



Sustainability as transgenerational action: participatory methods between opportunities and complexity

Anna Maria Leonora¹, Augusto Gamuzza¹

¹Department of Educational Sciences, University of Catania, Catania, Italy.

E-mail address: anna.leonora@unict.it

Abstract

The concept of transgenerationality, understood as the interaction and continuity between actions and responsibilities that span multiple generations, has become fundamental in public and scientific discourse on social and environmental sustainability, particularly in light of the alarming climate crisis. The transgenerational approach thus requires intergenerational cooperation that promotes sustainable and fair actions, where today's decisions are consciously aimed at protecting and improving the future of upcoming generations. In this perspective, participatory methodologies emerge as a promising set of tools to facilitate dialogue and trigger forms of transgenerational collective action. This paper presents a methodological reflection that critically analyzes a recent experience of implementing a participatory research tool (LivingLab) focused on the theme of environmental sustainability. This process of critical review has contributed to the formulation of a set of recommendations aimed at the scalable design and implementation of the results obtained. From initial evidence, the role of participatory methodologies in promoting transgenerational sustainability confirms itself as a promising tool to ensure that today's actions are directed towards fair and sustainable objectives for all generations. Cooperation among institutions, civil society, citizens, educational and research bodies—though neither guaranteed nor easy to facilitate and motivate in the medium to long term—becomes a substrate of experience and connections that structure themselves into co-design networks involving various actors transgenerationally.



CENTRO UNIVERSITÁRIO
SÃO CAMILO



NewHumanity
OF THE FOCOLARE MOVEMENT

AFRESH
AFRICA AND EUROPE SAME HORIZON



Co-funded by
the European Union