TONITE


FINAL
PROJECT
REPORT

Below you will find some highlights of the most important activities carried out by the project, along with the results.

To focus on issues related to the perceived safety and livability, it is not possible to make neutral reflections, detached from territories and specific contests. There are many questions, perspectives, doubts, and needs. Tonite represents a possible way to move away from crossroads and established strategies, placing the perception of the citizens and their participatory will at the center. The project indeed represents an important and unique experience of empowering local communities, without presuming that this alone is sufficient or definitive in addressing all contradictions. Like all innovation projects, the challenge lies in transforming the experimentation into public policy, based on what has been learned through the project, the achieved results, the emerging new challenges, and the courage to further strengthen.

The objective is to support and give even more space to the valuable energies and insights built through Tonite, through future initiatives that can continue the path taken or address new needs.

Theory of Change

inputs	activities	outputs	results	impact
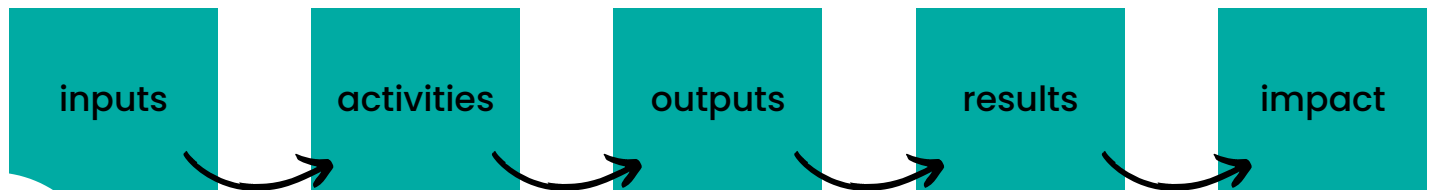
The change we envision

Impact statement

New participatory/collaborative perception of safety and livability in the two target areas along the Dora: an active and aware community takes care of its differences, its places, and spaces, rethinks them, designs them, and experiences them as open, inclusive, and vibrant common assets.

Engagement and active participation

To be understood as a greater predisposition towards creating collaborations/system networks, participating in public life, and applying co-management approaches.

Intended results

- R1: Improvement of network interventions and collaborations in Tonite's target areas.
- R2: Increased engagement and activation of local community stakeholders through co-design and implementation of services/projects to address social needs and promote better use of public spaces in ToNite's target areas during evening hours.
- R3: Increased participation and private investment in the development of socially impactful services.
- R4: Heightened sense of community belonging in relation to Tonite's target areas.

Empowerment and community engagement activities play a key role in creating safer public spaces and better nighttime policies.

Listening to the territory and co-design meetings of the project

A fundamental characteristic of ToNite is its inclusive approach to the issue of safety, a community-based approach consistent with the territory's vocations and potential. Involvement of communities and local stakeholders is, therefore, a crucial aspect, particularly engaging even the less structured and less accustomed actors to collaborate with the City, but who are highly strategic, such as schools, foreign communities, and small associations.

The engagement activities and dialogue with the territory played a vital role in the design phase of the Call for Proposals (WP6) and served two purposes: on one hand, effectively communicating the chosen approach to urban safety and encouraging participation in the Call; on the other hand, deepening the knowledge and defining the needs of the intervention area.

The listening phase lasted about 9 months (March - December 2020) and was structured into 25 meetings, conducted online due to the lockdown period, involving a total of 92 stakeholders. Additionally, a parallel engagement process was activated, which included:

- Three public meetings (29th and 30th September and 7th October 2020) for discussions with citizens about the strengths, opportunities, and untapped potential of the territory.
- A Civic Hackathon for opportunities definition (3rd December 2020), with 67 participants and 6 testimonials. The workshop was a moment of sharing and exchange with the dual objective of inspiring potential participants for the Call through the presentation of best practices and collecting project ideas useful for writing the Call.

Call for Proposals for the activation of new proximity services

The Call for Proposals "for the allocation of contributions aimed at improving livability and the perception of safety during evening hours in the areas adjacent to the Dora River" was published on 17/12/2020. The deadline for applications was set for 19/04/2021.

The objective was to promote the creation of a widespread proximity infrastructure capable of generating a positive impact on the territory through the participation of local communities, the enhancement of the territory's potential, and the shared care of public spaces, with the ultimate goal of improving the perception of safety and the livability of public spaces in the project's intervention areas, especially during evening hours.

The Call had a total budget of 1 million Euros and offered non-refundable grants ranging from 30,000 to 60,000 Euros. In response to the Call, 83 applications were submitted. With the available resources, 19 projects were funded, presented by partnerships involving 57 local actors, including non-profit organizations, schools, and universities.

The path of dialogue with the territory for urban regeneration interventions

Along with the construction of the Call for Proposals that started with listening to the territory, a collective imagination and sharing/feedback process were also built for public interventions, integrated into the projects of public intervention. Gathering suggestions and ideas useful for the actual design of the interventions was done through 2 workshops (one for each area), involving the entire community. The objective was to present the planned actions and collectively imagine future scenarios for the identified intervention areas.

On October 15, 2020, a workshop focused on Viale Ottavio Mai took place at the Edisu Olimpia university residence. During this workshop, the area was envisioned to be requalified as "a place of psychophysical relaxation and activating energy. A place that encourages collective action, surprises with cultural proposals, reconnects you with spontaneous nature, and offers moments of individual reconnection."

On March 4, 2021, a meeting was held for the Aurora area, but in an online format due to pandemic restrictions. This meeting focused on themes such as lighting, public green spaces, and urban furnishings to create places for gathering and improve the aesthetics of the neighborhood. Both workshops were followed by a moment of sharing and feedback with the community regarding the actual projects developed by the Municipality of Turin for the identified areas.

Understanding

To be meant as greater and improved knowledge and perception of the target areas, as well as acquired skills.

Intended results

- R5: Increase in knowledge of ToNite's target areas by public administration and civil society actors (residents, workers, students, etc.).
- R6: Enhancement of skills and tools for designing and structuring socially impactful solutions.
- R7: Increase in knowledge of the areas among citizens who do not live or frequent them.

Activities related to the knowledge impact area play a key role in building policies related to livability and perceived safety that are valuable for the territory, reducing the gap and barriers present between residents, users, and the public administration.

Dimensioni	Peso
Cittadinanza attiva	10%
Conformazione territoriale	15%
Convivenza	10%
Ecosistema lavorativo	5%
Grado di istruzione	5%
Percezione criminalità	15%
Precarietà economica	5%
Rete dei servizi	15%
Rete sociale	10%
Senso di appartenenza	10%

Understanding the territory through ethnography

The social research aimed to gain knowledge of the territory, its residents, and its users through qualitative research techniques to determine the various factors that influence the construction of perceptions of safety, both directly and indirectly.

A total of 36 contextual interviews were conducted, involving different types of residents in the reference areas of ToNite. Additionally, 5 exploratory walks were carried out by the residents, and an online questionnaire was administered to identify perceptions of the area. Gaining a profound understanding of the territory is a crucial initial step for any urban safety project, as it allows framing the issue and consequently shaping actions. For example, it emerged that the perception of insecurity is determined by various factors: physical and aesthetic conditions of places in the neighborhoods, such as cleanliness and care of public spaces, accessibility, quality of public lighting, as well as patterns in the use of public spaces, whether they are mixed or homogeneous. Concurrently, factors related to the socio-cultural characteristics of the neighborhood, such as cultural integration, social cohesion, and the level of cultural and social capital of the citizens, tend to have a more indirect impact.

Based on the inputs received from the qualitative research, the following were defined:

- A map of opportunities and concerns: The analysis of the results identified specific critical aspects of the target areas believed to impact the perception of insecurity. Through an iterative process, the team identified a total of 34 opportunities grouped into seven thematic clusters. Each opportunity was then mapped along two dimensions: its impact on the perception of insecurity and the role the city can play in improving the situation, whether it be a direct role or an enabling role for other actors.

- A model for calculating the index of perceived safety and livability: The model considered 10 social dimensions, which emerged from the ethnographic research on perceived safety and livability along the Dora River. From these dimensions, specific sub-indicators were derived to quantify perceptions, such as place attendance, vacant urban spaces, reporting of misuse of communal areas, economic precariousness, and lighting. The sub-indicators were assigned different weights based on literature on perceived safety and the results of socio-ethnographic research. Using this model, a questionnaire was designed for monitoring the level of perceived safety and livability, incorporating all the sub-dimensions. The questionnaire is administered annually to residents and visitors of the ToNite target area. The model produces a composite index, providing the City Government with valuable insights to inform new nighttime policies.

Capacity building

The acceleration program was designed to accompany the acquisition of knowledge, skills, and theoretical/practical tools related to design for impact-oriented project development and social impact entrepreneurship and finance. These skills are valuable for the implementation phase of the projects and in a post-grant perspective. The "journey", built on SocialFare | Center for Social Innovation's approach, was enriched by the consolidated experience of all project partners on specific themes and by external experts connected to the world of social impact entrepreneurship. The objectives were:

- Confirm, implement, and consolidate the service design and model.
- Support the development of metrics for evaluating social impact.
- Define or refine the business model to attract potential new funders/investors.
- Provide techniques and tools for effective storytelling and narrative.
- Promote the activation of local communities and proximity communication.

The program was structured into 7 thematic modules, enriched with moments of collective training, team discussions, empowerment workshops, testimonials, and co-design with experts:
DESIGNING AND EVALUATING IMPACT
ENGAGEMENT AND STORYTELLING
DEVELOPING THE SERVICE/PROJECT MODEL
DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY MODEL
DEVELOPING THE ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL MODEL
ACTIVATING FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY TOOLS AND PROCESSES
PREPARING FOR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY DAY

The journey concluded with the "Opportunity Day," a moment of feedback and exchange designed to offer an opportunity for knowledge and discussion, even in a post-grant perspective, between the projects funded by the ToNite grant and other entities (local and non-local) that, in various ways, support and develop projects with a strong social impact. The event involved 24 guests and 19 projects, resulting in 92 individual moments of discussion.

A new storytelling for communication with and about the territory

Starting from the opening event, the ToNite project has implemented a narrative strategy with the aim of improving the perception of safety, fostering social cohesion, and enhancing the sense of community and belonging among the residents of the area.

Thus, the project "The River of Biographies" was born, a storytelling initiative conducted by Espereal Technologies that produced ten short films, each lasting seven minutes, narrating the biographies of ten inhabitants of the area, including five young Italians with migratory backgrounds and five past migrants.

Using the Tellingstones app, these stories are visible along the bridges of the Dora River, from via Bologna bridge to via Cigna bridge, symbolizing intergenerational unity and the coming together of diverse cultures.

To strengthen the sense of identification among people, each story also incorporates a landscape element of the river, metaphorically linked to a recurring phase in each human's life journey.

The stars represent the destiny under which we are born, the water signifies transformation, the bridge is a metaphor for overcoming obstacles, the light is the identity that illuminates desires, and the dawn represents self-realization.

This narrative project also involved other areas of the project, particularly for Borgo Dora, where the goal was to increase the area's attractiveness, and for Borgo Rossini, to introduce the territory as it was before the construction of the University Campus.

Following the launch of "The River of Biographies," a support path was initiated with the winning projects of the grant to define a collective strategy for promoting the territory and increasing access to the services funded by ToNite.

On the Tellingstones app, the stories of the projects and other narrations provided by the active entities on the territory were published and translated into 32 languages.

Lastly, the app was used to send notifications promoting the events taking place in the territory.

New tools to increase stakeholders' understanding

ToNite proposes a new approach to urban policy design by the Public Administration. The focus is on the perceived livability and safety in urban spaces (during evening hours and in the areas along the Dora River), but the proposed approach has broader applicability to different urban challenges and the entire city perimeter.

The approach proposed by ToNite is based on three key elements:

- Data-driven: Data forms the base for interpreting complex phenomena, understanding past events, predicting potential future developments based on specific trends, anticipating their evolution, evaluating the impacts of specific measures/actions, and supporting decision-making.
- Inter-sectoral: Integration of components (information, data, needs) from various sectors of the Public Administration to enrich knowledge and improve the ability to interpret phenomena, as well as to design more effective policies.
- Technology-augmented: Widespread and conscious use of digital tools for data collection, analysis, and advanced visualization, along with the processing of models, capable of enhancing the capacity to manage and interpret dynamic data to support decision-making.

During the project, several experimental tools were implemented to realize a data-driven, coordinated, and participatory approach to public policies:

- An inter-assessorial table, which met three times, aimed to coordinate resources and projects related to the Lungo Dora area, starting from ToNite, by mapping ongoing, completed, or planned projects and interventions that concern the Lungo Dora territory.
- A platform, the Urban Data Platform, dedicated to collecting data from different sectors of the City, served as an operational tool for constructing evidence-based decision-making dashboards through complex analysis of urban data and phenomena.
- Sniffer sensors, used as people counters, were employed to evaluate the impact of urban regeneration interventions and social actions proposed by ToNite on certain less frequented areas.

These tools were put into action experimentally to facilitate data-driven and participatory public policy-making.

Liveability and security perception

To be understood as the use/enjoyment of places and services in the target areas and the presence of vibrant, dynamic, biodiverse, activity-rich, and accessible areas/places/neighborhoods.

Intended results

- R8: Increase in services/facilities/social and cultural activities developed with the participation of private stakeholders.
- R9: Increase in public spaces serving local communities.
- R10: Improved enjoyment and well-being in living in one's neighborhood.
- R11: Change in the perception of safety and the imagery of the areas.

According to the approach of the ToNite project, the livability of an area is closely related to the perception of safety. A neighborhood is perceived as safe when it is socially cohesive, with active social facilities even in the evening/night, vibrant public spaces that the community cares for. A strong community, in fact, is capable of addressing conflicts, triggering solidarity dynamics, and enhancing the social and multicultural peculiarities of neighborhoods.

Therefore, the ToNite project has promoted interventions aimed at increasing the perception of safety through new additions: the regeneration of public spaces that provide new gathering places for the community; the experimentation of pilot projects aimed at providing a shared response to the issues of the Lungo Dora area.
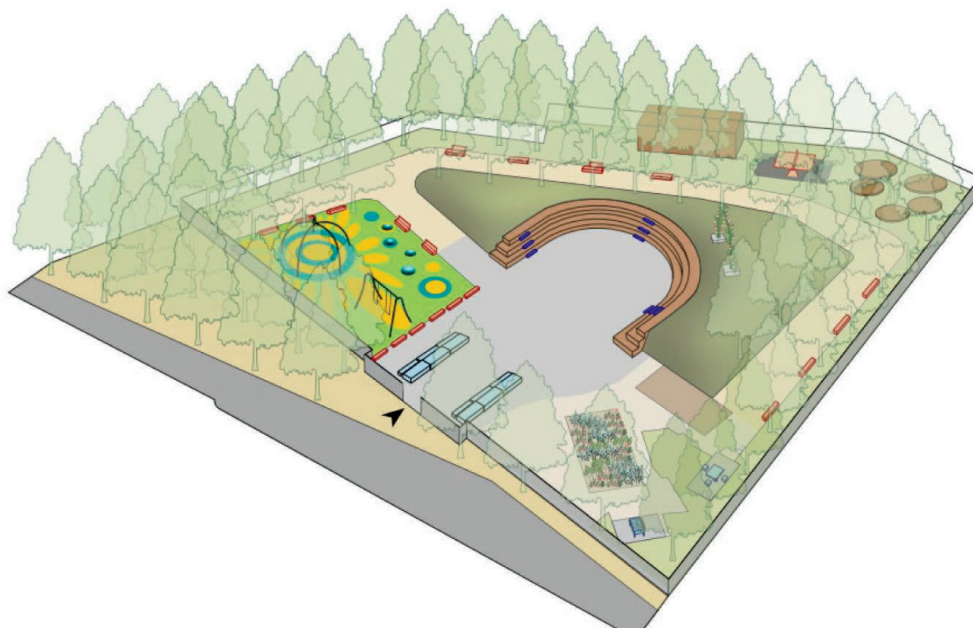
Project for the regeneration of Giardino Pellegrino area

Urban Regeneration Interventions Implemented

The project directly funded three urban regeneration interventions that involved the renewal of three distinct urban spaces as enabling elements for safe and high-quality public space use, contributing to the improvement of the quality of life for city residents and users:

VIALE OTTAVIO MAI

The first intervention focused on Viale O. Mai, a pedestrian area of 4,500 square meters that connects the Luigi Einaudi University Campus with the Edisu university residence and serves as a link between Lungo Dora and the city center. Through a memorandum of understanding, the University of Turin made the area subject to redevelopment available to the City, through a lease agreement for a duration of five years. The University also committed to extending some of its services to students during evening hours, such as the study halls overlooking the avenue, whose opening hours were extended until 11 PM, to ensure safe use of the space and further enhance the area's potential. The intervention involved the creation of a equipped tree-lined pedestrian avenue to enhance its urban viability. Specifically, new urban furnishings were installed (a social table, two-seat tables, ping-pong tables, and new linear seating, bike racks, shading structures) to encourage socializing and resting for study, reading, and relaxation. New trees were planted, and a "rain garden" was created, a linear water collection system through vegetation, aimed at improving air quality and making the place more livable. The project started in December 2020, and the intervention was inaugurated in October 2021 with a public event. The total cost was €495,000.00.

GIARDINO PELLEGRINO

The second intervention involves the redevelopment of Giardino Pellegrino, a fenced area of approximately 2,640 square meters in Piazza Borgo Dora, through the renovation of the pavement and the installation of play equipment. The project plan was approved in July 2022, and the works started in May 2023 and will be completed in July 2023. From 2011 to 2019, the garden hosted the Turin Eye hot air balloon, which occupied the entire arena space, and later it was closed to the public. In 2021, the area was the subject of the Usanze Pellegrine project, funded under ToNite, and at the end of the experimentation, the Porta Palazzo Community Foundation entered into a collaboration agreement with the City for the care and management of the garden, including gate opening and closing, area cleaning, and the organization of animation and shows inside. With this project, the City wants to enhance the usability of the entire area, mainly for families and children, by placing new urban furnishings and recreational play equipment.

LUNGO DORA

The third intervention focuses on the public space along the banks of the Dora River, in the area between Corso Principe Oddone and Campus Luigi Einaudi. In this area, along a length of about 2.5 km, a multifunctional urban furnishing element will be installed, combining seating, signage, and lighting, to enhance the quality of the urban landscape even during evening hours and increase levels of perceived safety. This element will serve as a landmark to characterize the river axis as uniformly as possible and indicate significant places (e.g., museums, libraries, projects funded by ToNite) and connection routes between public spaces. Approximately 30 such elements will be installed in the designated area.
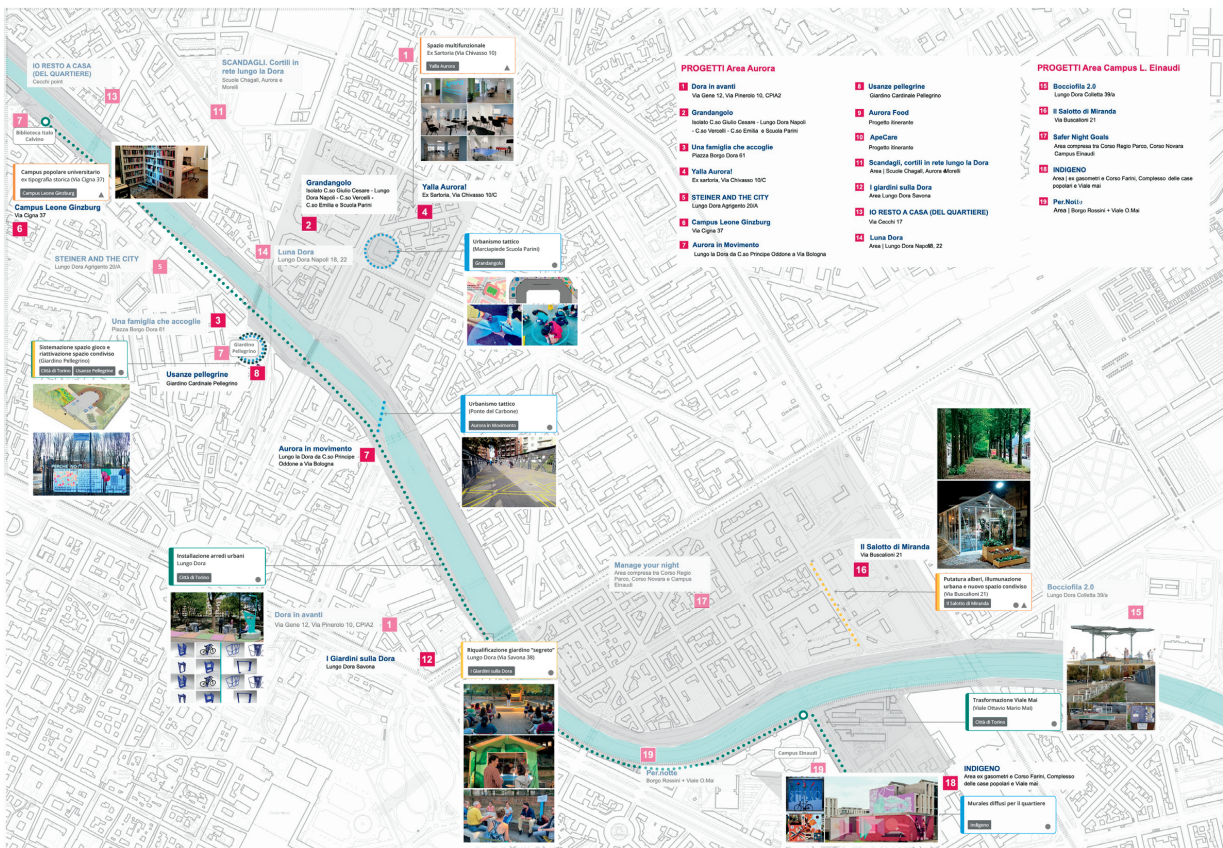
The overall results of the 19 local project funded by Tonite's open call

The nature of the Tonite call is largely experimental compared to what has already been seen and funded in the area. Tonite has encouraged social organizations to explore how to create continuity in their activities even during nighttime, redefining the perception of safety and livability as variables also dependent on the communities. Reflection on night-time policies, in fact, moves on slippery ground where opposing perceptions usually clash: in Aurora, the perception of insecurity in the neighborhood during nighttime, with the opposite risk of stereotyping, hostility, and gentrification; in the Campus Einaudi area, the reconciliation between residents' perceptions and the need for nighttime offerings for students.

The project has thus stimulated the idea that the night is a time of possibilities, also for generating new social interventions, not only limited to commercial activities or law enforcement interventions, by funding 19 social projects to contribute to the goal of livability and perceived safety in the target areas. The overall numbers are impressive: we are talking about over 2200 events held with over 30,000 total participants. One of the most interesting objectives of the project was also the construction of long-term territorial hubs: 4 collaboration agreements dedicated to public spaces (Giardino Pellegrino, Giardini Alimonda, via Buscalioni, Giardino di Lungo Dora Savona 38), 2 new social hubs (Campus Leone Ginzburg, Yalla Aurora), and 2 experimental uses of public spaces on which two potential new collaboration agreements are being developed (Lido Dora Vanchiglietta, Grandangolo for the Parini school area). The activities promoted by the 19 funded projects have focused on promoting social cohesion and livability through afternoon/evening street activities, citizen engagement, community involvement indoors or outdoors (debates, games, workshops, educational activities, sports), urban regeneration activities in public spaces (neighborhood cleaning, tactical urbanism, murals, public greenery care), or in private places transformed into continuous proximity hubs. The projects faced even more significant challenges in the post-pandemic phase, dealing with difficulties in engaging beneficiaries, unstable participation, and more fragile psychological and social conditions. According to the projects, by promoting community ties and taking care of common assets, by providing socio-health support to address inequalities and democratizing access to beauty in neighborhoods, it is possible to increase the perception of safety in places, changing their nature. Promoting participatory and generative processes of social energy, especially through actions co-designed with citizens and beneficiaries, has been one of the key actions of the projects, reinforcing the sense of belonging to the communities.

Although it was not easy to effectively work on activities and events promoted during evenings and nights, especially in the winter or for projects involving children as beneficiaries, a first experimental attempt was made to take social projects, often promoted by actors already consolidated in the area, out of their usual hours and spaces. Finally, projects that worked on conditions of distress through street education or socio-health support have addressed a high need, especially in the Aurora neighborhood, related to the perception of safety, closely linked to social security and conditions affected by the socio-economic consequences of Covid19.

The community responded very positively to Tonite's actions on the territories, actively participating in the activities as volunteers or beneficiaries, with a diverse target audience in terms of age, gender, ethnic background, and social background. Achieving the specific objectives and long-term impact of this type of action, especially on people at risk of marginalization, will require more time to mature and will need to be integrated with other future initiatives.

Impact generated

Impact-oriented services/hubs/activities

19 impact-oriented social and cultural services/hubs/activities in the ToNite areas during the night-time provided by private stakeholders (i.e., stakeholders different by public entities)

Urban Alerts

533 4 months average (2019/2023)

Perceived security:

3.90 The value is measured through a survey submitted to a set of target users at the end of the selected pilot services.
The survey activity has been carried out fin Spring 2023.
The baseline value was 4.07. Over the years, in addition to the specific activities of the Tonite project, various variables have impacted the territory in a socioeconomic context changed by the Covid19 pandemic. Therefore, although the results are not exclusively attributable to the project, the data provide a starting point to design future policies for structural action on issues related to the night, urban regeneration, and contrasting social marginalization.

Use of public space during night time

3.60 The value is measured through a survey submitted to a set of target users at the end of the selected pilot services.
The survey activity has been carried out fin Spring 2023.
The baseline value was 4.96. Over the years, in addition to the specific activities of the Tonite project, various variables have impacted the territory in a socioeconomic context changed by the Covid19 pandemic. Therefore, although the results are not exclusively attributable to the project, the data provide a starting point to design future policies for structural action on issues related to the night, urban regeneration, and contrasting social marginalization.

Increase in the understanding of communities' needs related to security and nightlife

287 Number of accesses in the UDP by PA members

370 data sets integrated in the ToNite data platform

6 Number of sectors of Turin Municipality involved in the Committee on Integrated Urban Planning

Community engagement

316 Number of people involved in co- designing solution and delivery of new services/activities

Leverage of public/private investment

7.602.300 €

2023

This indicator refers to the ability of the ToNite project to contribute to attracting public-private investments capable of generating social impact in ToNite's target areas and in line with the project objectives to improve perceived safety and livability during evening/night hours.

The data refers to the following projects:
- Valdocco Vivibile 1 - €1,300,000 (TRM environmental compensation)
- Valdocco Vivibile 2 - €3,500,000 (REACT EU)
- Green Corridors - €2,000,000 (REACT EU)
- Car-free areas (M. Chagall school) - €302,300 (REACT EU)
- Innovative Green Areas (Giardini Madre Teresa di Calcutta) - €500,000 (REACT EU)

TONITE

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