

## Brussels FvL's Methodology

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The methodology of the Brussels FVLab includes a series of non-linear steps proceeding through a feedback-loop approach. These include:

**1. Recognition of the issue/demand:** this step is structured around a series of meetings and actions taken over some months before the inception of the FairvilleLab by local residents and civil society organizations in a platform (i.e. Délier les fils de l'eau). It is part of what makes the FVLab exist.

**2. Exploration of the issue/demand:** this step is structured around a series of activities, such as the survey Délier les fils de l'eau involving some inhabitants of Rue Gray, and the exchange of views with experts. This exploration revealed the need to redefine the issue/demand at stake by employing a social, technical and environmental approach with the involvement of key actors to collectively understand the issue of flooding in the Rue Gray, i.e. what we refer to as co-diagnostics.

**3. Definition of a common ground and objectives / Enlargement of the action-research network:** This step requires the development of a series of actions heading towards the sharing of objectives and strategies to solve the issue at stake. If, on the one hand, the idea of co-diagnostics is starting to be shared by all key actors (Délier les fils de l'eau, inhabitants, Ixelles municipality, EGEB, ULB), on the other hand, its meaning and the objectives it implies are still varied (and potentially contested). The different actions (e.g. municipal interpellation by the inhabitants, hydrology study, pedagogical innovation week with university students) in this step therefore aim to seek a common ground between these different meanings and knowledge by facilitating dialogue, community

engagement and building coalitions, and may imply the re-discussion of the issue at stake, if necessary.

**4. Co-diagnostics and development of agreement on certain understandings:** this step implies an in-depth comprehension of the issue at stake. It may reveal the emergence of complementary issues (e.g. rent increase connected with proposed solutions, public space redesign) that have to be included in this comprehension. The goal of the co-diagnostics is to develop a common agreement on certain understandings of the problems between the key actors – probably not a full agreement on all problems – allowing to develop shared measures.

**5. Proposals/projects:** co-production and implementation of the specific measures to solve the issue at stake.

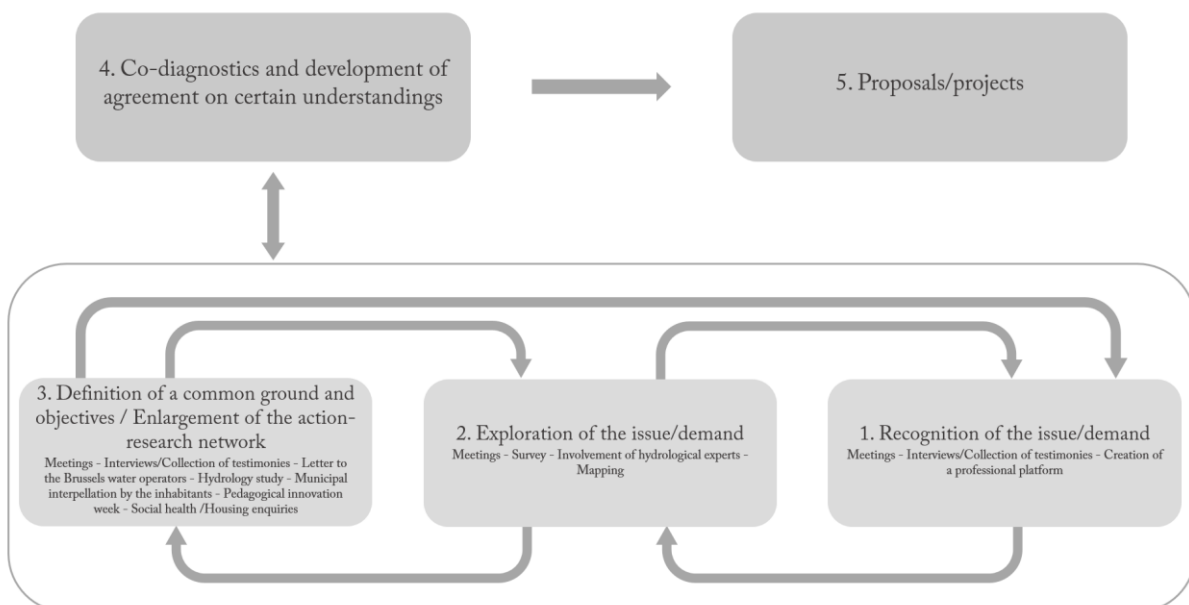


Figure 2: Brussels FvL's Methodology, Source: Brussels FvL