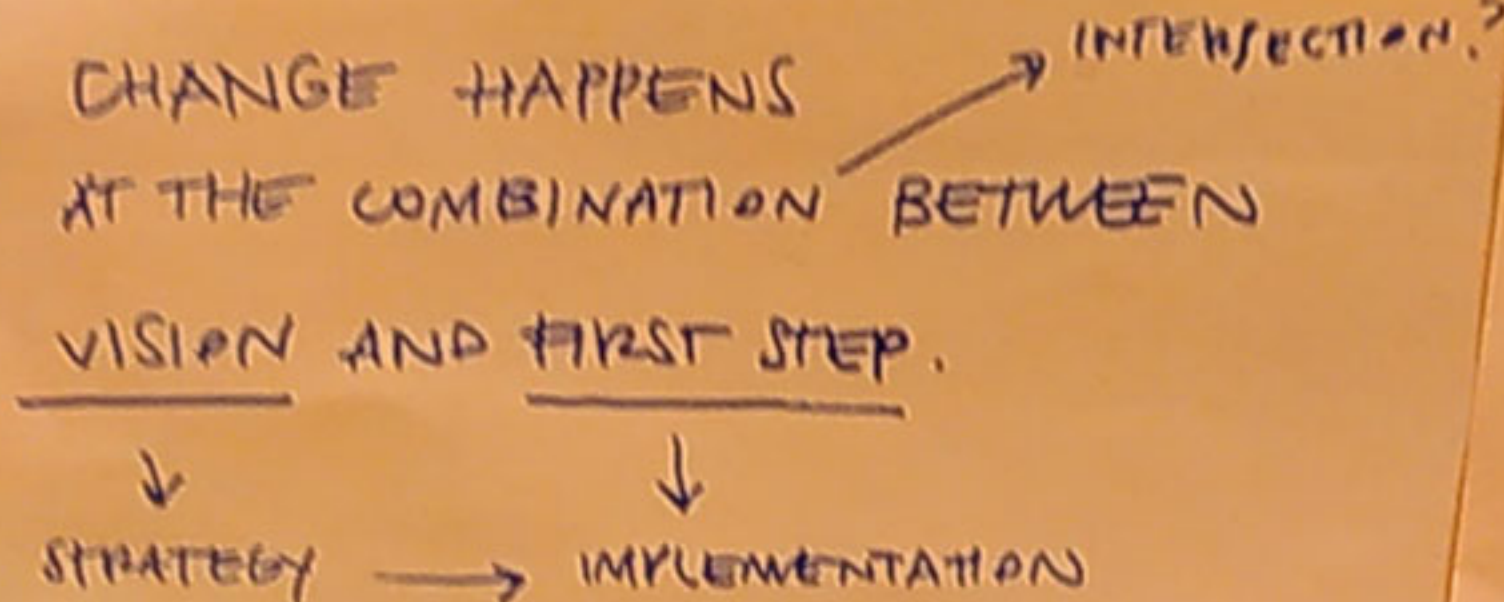
Children, Yards, Schools to start with
↳ bring parents, siblings, grand-parents to ask, comment, understand better the idea / goals
↳ allow children to move and play
↳ "normalisation" of new masses from early on
↳ help to feel need to change for better

Lessons learned

- step by step process
- involve community by every step
- include experiments in strategic tactical urbanism

IMPORTANCE OF
MEASURING SUPERBLOCK
PROGRESS & IMPACT
ALSO WITH SUBJECTIVE
INDICATORS (PEOPLE'S
PERCEPTION)

The lesson that I learned is
that there are different
methods or strategies to
pedestrianize the public space for
pedestrian.



I LEARNED THE
IMPORTANCE OF INVOLVING
activists and NGOs in the
project (Governance).
Also the importance of
site visits.
We should visit each other more!!!

community management
= key
participation process to
create support

- create a good narrative
- involve locals directly
- take time to learn + reflect on the pilot results

Play happens in the streets
↳ from four school areas

- interdisciplinary working together on public space can improve in almost every city
→ for example do figure out how to deal with questions like gentrification
- from top: working space in the project area → being accessible for people / residents who have questions / ideas / criticism

BRACE BRACE
THE SHITSTORM WILL
COME, BUT YOU WILL
SURVIVE.

THE IMPORTANCE OF
SITE VISITS
WE ARE IN A
PROCESS OF TRANSITION
AND WE NEED TO LEARN
FROM EACH OTHER

(TRY OUT)
SOLUTIONS
= PART OF SAME
FAMILY
NO MATTER
WHY YOU START
YOU WILL GET
MORE POSITIVE
EFFECTS

MAIN LESSON:
- FROM PROJECT TO PROCESS
- PROCESS NEEDS A HIGHER
LEVEL OF COORDINATION AND
THE "SUPERILLA" OFFICE

Challenges are quite different
in the different cities,
different contexts require
different solutions, exchange
is really helpful, involvement
seems to be a challenge
for everyone and never
predict

- Que els problemes són comuns
- Que les solucions s'hauran d'adaptar a cada bloc
- Que cal molta pedagogia
- Que cal molta experiència
- Però que no hi ha massa

- communicate, communicate, communicate
- cooperation with schools
- need for a communication strategy
- start with an easy-win superblock
- resist the resistance because it will mostly not last
- the need for getting in dialog with the people in the block and exchange
- dedicated team for superblocks

BIKE BIKES ARE THE FUTURE, OBVIOUSLY
COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT
GREENERY IS A MUST
ACTION IS NEEDED, NOT PLANNING
LEARNING FROM THE PILOT, NOT GOING
FORWARD

THE PROBLEM WE ENCOUNTER
ARE NOT USABLE
USUALLY IT'S A GROUP OF
PASSIONATE PEOPLE BEHIND THE PROJECT
SOMEONE HAS THE MONEY
NEEDS HEAVY ENVIRONMENTAL
WHAT THEY DO
SCHOOL ARE GREAT TO PART WITH

Move away
from the
only "mobility"
objective
community /
neighborhood element
is key in the
narrative

topic: attractiveness of
temporary measures vs.
permanent redispn
street agents School program

I AM MUCH MORE INTERESTED
ON HOW TACTICAL SOLUTIONS
CAN SAVE TIME AND MONEY
& SPEED THE CHANGE.

Lessons learned:
Superblocks and Co. cardboard/wood
to be covered & kept surface safe,
they also go into the ground and
into the sky

LITTLE
TALK
ABOUT
THE ENVIRONMENTAL
AND GREENING
AND FAISATÍSTIC
VISION

DO A SECOND
INTERNATIONAL
SUPERILLA DAY
AND INCLUDE
ENVIRONMENTAL
AND GREENING
AND FAISATÍSTIC
VISION

We are right,
but we need
to be prepared
to fight
resistance
THAT WITHOUT
A COALITION OF
BELIEVERS +
ACTIVISTS
NOTHING COULD
BE CHANGED!
ACTUALLY



- interesting people
- new perspectives
- good vibe & discussions
- inspiring examples & approaches



→ some long speeches

⊖ very much programme points



NEW PERSPECTIVES



→ GOOD VIBE
& DISCUSSIONS
& EXAMPLES



INTERESTING
PEOPLE

⊕ very relevant people
were present
good networking!
⇒ shows significance
↳ relevance

• PRESENTATIONS - TOO
BRIEF!



• DISCUSSIONS - TOO
SHORT!

⊕ walking through
Barcelona
different locations

→ felt very nice impression
of the city


• THE RIGHT MIX



OF ACTIVITIES
(meetings, work, parties,
walks,





The format of the
workshop worked very well
(Various sessions, formats...)

I was impressed
of Superilla design
& Strategy 

++

+ discussion both
technical and
political
vision and details

No me he gustado 
poco tiempo para
hacer debates.

Las conversaciones 
informales en pausas
de café, almuerzo y
cena!




little ~~for~~ time for detailed,
in-depth conversations on
challenges & solutions



I liked the spirit.

It's good to know that we are ~~not~~
alone in our struggles and there
are best practices.

There is SO MUCH 
local ^{divisions} knowledge everywhere!
Together we are stronger

⊕ locations + food

⊖ vitamins

+
What we have in
common / what is
different



THERE ARE
SO MANY CITIES
WORKING WITH PUBLIC
SPACE FOR PEOPLE

Different perspectives

- city representatives
- technical staff
- citizen initiatives

+ ^{many} different cities



⊕ age,

gender,

competencies

balance

⊕ diverse / various formats

→ enough time + flexibility

→ great improvisation
by facilitators

^{brief inputs}
- ^{committed workshop}

⊖ too much sitting (still)

more active, beach, leisure → slot

😊 Short presentation of each city
good format, interesting

many different cities

😊 Organisation of the event worked very
well ... schedule

time inbetween the sessions

→ get to know each other
discuss further

everyone was open to talk/exchange

Like



- Presentation session
of the technicians
of the cities
- conversations/networking

dislike



missed doing more
with the information /
questions of the presentations

MEETING SO MANY
+ NICE PEOPLE

+ SO MUCH KNOWLEDGE

~~MEETING~~ + GETTING HOPE
FOR URBAN FUTURE



programm was
sent very late

- I very much liked the exchange and
meeting so many great inspiring people.
- Very motivating seeing and learning
about great projects

Lovely Program, +
we would have needed
2 more days!

Learning about the challenges and
strategies from other cities +

+ Venues so nice
+ time frame
(time for every city to
present their topic)
+ very professional
organisation

+ ü
DISCOVERING THE GREAT
TEAM / HUMAN BEINGS
BEHIND THE GREAT SUPERBLOCK
PROJECT.

+ ü
FEELING THE INTERNATIONAL
ENERGY PUSHING TOWARDS
BETTER STREETS WORLDWIDE.

- + Getting to know the other
kids on the block /
self-help group vibe
- Some more breaks would
have been good / less presen-
tations / more time for discussion

☹️ lack of time
during the
workshops

😊 . Organisation
of the event
. Exchange with
the participant

😊 I AM
NOT ALONE!

THE THING I LIKED MOST
IS SEE SO MUCH CITIES
LINKED AND SHARING
EXPERIENCES.

AS I WAS IN THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE
EVENT, I COULDN'T RELAX
AND ENJOY THE EVENTS
COMPLETELY

+ Talking to the Supercilla team personally
and other technicians

+ Walking the Supercilla's

+ the Honesty (1)

- Cycling through the blocks please

- longer session focused on other cities

BROAD

VIEW ON

SUPER BLOCK TOPICS



SHORT TIME

FOR WORKSHOP



CYCLING ENABLE
UNDERSTANDING AND ENHANCE
URBANISTIC IDEAS OF THE CITY

+
EXPERTS + POLITICIANS

PERMANENT SOLUTIONS
VS.
TEMPORARY (TACTICAL)

QUESTION ABOUT REUSE
AND COST/BENEFIT

i) fantastic organisation
great to meet people
from other cities that face
the same difficulties



THE HUGE INVOLVEMENT
OF THE TECHNICIANS AND
POLITICIANS IN
THE CHANGE



MEETING
THE PEOPLE THAT
HAS THE SAME CONCERNS
FROM ANOTHER CITIES



SHORT TIME TO
DISCUSS

ii) no bicycle trip for
the technical group

the second day was a bit
stressful

⊕ site visits

⊕ city presentations

⊕ direct exchange

⊕ dedication + commitment

→ introductory round
on 1st day to
get to know people

I LOVED HOW MUCH KNOWLEDGE
COULD I GAIN, HOW INSPIRING THE EVENT
WAS. THE PARTICIPANTS WERE SO TALENTED
~~AND~~ AND PASSIONATE, THE PROGRAM AND
ORGANIZATION WAS AMAZING! CONGRATS
TO ALL OF YOU, GREAT JOB!

😊 Being able to
experience all these
spaces that I only knew
from images

😊 Meeting all these
people that are facing
similar challenges

I like the exchange with
~~the~~ other cities that
make the same work

😊 Feeling very
welcome by the
city of Barcelona

😞 It could have
been even longer.

+

great balance in
site visits and discussions
actually experiencing
the superblocs
networking with peers

-

I would have liked to
discuss more about the
cities presentations. The
workshops were focussed on
the TOB research and we also
had take aways from the
lessons of the cities

MY CONCERN IS
WHETHER THE
MODELBUCK TAKEN
FROM MODULITY
COULD BE ~~APPLIED~~ ~~IN~~ ~~TO~~



Site visits,
interactive
programme,
city presentations,
general exchange



programme
was quite
a lot, possibly
some breaks
inbetween could
have helped

less garbage from catering!



TOO MUCH COMPRESS

I DON'T LIKE
BECAUSE IT IS TOO
SHORT TIME :(



GREAT TO WORK
THROUGH WHAT WE
WORE SPEAKING ABOUT

- Inspirational presentations
and committed people

- great locations



discuss what did not
work



very ~~welcome~~ great
organisation
picking up of people
at the hotel

~~BAR~~

I LIKE THE ~~MOST THE~~
~~THE~~ OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE
IDEAS/CHALLENGES/SOLUTION
BUT THE MOST I LIKE IS
BEING ALL TOGETHER AND
CONTINUE WORKING TOGETHER
ON MAKING CITIES LIVEABLE



:)



THERE IS STILL
A LOT OF RESISTANCE
TO DEVELOPE
SUPERBLOCKS!