



Visualizing Air Quality at the School Gate: Insights from Co-Creation to Installation

This session focused on co-creation and participation as key approaches in research and practice.

- Margot Verhelst (imec–mict–UGent) highlighted the value of participatory research. She explained what participatory research entails, why it is important, and how it can be structured using a design thinking process.
- Heijke Rombaut (City of Ghent) addressed the challenge of making the invisible visible, specifically how to visualize air quality. She presented the Ghent [co-creative project on real-time air quality visualization at school gates](#), outlining both its objectives and implementation and the lessons learned.
- Elke Franchois (MOBIEL 21) discussed key principles for addressing inclusion challenges in participatory processes, with a focus on citizen science and data visualization.

Following the presentations, participants engaged in hands-on participatory research exercises. They first reflected on provocation cards exploring different ways to involve children in mobility research, sparking lively discussions around statements such as “Children should be consulted on every street design near their school” and “A drawing by a child is data, just as valid as a traffic count.”

Participants then worked with a fictional scenario, selecting a persona (school principal, teacher, child, or alderman for mobility) to develop a “day in the life” perspective. The session concluded with a group exchange of insights and experiences.