

PEOPLE'S PRESS

MAKERS' REVOLUTION

Clothes, furniture, even houses, all made a stone's throw from home

HEALTH DATA

Both sides of the debate on the collection and use of health data

NEW PERSPECTIVE

Negative stereotypes on environmental migration mitigated using VR



IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE



NEW PERSPECTIVES

Negative stereotypes on environmental migration mitigated using VR

Page 12



GRUB'S UP

Innovative flavours at Civitana's latest community restaurant

Page 14



MAKERS' REVOLUTION

Clothes, furniture, even houses, all made a stone's throw from home

Page 16



THE PUBLIC'S POLICY

How citizen discussion is shaping the way we're governed

Page 20



COMMUNITY ENERGY

A locality which generates more energy than it uses

Page 27



HEALTH DATA

Both sides of the debate on the collection and use of health data

Page 30

To our 2019 readers

For anyone following current affairs in 2019, it can be difficult to think of the future with anything other than despair.

Stemming from research carried out by Nesta and its partners in 2018-19, the People's Press aims to imagine an alternative future. Produced as part of DSI4EU, it is a neighbourhood magazine set in the fictional city of Civitana in 2030.

It contains visions of what our societies and communities might look like in a decade, and explores what role responsible, ethical and socially beneficial digital technologies might play within them.

The material is also published as a set of scenarios and features at:

bit.ly/OurTechOurFuture

**DIGITAL
SOCIAL
INNOVATION**

nesta



CONTRIBUTORS



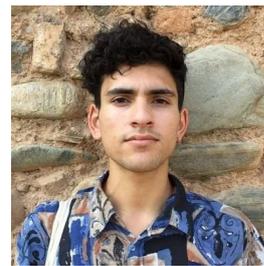
EDITOR
OLIVER ZANETTI



ASSISTANT EDITOR
ROSALYN OLD



DESIGN
CODRINA CRETU



ASSISTANT EDITOR
MATT STOKES



ILLUSTRATIONS
ANNA BROADHURST

© European Union, 2018. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons AttributionNonCommercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.

DSISCALE, operating under the DSI4EU brand, is funded by the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content & Technology, Net Futures, Administration and Finance, under Grant Agreement No. 780473.

DISCLAIMER The information and views set out in this deliverable are written by the DSISCALE project consortium under EC grant agreement 780473 and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission. The European Commission is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained herein.

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the June 2030 edition of the People's Press, delivered free to every household across Civitana. Our mixture of news, features and interviews alongside regular updates from Citizens' Agency keeps you up to speed with current events and live debates in a place and time where digital social innovation has influenced many aspects of urban life.

This month we're focusing on the people who, over the past few years, have improved Civitana for its residents by bringing digital social innovation projects into being.

Our front page feature delves into the manufacturing revolution, visiting a fab lab in a once run down part of town, meeting the people who made it possible and the people who use it as a workplace. We have interviews with movers and shakers from the community such as Lethabo, who worked on a VR platform to share migration stories and build empathy, and Amelie who initiated the campaign for new employment rights for freelancers and gig economy workers. Read too about the user experiences of Qarar, the citizens' jury platform for collective decision making.

If you're out and about this weekend, find out how a new AR interface could help you out of your driverless car and onto your bike. And if your tummy's rumbling, our food critic speaks highly of the new community restaurant.

This month, we're focusing on some of the most inspiring and positive scenarios from Civitana's recent history. That doesn't mean the debates are settled and that everything is rosy: we see that opinions still differ on the widespread use of data in health for example. As summer arrives, though, we've decided to focus on some of the brightest aspects of urban life today.

This is because, if it's done right, the technology we have today has every potential to bring about empowerment, education, democracy, sustainability, equality and social justice.

This edition is a testament to that potential.

UPCOMING EVENTS

OPEN DAY SATURDAY 16TH JUNE 10AM-7PM



Imagine knowing that the energy bills you pay go back into your own community! St Mark's, Civitana's coastal neighbourhood have created a local renewable energy system that reduces costs for the residents, minimises environmental impact and supports local community projects.

Come along to see the green technologies, talk to residents about the difference it makes to their lives and find out how you could do it in your area too:

- Take a tour to learn how the solar panels, insulation, tidal, wave and battery technologies work
- See a demonstration of solar panel parts being made in the fab lab
- Find out what 'double match crowdfunding' is and how the community used it to buy the technologies



- Talk to some St Mark's residents about how they were able to make their energy bills manageable and how they use their savings to boost the local economy
- Take a look at the energy dashboard that each household can use to plan and compare their energy use
- Check out how much carbon that they have been able to save at the interactive carbon activity hub with activities for all of the family
- Visit the exhibition of local community projects that have been given grants from the scheme

Read about the how the community set up the scheme from project founder, Lucas, on p27.

PAMILYA OPEN DAY

Pamilya community co-op has brand new sustainable accommodation available - come along to our open day on June 23rd to see what living here is like and complete your application!

A MINIMUM MONTHLY INCOME FOR FREELANCERS AND GIG WORKERS

SIGN UP TO ISIKATHI!

Automatically log your hours worked.

Receive top up payments from the Irregular Working Fund if your monthly income falls below the European Living Wage.

Take time out to learn new skills. Get paid for the time you're training.



THE FIGHT FOR CHANGE

We chat with Amelie, the woman who led the campaign that changed working conditions for the better

Where did it all start? I graduated from art school back in 2021 with a degree in graphic design. I imagined heading out into the world of work, starting at the bottom and working up. But the jobs just didn't exist. Good graphic design was everywhere, though, and I realised there was work to get through gig working platforms. Like most of the graduates from my year, I signed up to a few of those platforms. But the work was mostly short term, low paid, and if I'm honest not very creatively interesting. More importantly, it made life really difficult. It was hard to rent a flat because my income was unstable. I couldn't plan. For my friends who were a few years older it was impossible. How can you have a family in these conditions?

And then what happened? You became a sleuth on the side, I heard! Yeah, something like that! It began just by chatting with friends and contacts in the industry. It looked like some of the biggest adverts for these huge brands were being made almost entirely by freelancers on terrible wages. I got in touch with the Freelancers Union, and we started talking to more people, you know, tracing the connections and so on, and my suspicions were proven correct. The companies were colluding to get beautiful work at low cost, and we were stuck in precarity. I was furious.



So you went to the press? The F-U have a great press team, and we took the story to the *People's Press*. Because the F-U was set up just for freelancers, they knew better than a normal union why this story was so important. I should say, we weren't the first movement for freelancers and gig workers. Other initiatives from petitions to collective working for gig workers have made things a lot better than they were in the 2010s. But basically the old business model still remained, a lot of people were getting ripped off.

What was the response? People were shocked, obviously. But more importantly, it exposed something systemic. Of course some freelancers did well, but from cabbies to graphic designers via software developers, builders, nannies, and whatever other job you can think of, most people were faced with the same issue. Big businesses making money, while the people doing the work were always up in the air with precarious work.

A universal basic income would have helped, right? It would have helped a lot, but there just wasn't the political will. But people could see that if people were working they deserved a reliable income. So many people work in the gig economy now. Even if you don't

personally, you'll have friends and family who do. I think the pressure had been building up for a while, the campaign and the article in the *People's Press* was the match to the touch paper.

How did you go about making the ideas a reality? Well first we had to persuade the citizens' jury. That was such an inspiring process, arguing the moral and technical case to our fellow citizens. Then the legislation was collaboratively written through Qarar, the citizens' jury platform. Because employers were involved too, their initial scepticism wore off as they got involved in the design. Once it went through parliament, the next step was to work with Citizens' Agency to make the platform to organise everything.

And that's what became Isikathi? Exactly. It's such a great platform. It logs your hours and your pay, and if you fall below the salary threshold at the end of the month it triggers a top up payment from the Irregular Working Fund. It has a centralised reputation manager, so you can move between platforms. It does everything.

And you? Well, I found a full time job! But that doesn't mean I'll never freelance again, and when I do I'll know I'll always be able to make ends meet.

**“IF PEOPLE
ARE WORKING
THEY
DESERVE A
RELIABLE
INCOME”**

TABERNA LUMINATA

We check out some of the latest arrivals in the Casa Luminata's shop, made by local artisans and available to buy this month. Most of these products can be tailored to customers' needs and wishes.



We're all used to lab-grown burgers by now, but startup Beat's new kit is the first time you can grow cultured meat in your own home. Sitting comfortably in your kitchen, the kit comes with all you need to get started. You can be flipping your first patty within eight weeks!

Young designer Alex Simmons has launched their A/W 2030 range of gender-neutral clothing, all of it customisable for size and design and produced using innovative recycled materials. Alex's new collection includes trousers made from a mixture of rubber tyres and plant-based fibres, and belts which not so long ago were plastic bottle caps. Catch Alex at Casa Luminata before they sell out!



Social enterprise Voces, which works with refugee women from Sub-Saharan Africa, has just released the eye-catching Misturada range. Inspired by Gambian-Portuguese founder Nomita Alves' mixed heritage, Nomita uses a complex algorithm to create prints based on images of cultural artifacts from her cultures. As well as tailoring frame shape and size, customers can input their own images into the algorithm and print the resulting design using the Casa Luminata's textile recycling and printing machines.

JUNE UPDATE FROM CITIZENS' AGENCY

WHAT IS CITIZEN'S AGENCY?

We're your tech firm. Set up in 2027 as the 'tech firm for the people', we design, build and maintain open source technologies that make digital governance better and improve community cohesion. You'll know us. Everyday platforms like Qarar and Isakathi are our work. Anyone can propose an idea, and we work on technologies from development to implementation, monitoring and updating our projects throughout their lifetime. Find out what we're up to in our monthly columns like this one, visit us online, or get involved in our user research.

WHAT WE'RE UP TO

Energy positive districts

We visited St Marcs, Civitana, to see what we could learn from their energy positive district programme. With community owned renewables, householder generation and battery storage, there's a complex system of energy movements and payments. We looked at their blockchain energy management systems, and their user interfaces which run billing, show collective and individual energy use dashboards, and give energy saving advice. We want to develop a generic platform to help energy communities develop all over Europe.

Every Tuesday social platform

The Every Tuesday concept and platform was developed by a co-op in Chile. Aiming to reduce loneliness and increase community cohesion, every Tuesday the platform randomly partners members of the community and suggests a place and time for them to meet for coffee which works around their schedule. We're going to draw on the Chilean co-op's expertise and work with them to update their open source code and improve functionality. We'd like to see it widely used in Europe and the world over.

Eto Eto food sharing platform

The growth of community restaurants has led to a virtuous circle where more and more food which would once have gone to waste is being distributed via the platform. Users are finding the interface clunky and the back end needs an overhaul. We're lending our expertise to the open source developers to move things forward. With six months of work already done, we plan to roll out Eto Eto II in September.

Qarar citizens' jury platform

Qarar's blogging tools will be getting a refresh over the coming weeks. This will make it easier for jurors to make notes as evidence is given, turn them into blogs, and read and reply to public comments.

VR Storytelling

We hit our one millionth story view last month, with 38,301 VR experiences now available on the platform uploaded by volunteers from across the community.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Interested in health data privacy?

We're using distributed data storage for health data, with permissions granted by a blockchain ledger system. We want to make sure there's still public support for this approach so we're convening a discussion on Qarar. Sign up to share your views.

Do you use Isikathi?

How is it working for you? We're recruiting users for our user experience programme to iron out bugs and test new features.

For more information, visit:
www.isikathi.eu



HOSPITABLE ENVIRONMENT

When Lethabo, an environmental refugee from Sub-Saharan Africa, was subject to abuse from a passer-by, he blamed the hostile narratives found in part of the press. He realised that the solution was to take control of the discourse.

So you've been living in Europe for around two years now? That's right. I had to leave my home because life was becoming impossible there. The droughts destroyed agriculture in rural areas and people were fleeing to the cities. But things were no better there, and the country was becoming ungovernable. Those who could were leaving and I realised that I'd have to go too. I love my country, and I really want to help make things better, but it's on the verge of anarchy right now. I can do more to help from here.

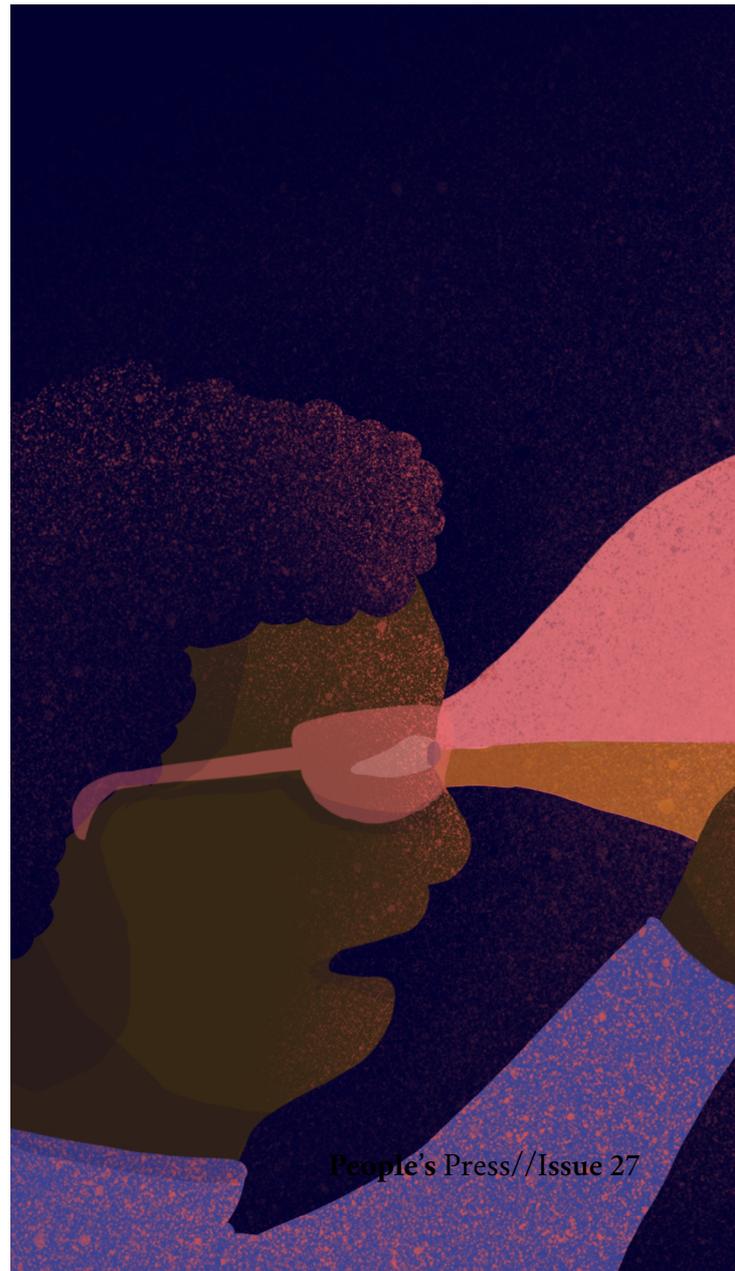
How was it when you arrived? It was amazing. Governments have done so much to make environmental asylum seekers welcome. There's loads of services we can access and local community groups are brilliant too. I got advice on my asylum claim and help finding housing from them. They even directed me to the Community Restaurant and introduced me to people. I felt so welcome.

But it wasn't always like that? Sadly not, no. I got some of verbal abuse in the street and a friend of mine was attacked. I was so shocked. After all we'd been through already, I couldn't believe there was this hostility amongst such kindness. But then I picked up a tabloid and I was horrified. There were stories that denied that climate change was a problem, and that that people like me were heading to Europe out of greed. I thought, if people read these and believe them no wonder they're behaving so badly. I realised we had to change the narrative.

So why the turn to VR? VR is such a powerful way to tell a story. I worked with some friends and we made a few VR experiences telling what we felt was the true story. They were pretty powerful, and they got a lot of attention

so we were pleased to be getting another kind of narrative out there. I think they changed a few minds and we were proud of that. The real success came when we developed a platform to allow others to tell their own stories.

You're talking about Abhasi, right? Yes, exactly. Abhasi is a VR storytelling kit. It lets you design characters, add scenery, storyboarding, everything you need for anyone to really



bring their experience to life so others can understand it. It's incredibly powerful, especially for building empathy. Of course, before I forget, I should credit the government funding that made it possible.

And who are Abhasi's main users? It's been really popular amongst schoolchildren, which is great. For young people, they see images on the news and whatever, but it's still really difficult for them to imagine what life is like outside their own experience. Our aim isn't to shock them, although lots of their new classmates have been through some pretty harrowing stuff, it's just to help them understand. I'm so proud of the young people who've been brave enough to share their stories, and of the other young people who have watched them and engaged.

So what next? I recently read that there has been a measurable decrease in this kind of abuse. Also, I'm noticing subtle changes in the editorial angles of some newspapers, that anti-migrant rhetoric is starting to disappear. So this model of storytelling is doing something useful. So what I really want to do is reach out to other groups who're being badly represented, disabled people, sexual and gender minorities, subcultures, you name it. This kind of approach really does seem to work, and we want to work with you to help you use the platform.

If you have an idea for how you could use Abhasi, search for the platform online and make contact using the form on their website: www.abhasi.eu.





DINNER WITH THE LOCALS

It's been a while since I sat down for dinner in a school canteen, but it's something I plan to do more often. According to my nephews, school dinners are as mediocre as they've always been, but luckily I wasn't here for the sausage and mash. Instead, I'm at the unpretentiously named Community Restaurant. Open four nights a week, the CR's aim is to serve good value, nutritious food to the whole community. It hops from venue to venue, depending on what is available. Some diners have eaten in the shade of a tree in the nearby park, others in skyscraper restaurants of corporate headquarters.

The CR's head chef, Stefan Gruber, formerly ran the kitchen at the luxurious Supine Otter. The Otter is known for its commitment to perfection. With its exceptional ingredients meticulously prepared and plated, I've never had a meal there that has been anything less than outstanding. Stefan's departure caused something of a brouhaha on the circuit with its implicit critique of the environmentally damaging and socially exclusive nature of fine dining. His move to the CR made him a pariah to some, but to many others it was inspirational.

In the place of crisp shirted waiting staff is an app. The dining experience begins by logging into the platform and reserving a place for dinner. You can reserve a spot for that evening (if there's one available, and beware there might not be!), or later in the week. There are many regulars who have their weekly slot booked months in advance. The app tells you what tonight's menu will be, and through it you pay in advance on a pay as you like basis.

Stefan's cooking style has always been centred on working with great, fresh ingredients. He mixes herbs and spices to deepen flavours, and knows his way instinctively around seasonal ingredients. At the Otter, he would have had access to anything he needed for his dishes. The approach at the CR is very different. His meals are based on what's available from local growers complimented by food that would otherwise go to waste. It's all sourced through the Eto Eto platform, an open-source tool which provides tips for urban food growers and has a new function to matching food surplus with need.

Tonight, a glut of courgettes from local



allotments means that a courgette and ricotta bake is on the menu. The basil and oregano add subtlety and flavour, which is matched by the richness of the ricotta and buffalo mozzarella (bought at cost price from a nearby dairy when a big supermarket chain cancelled their order at the last minute). Carrots, rejected by a wholesalers for their unusual shape, make a crunchy side salad. There’s also a green salad too, made from peppery leaves grown on the rooftop of a nearby block of flats by an automated growing process.

Of course, there’s no one to take your order as there’s no order to take, but the service is friendly and welcoming. When you arrive, you check in on your app and within a few minutes a plate of food is brought over to your seat. The CR’s aim is not luxury but respect. Sitting on shared tables you mix with everyone in the community. Across from me

are two vulnerably housed asylum seekers from drought-ridden southern Africa. To my left, a businesswoman working on AI cycling technology with her two children. Treating people equally creates the conviviality that the CR is known for, and before long we are all chatting openly.

Dessert arrives and it’s apple crumble. The crumble is sweet and crunchy, served with a rich vanilla custard. Like the main course, I’m not ashamed to admit we all scoffed it with gusto. As we got up to leave, Stefan pressed biodegradable takeaway boxes into our hands, with a second portion of crumble in each.

I’ve always been a fan of community restaurants. Because I travel a lot, I like to eat in one wherever I go to get a taste of the place’s food culture and meet the locals. The food’s always great, but none has yet been led by a chef with the credentials of Stefan Gruber. With simple ingredients, and with all the limitations of cooking in quantity, Stefan has created a masterpiece. It’s a new chapter in Community Restauranteering, and an exciting one. How will they manage the crowds? I hope they’ve thought of that!



THE MANUFACTURING REVOLUTION'S HAPPENING HERE



Manufacturing used to be tucked away on the outskirts of town. Now, fab labs like Casa Luminata are bringing green industry, and jobs, into the city.

Production is up again at Casa Luminata, the fab lab which opened on the high street three years ago. It has created 67 local jobs since it was founded and this year alone three new companies have established themselves there, using its manufacturing tools and workshop spaces. Since it opened, eight companies which the Casa incubated have moved on, finding their own premises, expanding their businesses and employing staff.

For Davide, one of Casa Luminata's

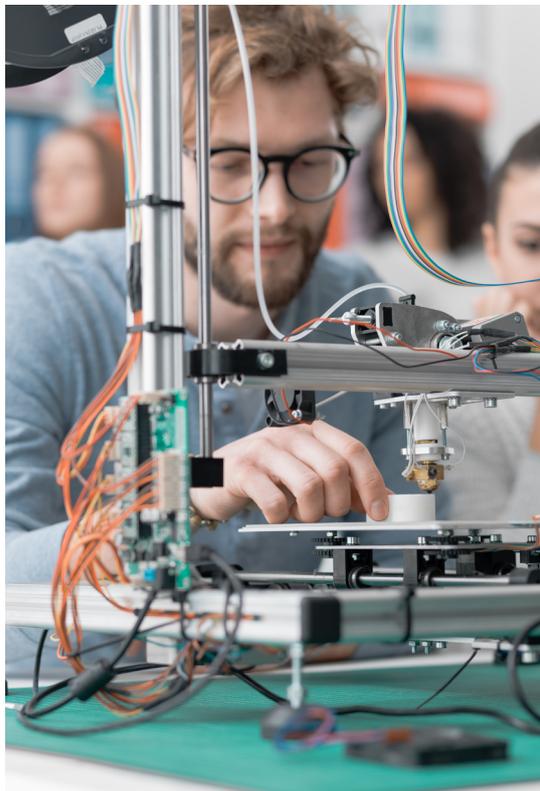
founders, this is a huge success. "Of course I was quietly confident when we opened the Casa because fab labs have been a success all over Europe," he says. "But I never expected things to go this well. It's great news for the local economy, for everyone who's found work there, and for the environment too."

Like fab labs the world over, Casa Luminata is part of the Fab City network. The network was founded in an era where almost nothing was manufactured in cities. Wage and tax

differentials made it economically efficient for almost all manufactured goods used in Europe to be made in places like China, creating waste and pollution, and hollowing out urban industry.

In 2014, the Fab City movement called for cities to produce everything they consume by 2054. Current trends suggest cities will meet this goal, or even achieve it early. There are already 5,000 fab labs across Europe, with statistics showing that miles travelled by manufactured goods are down 65%. It's not just about distance, though, fab labs mark a change in consumption habits.

"I was talking to my mum the other day," said Alex, who designs clothes and manufactures them with recycled fabrics. "Can you believe it? Ten years ago people used to just buy a garment, wear it a couple of times and then chuck it. It was the same for all kinds of things. There were so many examples, like, she told me about Christmas crackers from back then. They'd have a plastic toy in them that people would play with for five minutes,



then throw away. It's unbelievable now that anyone could be so wasteful."

By contrast, the people working at Casa Luminata specialise in bespoke, long-lasting and highly recyclable products. "They couldn't make disposable stuff even if they wanted to," Davide explains. "Whether it's down to the domestic waste tax or simply fashion, today no one buys things that don't last a long time."

Stepping inside, the Casa is buzzing. It's in an old retail shop, and sunlight pours in through the glass frontage. Louise, another of the founders, steps away from feeding ingredients into her mycoprotein fermenter for a moment. "This part of town was not doing well before we opened. In fact, this very shop used to exploit that poverty by selling fridges and washing machines on punitive credit terms to desperate consumers. Things have changed. Sure, fab labs create jobs and so on, but we're a community space too. Once a month, I make a batch of mycoprotein with local young people. We experiment with flavours – nothing too out there, obviously – and give the batch to the community restaurant."

Though goods might not flow around the world in the way they used to, ideas still do. Casa Luminata's members share designs through online forums and use AR to teach and learn new techniques. "Almost everything we do is open source," Davide explains. Tonight, members of the Casa will be participating in an AR hackathon. "We want to experiment with new designs for more efficient delivery bikes," he continues. "So we're going to get together with friends in Holland, Greece and Lithuania to look at ideas. Maybe we'll even make some quick prototypes."

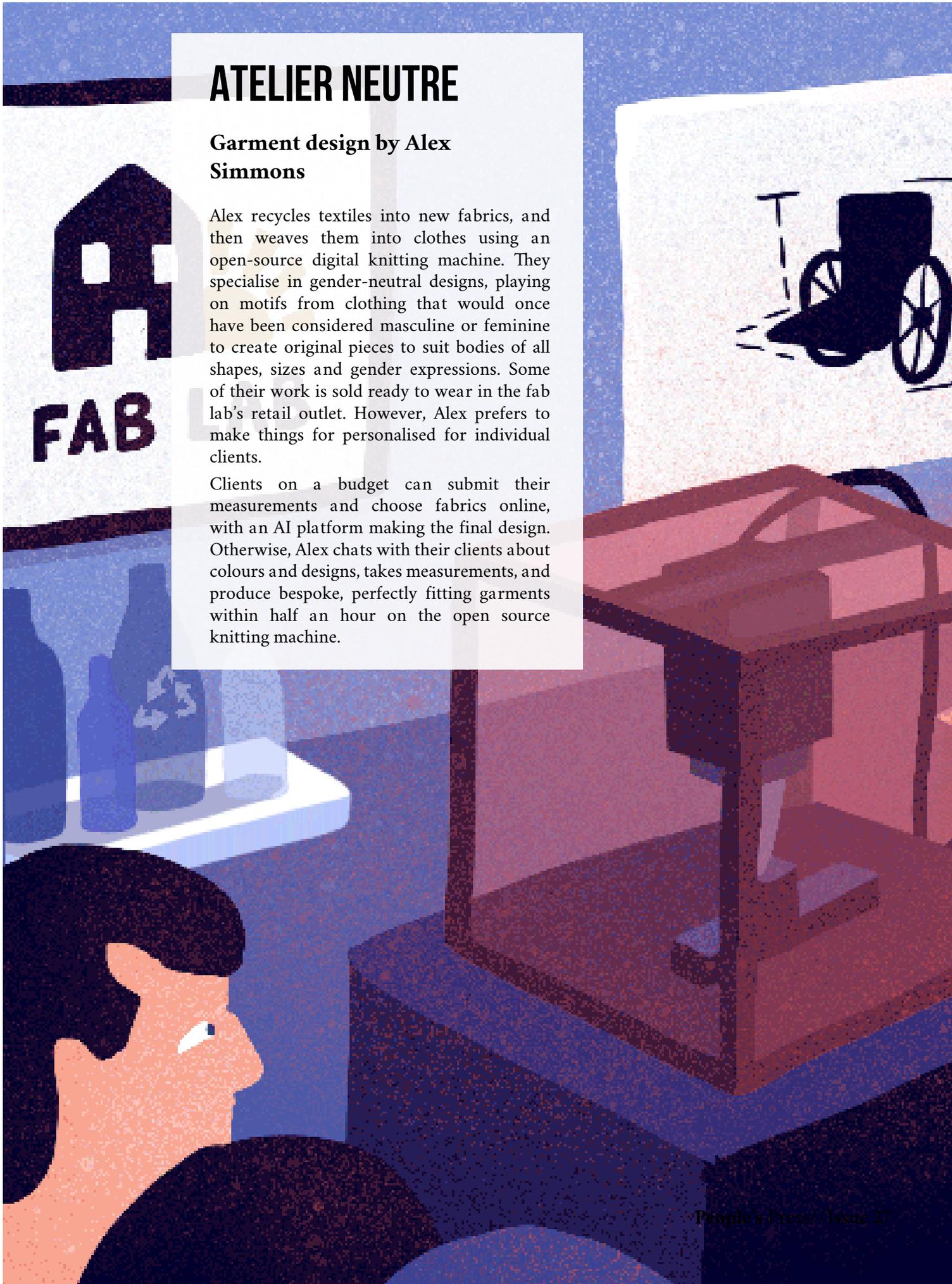
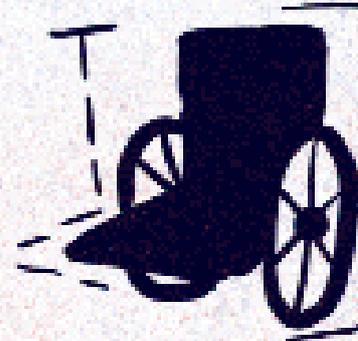
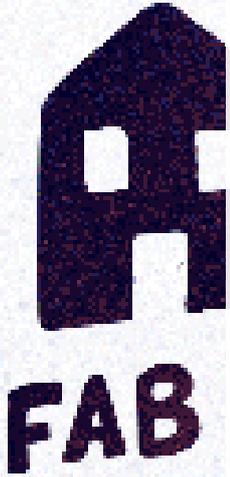
For local MP, Vivian Michaels, Casa Luminata has been a huge success. "We put money into the fab lab to kick it off. It was a risk, and if we'd got it wrong and lost the money we'd, quite rightly, have been unpopular with voters. It looked like a good bet and we were right. The Casa has repaid its loan to us, it's creating jobs and it's contributing to the tax base. I couldn't be more delighted."

ATELIER NEUTRE

Garment design by Alex Simmons

Alex recycles textiles into new fabrics, and then weaves them into clothes using an open-source digital knitting machine. They specialise in gender-neutral designs, playing on motifs from clothing that would once have been considered masculine or feminine to create original pieces to suit bodies of all shapes, sizes and gender expressions. Some of their work is sold ready to wear in the fab lab's retail outlet. However, Alex prefers to make things for personalised for individual clients.

Clients on a budget can submit their measurements and choose fabrics online, with an AI platform making the final design. Otherwise, Alex chats with their clients about colours and designs, takes measurements, and produce bespoke, perfectly fitting garments within half an hour on the open source knitting machine.





SAFEAS

Wooden housing construction cooperative

SafeAs use open source building technology to design and assemble wooden framed houses. With a team of nine working full time, they source timber from well managed forests which they cut to size in the fab lab's woodwork yard. They do conventional building projects, but their real expertise is in low-cost but well-designed homes on unusually shaped parcels of land, for instance between existing houses or other plots which would otherwise be empty.

Built with sustainable materials, the homes have an intended lifespan of at least 100 years. They are designed to be easy to disassemble at the end of their life, allowing wood, metal and other materials to be separated and recycled appropriately.

CITIZENS' JURIES: THREE YEARS OF OUR VOICES SHAPING POLICY

Citizen juries have been credited with turning around disengagement from politics and creating better policy. But what exactly is a citizens' jury, how does it work and why should we get involved?

WHAT IS A CITIZENS' JURY?

The citizens' jury model brings the public's perspective into policy making. It operates at a national, regional or local level. By giving a representative group of citizens information to discuss around a specific topic area and feed back to the government, we create policies which better represent people's wishes. Consequently, they are seen as more legitimate and increase the public's trust in government. Thanks to the space they create for informed debate, there has been a move away from populism towards evidence-based approaches to politics.

Citizens' juries are inclusive and representative of the population. They use a blend of digital and face-to-face presentations and discussions, ensuring that citizens from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences contribute.

Citizens juries' began to emerge as part of the political toolkit in the early 2000s. A series of elections and referendums preceded by ill-informed public debate nearly led to crisis in the late 2010s, but by 2023 citizens' juries were used increasingly frequently. Following these successes, they were moved to the heart of policy making by the creation of the Qarar platform in 2027.

THE PROCESS

Introduction: The facilitators introduce participants to the process. Evidence on the specific topic is presented to the jurors, from all sides of the debate. Jurors have the opportunity to question those giving testimonies.

Discussion: Jurors spend time discussing the evidence and working through their ideas and potential solutions.

Proposal: When they have reached an agreement, the jury puts forward a proposed solution to the issue to the government, who may then bring it forward into policy.

ACHIEVEMENTS

National policy on developing a system for employee security in the freelance and gig economies.

The regional further education strategy established last year was heavily influenced by recommendations from the youth citizens' jury.

The proposal for development of the previous car factory site into a mixed-use site with affordable housing came from the local citizens' jury.

BEING ON A CITIZENS' JURY



Megan was surprised to receive an invitation to take part in the local citizens' jury on the future use of a old car factory site.

"I didn't expect to have a chance to participate, as an ex-offender. But I got involved and it was nice to see my own suggestions discussed in the process."

The group looked at options for redevelopment of the site and weighed up the pros and cons of each. They combined reading and discussion online with face-to-face meetings looking at plans and maps of the site, as well as the outcomes of community workshops.

"When it came down to it, we knew that so many of the issues raised by the community related to not having affordable housing. That realisation helped us to work out what to prioritise in the new plan. I'm proud to have been part of this process and look forward to seeing it being built in the years to come."

"Because citizens are involved in shaping policies they are seen as more legitimate"



Mika had been working in the country for a year when they were asked to participate in the region's citizens' jury on further education. They were excited about sharing their previous and current experience of further education here and abroad.

"I knew that I could bring a unique perspective to the debate. As a young person who is working full time while studying part-time, I was looking forward to supporting a more flexible system."

"The citizens' jury were presented with written documents and face-to-face testimonies. Discussions focused on tackling high drop-out rates in courses in the region. The recommendations from the group around more face-to-face contact time with lecturers and peer support networks were included in the new education strategy.

"I was really happy to see our main recommendations included in the strategy, but I don't think we spent enough time as a group talking about barriers to accessing education. I tried my best but I'm not sure my points got across well enough to influence the outcomes."

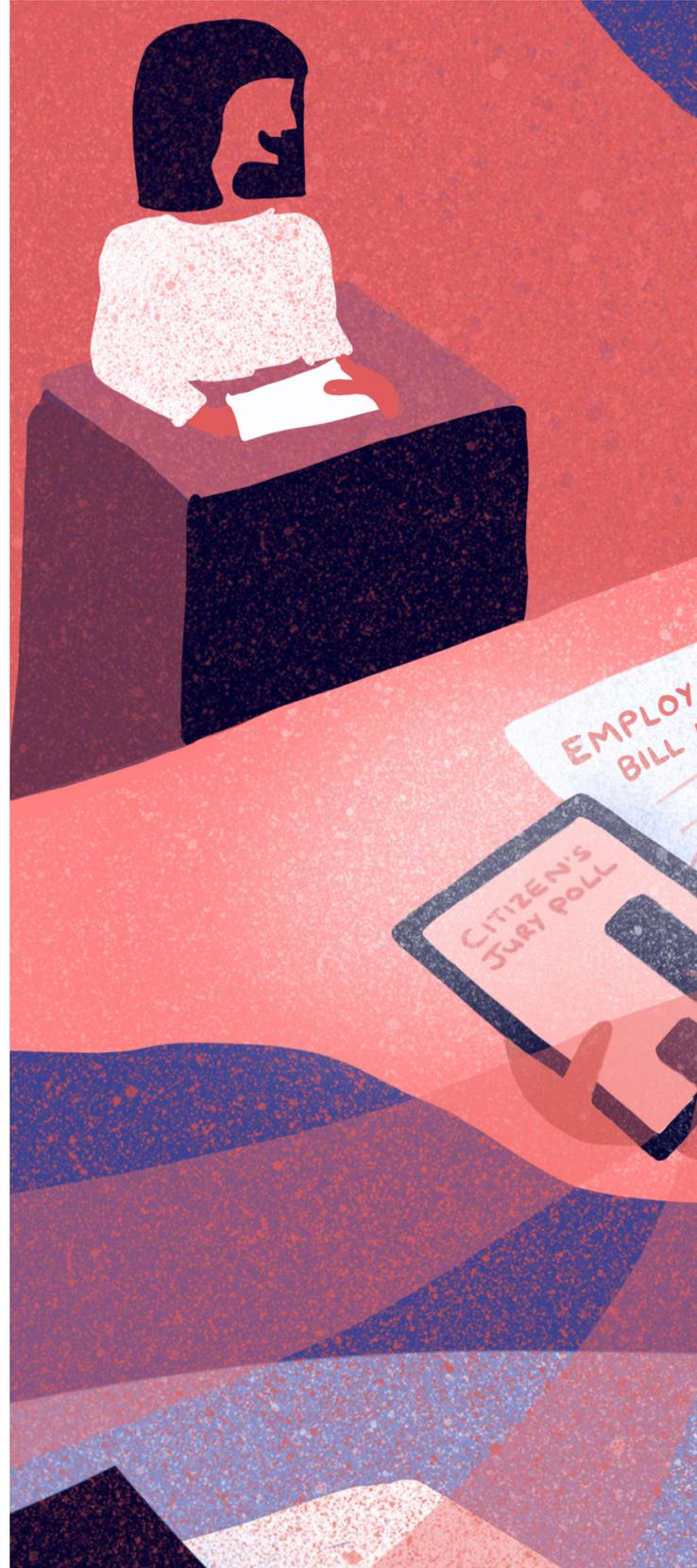


Nikolay was called up to join the Qarar national citizens' jury on employee security in the freelance and gig economies. He was worried about losing wages from days off work, but he found out that he'd get compensation and his employer would be able to hire extra help, which enabled him to get involved.

"Before I didn't get involved in politics. I was really disengaged and felt like people like me weren't listened to. Then I was called up to the Qarar and that changed things for me."

The participants were from across the country but it was all done on VR headsets. They were presented with information and all had the chance to discuss it. Together they worked out a system which has been adopted by the government.

"I never would have thought that we'd have an opportunity to shape policy like that. I now make sure that I take whatever opportunities I have to take part in politics because I know it can have an influence."







TESTING ZONE

Each month we try out one of the latest initiatives in Civitana to see if it's worth the hype. This week our testing correspondent switches four wheels for two as he tries out FreeWheel across the city.



I wouldn't call myself a cyclist. In fact when I went to pick up my bike for the week from the Cycle Co-op, I felt a bit like my 5 year-old self about to attempt to cycle for the first time.

I might not have had stabilisers this time, but I did have a different kind of support. Enabling FreeWheel on my glasses, I felt like I had my own personal cycle route guide - but unlike a traditional GPS system, there was no need to take my eyes off the road. In fact, the beauty of this technology is that it projects the best route for you on to your glasses, so it plays out on the road in front of you as you go along.

On the first day, when FreeWheel asked me for my cycling style, I opted for 'beginner', knowing that I might have trouble staying on the bike, never mind following directions. However, as soon as I started, the system put me at ease. It told me ahead of time of upcoming junctions, and gently reminded me to look out for hazards such as buses pulling in to stops. Using the most car-free routes I got to my destination a bit later than I had hoped, but in one piece and with my confidence boosted.

By day three on 'medium' level routes, the instructions became more specific and with fewer reminders, but I got places quicker and became more comfortable riding on busier direct routes. When Friday came, I decided it

was time to try 'expert' level. I wanted to see if the advanced features made up for no 'tips'. I was nervous about the pace, but intrigued to try out the 'cycle wave' feature - where the system indicates adjustments to your speed until you are able to join the 'wave' of other bikes following the fast route. The system uses traffic light signal information and real time congestion levels to send the group as a mass down the quickest routes. Despite the fast pace and busiest routes, during this journey I felt even safer than at 'medium' level, comforted by having the group around me.

The interface is clear and easy to use. A lot of work went into the AR design and it shows. Information icons are readable and logical and I didn't once have to check the online reference guide or ask for spoken confirmation as I cycled. The graphic overlays are effective too. Navigating around complex junctions, I'd feared information overload with a busy screen disrupting my view of the road, but that wasn't the case at all.

Final verdict: FreeWheel is useful for those getting back on their bike, but the real bonus comes with the 'wave' - it's worth the investment for the speed and safety of that group.



SAVING MORE THAN JUST CARBON

Lucas believes that the benefits of the St Mark's community energy scheme Ciklo go beyond carbon saving, to reducing energy poverty, building community self-determination, boosting local businesses and supporting community projects

Stacking the last plate into the dishwasher and turning it on last night, I wasn't at all surprised to see the "on hold" light start blinking. Dishwashing was the energy grid's lowest priority at 7pm, with lights on, dinners cooking, and TVs blaring. The dishwasher would kick in when there was spare capacity.

Just a few years ago, people would have balked at this inconvenience. But in St Marks district, we know it is good for the environment and is saving us money. Our neighbourhood is now generating more power than it uses – putting renewable energy back into the European grid and bringing extra income to residents.

In 2025, our area was notorious for being run down, with residents under-employed and earning below European averages. With energy prices rising fast, I realised that some members of the community were facing energy poverty - being forced to choose between basics like heating or cooking. After speaking to some of my neighbours, I developed a vision for a community-owned renewable energy system which would cut bills, provide income for the community, and also reduce carbon emissions.

I brought together a diverse group of people

from across the district and formed a committee to examine the idea in practice. Together we developed a plan, began to promote it online, and managed to access funding through a new "double match crowdfunding" programme: one third donations from the crowd, one third funding from the Civitana's matched crowdfunding pot (which, luckily, was focused on energy that year following the annual participatory budgeting process), and one third low-interest ethical loan.

Through Ciklo our rooftops have been covered with solar panels and micro-turbines have been installed around the district. Residents have had the chance to choose to install other technologies such as transparent solar on their windows, and buildings have been insulated to reduce heating and cooling needs. Taking advantage of our coastal location, small scale tidal and wave energy generators have been built. To give real ownership to the community, and further reduce environmental footprint, a lot of the parts for these installations have been tailored and produced at Casa Luminata. Apartment buildings have been fitted with batteries to help bridge differences between supply and demand.

Within homes, smart appliances have been programmed to operate depending on when energy is available. Non-urgent tasks like dishwashing and operate when there is spare capacity in the grid, while urgent activities like lighting and cooking are given priority.

Householders can override these settings if they want, but they have to pay more to do so. To help everyone plan and to increase transparency, every household has a dashboard, called the Cikloboard, showing aggregate, anonymous energy usage across the district. People can ask the connected virtual assistant for insights, trends and tips.

The decentralised ownership model and the varying prices led to a complex system of energy payments. Apartment buildings share the rights to rooftop generation and battery storage equally. However, some apartments generate more energy (particularly those with transparent solar glass in their windows), while others use more energy. Households have to pay for energy they draw from the district's tidal and wave energy, but the district pays residents for the right to store its excess energy in shared battery storage. The system as a whole earns money while selling its excess to the national grid.

To address this complexity, we have used open-source blockchain technology to track each unit of energy and its price. Smart meters in homes, batteries and generators measure and verify what has been given to and taken from the grid, providing the whole community with precise monthly bills and

tailored information and insights.

My dishwasher on hold, I headed to the community hall for the local energy management board meeting. Joining for the first half of the meeting is Citizens' Agency. They were interested in the scheme and the community's experience. Their eventual aim is to understand user behaviour better in order to extend the approach to other areas.

The second item on the agenda was the economic report. Households have the choice to pledge to spend the money they've saved on lower bills in the local currency to support the district's shops and services. This is where we can really make a difference to our local area, and the board was thrilled to see that over half of households have now opted in, chiming closely with local businesses' reports of increased footfall and spend.

Finally, the board discussed the Community Pot. This fund receives half of the income generated from selling back to the grid (minus loan repayments), and is shared between local community projects. The energy project has not only reinvented how we power our homes, it has changed the way we feel about our neighbourhood and our belief in what we can achieve together. The fact that - on top of lowering our own energy costs in a way that reduces environmental impact, and supporting local business - we still have the capacity to support local social projects shows that the energy we generate isn't just powering our homes, it's powering our community too.

AN ALTERNATIVE VIEW

Karla argues that community energy schemes might actually increase inequality:

While it's great that communities are now taking matters into their own hands, should it not be the responsibility of the local authorities to put such schemes in place? That might also make it fairer because some neighbourhoods won't be able to afford to buy the expensive technologies, or know how to get the planning permission in place. It could further embed inequality if the communities who don't have the capacity for this type of project end up as a result paying even more for standard energy.



VITAL SIGNS

Whether wearables or under-skin sensors, we're always collecting health data. Isabella Lopez is a vocal advocate for data use in health. We put her arguments to Farhad Murphy, who campaigns for a different approach.

Isabella Lopez is an epidemiologist with the Pan-European Health Network and co-instigator of Afya, the platform that helps individuals look after their health with data.



Only ten years ago, the kinds of things we now do with health data every day would have been completely impossible. Whether it's looking across the population to identify and improve general health trends, or it's

giving individualised health recommendations, the explosion in data now available allows us to do now what would then have been considered science fiction.

There's always been a lot of data in existence, so the first big success was making it widely accessible. It used to be held in silos like the archives of research centres or in as commercial secrets of wearables manufacturers. Lobbying to free all that data was an important step. Now the data is open and distributed, with a blockchain ledger allowing individuals to choose their own privacy settings without affecting the data as a mass.

This means that data scientists can identify meaningful correlations on a massive scale without impeding anyone's privacy. We know that correlation doesn't equal causation, but identifying links is a vital starting point for closer studies.

We're already seeing the effects of this on

healthcare. For example, links between the exact balance of particular gut bacteria and individual mental health have allowed us to devise treatments and diet advice which are substantially more effective than conventional anti-depressants and which continue to work over the long term. We've made links between exposure to household chemicals and certain cancers and effectively fight for better regulation. This is as important as the rules on asbestos which came about in the 1950s and 1960s.

For individuals, this is just as vital. Using what we know about population-wide good health, individuals can monitor their own data to ensure they're keeping within recommended norms. For those with long term conditions, this is a particular boon. People with diabetes can monitor their blood sugar levels in real time, though soon we expected automated insulin delivery to render this obsolete too. Patients who've had organ transplants can look after their health to ensure the organ carries on functioning properly, and allow medical teams to intervene quickly if there's a problem.

For individuals, monitoring this data is complicated. Of course, smartphone platforms simplify things, but real understanding requires expertise. This is why we started Afya. Afya trains people in monitoring their own health data, helping them turn numbers into practical, everyday behaviours they can change.

The most exciting thing is that we're still only scratching the surface. Health outcomes and quality of life will continue to improve as we find new data sources and learn more from the data we have.

Fahad Murphy is a general practice doctor and campaigner with Data Deliberation, the research network for the wise use of data in healthcare.



What should be the limits of our use of data in healthcare? This is a question which troubled me sufficiently to start Data Deliberation, a network of general practitioners and

other medical professionals who aim to be a critical friend of the new wave of data use in healthcare. We're not opposed to data use, far from it, but we want to make sure it's deployed well and doesn't create harm.

The opening up of data from silos has led to some tremendous advances in healthcare. But the distributed data model isn't infallible. Distributed healthcare data means that the files containing health data are available for anyone to download, store and share. Rather than protecting the files, distributed healthcare data uses blockchain ledgers to allow different levels of access to those files. Only those who have the right credentials can access all the data, while others are given anonymised results or averages of several data points. Moreover, every attempt to access the data is recorded in the blockchain.

We're placing a lot of trust in a single technology. If things go wrong, private data could very easily end up in the public domain. This is a breach of medical ethics, but it could also have real risks for patients. In countries without national healthcare schemes, for instance, insurers could access data indicative of life expectancy which even the patient themselves has declined to look at. The first a patient would know of their potential health condition would be when an insurer refused to cover them.

It also opens data to falsification. Without centralised and verified repositories of data, there's a risk that new data could enter circulation or existing data be modified. This could skew the results of epidemiological surveys, rendering the kinds of work we do today impossible in future. Data only has value if there is certainty about its accuracy.

For individuals, healthcare data is certainly a boon but again there are risks. We know from the expansion of the quantified self movement in the early 2020s that this data can generate mental health risks. Just as those with eating disorders fixate on the food they consume, the quantified self movement created a fixation on metrics. I'm beginning to see this with my patients. At the worst, patients see minor fluctuations in health indicators as indicative of possible crises, and become obsessive about micromanaging diet, exercise and supplement consumption in an effort to achieve perfection.

More widely, I see signs that patients are becoming more attentive to metrics than they are to their own experience of feeling well. Instead of enjoying the physicality of being alive: the endorphin rush from vigorous exercise or the sense of satiety that comes from a good meal patients increasingly see food and exercise as purely functional. This too is a problematic development for people's mental health. While Afya teaches good practice in understanding health data to reduce these kinds of outcomes, it is essentially an effort to repair a problem of its own making.

So my call is not to stop working with health data. Instead, we need to think carefully about how we're doing it and make sure that we're not creating new problems in our efforts to solve existing ones.

“We're placing a lot of trust in a single technology. Data only has value if there is certainty about its accuracy.”

PAMILYA LIVING

What you can expect from living in the co-operative?

Brand new, wooden-framed homes, built at Casa Luminata

Community work contributions via our online platform

Community activities and collective decision-making

On-site renewable energy as well as shared bikes and trailers

We're building new homes for 60 people. From single or double rooms sharing communal living space to large family houses, we can accommodate people in all stages of life. Everyone can apply, and 40% of our housing is reserved for those who are in at-risk groups or who are vulnerably housed.

We asked two members of the community what being part of Pamilya means to them:

AMINA

“Today my kids are out with their friends using reused materials to make a mosaic for the shared patio, my husband is learning English grammar from our elderly neighbour, and I’ve been fixing a puncture on one of the communal bikes. That’s just a normal day in the life of the Pamilya community!

We used the online network and community meetings to find opportunities to get involved. We love that we can contribute our skills to the group and learn from each other. The community time bank is great too. Our kids love the shared babysitting because it’s like a sleepover with friends. For my husband and me, the time we get together is so important.

We feel like we’ve been a part of this community for years even though it has only been a few months. The welcome we got was so warm. We’ve made so many friends along the way and we all look out for each other - especially the family that we share a two-family house with. We’re now looking forward to welcoming the next members when they arrive.”

TAYLOR

“When I found out I’d got a place at Pamilya, I was over the moon. As my partner and I are non-binary, it was so important to find a place which was welcoming to difference and also within our price range. We were so happy to find a stable home with a supportive community around us and since then things have just got better and better.

In my first week I found a chance to help with the garden on the community platform and decided to give it a go. Being around nature has improved my mental health and working with the others to grow food has given me skills that helped me to get a job working in the gardens of the nearby castle!

Being here has made it easy to live an environmentally-friendly lifestyle. My partner is on the working group for sustainable living which makes sure that we promote opportunities to learn from each other and set up our homes and shared spaces to use less and waste less.”

COMMUNITY BOARD

JOBS

Design junior sought, Atelier Neutre.

Demand for our line of gender neutral clothing has soared and we're looking for a design junior. CAD competencies and experience with digital fabrication and recycled fabrics desirable. Most important is passion for the brand's values and flair for design. Send portfolio and motivation letter to alex@atelierneutre.eu.

Innovative startup seeks developers. Thanks to funding from Co-operative Labs, we're hiring three developers to work on web and smartphone interfaces for our ethical travel platform. Competitive salary, profit sharing and collective decision making from day one. Contact gemma@coopmailbox.eu.

Quantitative researcher sought for assessment of longitudinal data. Part of a study on how IoT technology has affected different demographic groups over the last decade with funding from National IoT Council. Remote immersive working. Contact decadeofiot@quom.com.

Oral history researchers required. What was life like before the digital age? We're building an archive of memories and experiences from members of the community who lived in unconnected times. The interviews will be stored in the Continent Archive and form the basis of a flagship, touring exhibition and AI experience. Visit www.continentarchive.eu/unconnected for more information.

Calling foresters and tree surgeons. Sustainable building practices have led to a huge growth in demand for forestry products, so we're hiring people to manage our mountain woodlands. Priority is given to those retraining from construction's legacy industries (including concrete, tarmac, and steelwork operatives). Video call Peter at peter.brockwell@southernforests.eu.

Aspiring solar installers needed. We're training up new solar panel installation operatives. No experience required, though preference will be given to candidates with high Isikathi ratings. Reliable gig work offered to candidates when trained, protected by the Irregular Working Fund. Information at www.seethelightsolar.eu/trainees.

Community training staff. Isikathi, Qarar and other citizen engagement platforms require community training staff to work in local mediathques, helping new users use the features of these platforms. Apply at www.citizengovtech.eu/training.

To finally get to zero HIV transmission, we need to reach the estimated 900 people in the country who don't know they're living with the virus. Join the Public Health Agency's new team building AI and big data tools to finally get us to zero. Apply at jobs.health.

FOR SALE

Smart cane for older people. Integrates with all platforms, privacy secure, makes life easier for all those with walking and visual difficulties. Brand new. Call Bolu on 397_847_B.

Pear X.5 AR device. High end AR headset with 8G connectivity. Nearly new, no box. Genuine reason for sale. All reasonable offers considered. Call Honest Dave +954177266543.

Carbon credits. Valid for international leisure flights up to 3,000 miles return trip. May be transferred through the Flyr or Raydar platforms. Bids starting at €250. Search username [gemma2005](#) on either platform to bid.

80cm Japanese TV from 2017 for sale. No camera, no internet connection. DVD

player for those old family videos. Promise to increase in value in coming years. Contact Andrei at +40738475839.

RARE FIND. Original Home Assistant (2021) produced just two years before The Nile River Corporation was broken up by regulators. One of only a few thousand male-voiced home assistants made by the company. In full working condition if you can find an old enough internet connection. Call me: 387_4716_X.

Aquaponics system (no fish included). Built with open-source technology two years ago and in full-working condition. Modular allowing for the buyer to change as according to need. Drop by Pamilya's community space to see it.

Vintage furniture. Carefully restored flatpack furnishings from the disposable era, including Fløskvuud shelving unit, Rmænort bedframe and Glüeslavet table wear. Bring the past to life in your own home! Delivery not included. Contact akin.and.rosie@coopmailbox.eu

WANTED

Old cotton fabrics. Old cotton fabrics wanted for complete recycling. High quality materials respun into new threads with waste made into insulation materials. To arrange a volunteer to collect from your home contact louise@spinningaround.eu.

Were you severely affected by the worldwide digital identity data breach of the government in 2026? Writing a book on the run-up and aftermath of the crisis and looking to speak to people who were most affected by it. Email john.harry@qmayl.com.

User testers needed for NutriMapp, a new open data platform tracking in real-time the environmental footprint of the food which ends up on your plate. Four week trial looking exploring what encourages users to eat more

sustainably. Generous compensation in national or Civitana crowns. Email ciao@nutrimapp.vz.

Have you been called to a Qarar? We're looking to speak to people for a study on impacts on individuals in the first years of implementation. Call us securely via FTS: 618437_24_6.

Have you lost a loved one recently in the past five years? We're putting together an immersive experience of digital identities after death and how they've evolved since the implementation of the Digital Deceased Act. Get involved: exhibition@passingover.digital.

WHAT'S ON

Drop in at the House of Calm in Times Square. Leave your phone at the door and enjoy a few hours of calm, switched off from the world outside. Free entry. Until August 13.

Sustainable Civitana 2030 now open. Contribute data through your wearables into to public research over the summer months and be in with a chance of joining the maiden voyage of the new cross-country solar-powered bullet train.

Can't make it to the Protest Against Designer Babies next month? Join via mass VR dial-in to the PM's office at 3pm on August 2. Details at padb.ks.

Join our weekly hackathons to analyse corporate data and unearth the dodgy dealings keeping our asset bubbles inflated. Every Saturday, Civic House, 2pm-4pm.

We're a group of citizens concerned about Civitana government's backsliding on its commitment to open-source software. Join us on 25th June at Civitana College, Room 4, to plan a day of Action for Open-Source.



COFFEE & CO

CASA LUMINATA

The Plant Pot