

A Living Lab Project

to activate communication within the Wonju Community

“Starting with the development of platforms for discussing the utilization of the Wonju Prison site”

<Introduction>

We are **group 4** and our group members **are Sung Habeen, Jo eun gyeom, Yoon Bokyoung, Choi Minki**, students at Yonsei University. This is the report for our living lab project “How to utilize the surplus land on Wonju prison in Musil-dong and make it public.” We chose this as our topic to get Wonju citizens interested in Living Lab and how to utilize the surplus land in Musil-dong that will be of no use if action is not taken quickly.

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Report will consist of 1. Project overview 2. Project process 3. Expected result of the experiment 4. Conclusion.

1. Project overview

1) “Definition of the problem”

Wonju prison first opened in 1979 and is currently located in Musil-dong, due to its age and Musil-dong being developed, there have been many claims about moving the prison located in the center of Musil-dong. The ministry of justice agreed to a national project to relocate the Wonju prison to Bongsan-dong in 2014 and it is currently under construction. However the project about developing Musil-dong site, which will be left after the prison has been relocated, has not been reflecting the Wonju citizens’ opinions, who will be using the land, and unlike the initial agreement the project is not being actively promoted.

2) “the seriousness of the problem”

The project to relocate the prison is very slow compared to the progress of the new prison construction and the Musil-dong development project should start right after Bongsan-dong prison is built but there is no application for construction on Musil-dong site. If this continues, the application for licensing will be delayed, which will delay the development of the existing prison site, and the prison site in the center of Musil-dong will likely be neglected. A similar example is the development of the military base in Bangok-dong. Three years ago, the development of the military base in Bangok-dong began in earnest, which is scheduled to be completed in 2032, so it could be delayed much longer.



*Current view of Wonju prison



*Architectural rendering of the Bongsan-dong prison

3) “cause of the problem”

If so, why is the project of the Musil-dong prison site being delayed so much? First, as the prison relocation plan was established, the Musil-dong site was selected as a leading project site for the state-owned land development project in 2019. At that time, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance envisioned the creation of a complex silver town and commissioned LH (Construction company) to develop. LH reviewed the plans to utilize the characteristics of Wonju as a medical cluster, such as communal housing and medical device-related research institutes, but the project has been temporarily suspended without much progress. Wonju City is said to be reviewing citizen rest areas such as Children's Safety Park and Care Center, but there is no actual plan. In other words, discussions were actively conducted only when the relocation project was decided, and now both the Ministry of Economy and Finance and local governments are not actively promoting the project. And what is essentially important is that the opinions of Wonju citizens who will use the space are not reflected at all, so the one-sided prison site project has poor practicality, publicity, and effectiveness.

4) “importance of the problem”

Currently, the site of Musil-dong Wonju Prison has an area of 110,000 square meters and is one of the main points located in the center of the city, so it is important to develop the site efficiently and publicly. Therefore, it is important to reflect the opinions of citizens living in Wonju City, not a one-sided state-led development project, so that it can be a useful and practical space for citizens, and discussions should proceed as soon as possible to reduce the time of the prison site being neglected.

2. Project process

1) Presentation of the solution

Next is an explanation of the project process to solve the above problems. Our group decided that the most important thing in the Musil-dong site project was to reflect “citizens’ opinions” rather than a unilateral state-led project. Therefore, we came up with the Living Lab project to develop a platform to promote the Wonju Prison relocation issue and freely discuss opinions. Project is largely divided into three categories. First, to receive opinions from citizens by opening an Instagram promotional account targeting young people and adding a site utilization section to the existing Yonsei University Living Lab project, and second, to publicize this issue in cooperation with Wonju civic groups. Third, if the participation of these two activities progresses lively, a separate website will be established where citizens can freely discuss Wonju City issues on an ongoing basis.

2) Experiment Plan

- Experiment period

First, during the experiment period, ideas will be collected with a two-month opinion collection period. Afterwards, we plan to compile the collected ideas and make suggestions and discussions with local governments. Since this process will take about half a year, the total experiment period is expected to be about 8 months.

-Participants

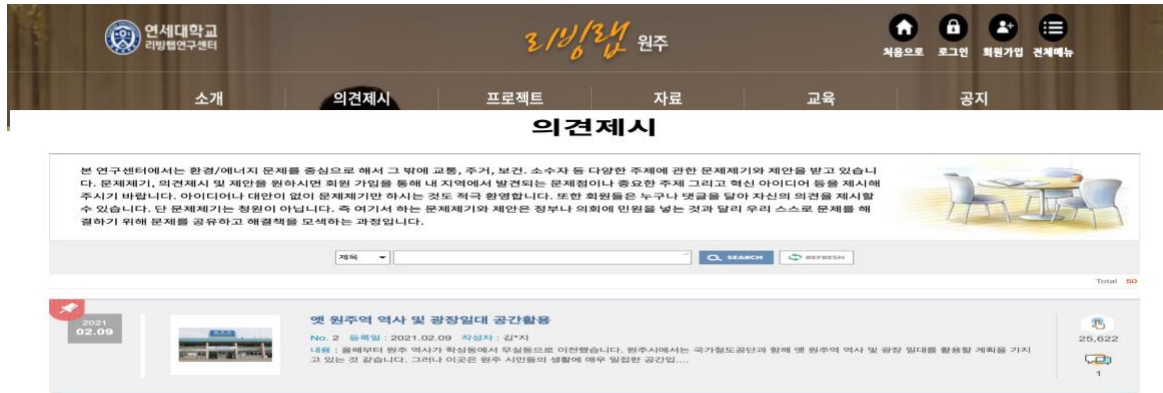
Participants in this experiment are all Wonju citizens who wish to contribute ideas for site development.

-Budget

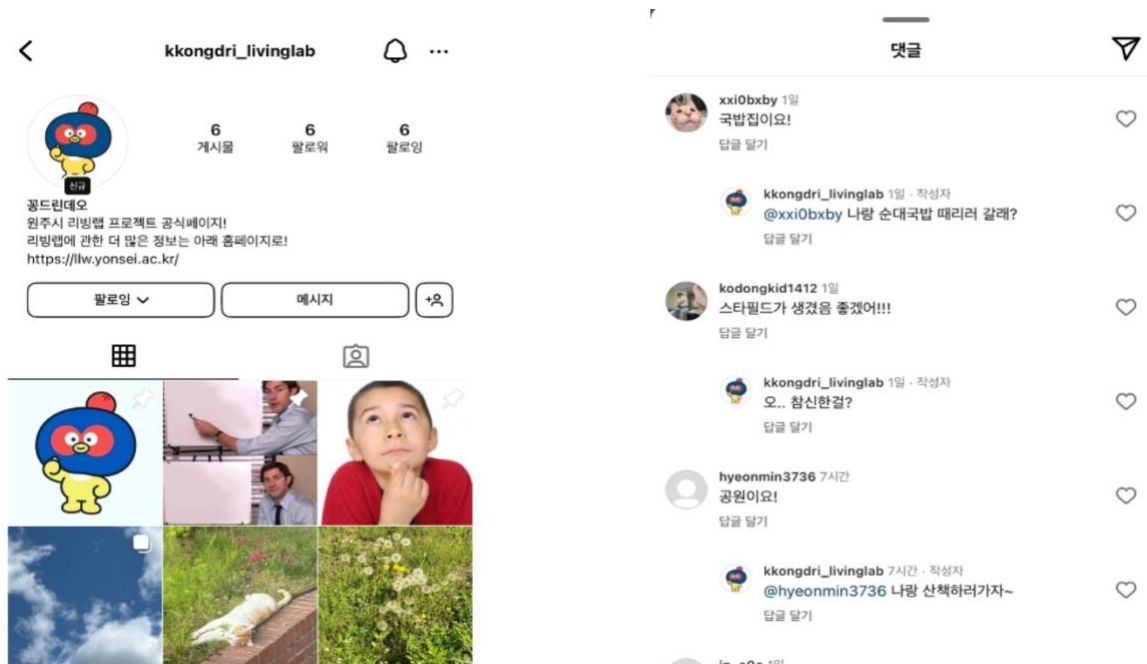
Opening an Instagram account will not cost any money, and that public deliberation measures using the platform existing civic groups have will not require a large budget. However, in the third step, opening a new “Wonju City issue discussion website” is expected to cost approximately 1million won.

3) Details of Experiment

First, the experiment will be carried out by adding a section on Wonju Prison site use to the Living Lab Research Center website to receive opinions from citizens. Anyone who has proven themselves as a Wonju citizen by registering as a member can freely upload how much land they would like to use and what they would like to build.



And we are opening an Instagram account to promote the Living Lab project. The name of the account is **"kkongdri_livinglab"**, with the concept of Wonju City's character 'kkongdri' becoming the subject of communication and communicating with citizens. There is an expected effect of increasing accessibility and promotional effects among young people through social media. In the bio we included what the page is about and a link to our living lab homepage.



In fact, we posted a post asking what you would do if you had about 20 square meters of land on the Wonju Prison site. In the comments, various opinions were expressed, including a bookstore, a new landmark, a fountain, a park, a goods store to commercialize kkondri, and a camping site. We also replied with a welcoming response to make people feel welcome.

For one month, we are recruiting ideas through the Living Lab website and Instagram. Then, voting candidates are selected based on the idea that received the most views and support. Citizens vote on the best idea through a Google or Naver form survey.

In the second phase, these ideas will be promoted intensively to Wonju civil organizations. There are various civil groups in Wonju City. Among other things, we conduct public relations focusing on civil groups in the fields of ‘*democracy, youth, environment, and culture and arts*’ to ensure balanced discussions.

(1) In the field of democracy - Wonju Citizens' Solidarity

This is an organization that aims to form a healthy local community by realizing grassroots democracy with local residents. We carry out various activities to realize social publicness, universal welfare, and promote participatory democracy.



(2) In the field of environment - Wonju Green Union & Environmental Movement Union

This is an organization that seeks alternatives for Wonju to become an eco-city. We are engaged in activities such as ecological environment preservation movement, establishment of eco-friendly urban planning, and search for urban development alternatives that can improve the quality of life of citizens. The Wonju Environmental Movement Union is a national coalition that has evolved from a victim-centered anti-pollution movement to an environmental movement broadened to include citizens, and to pursue global environmental conservation beyond national solidarity.

원주녹색연합 소개



(3) In the field of youth - YMCA

It is religious and civic organizations that pursue the improvement of people's welfare, unification, and creation of a new culture according to Christian doctrine, focusing on young people. Currently, it operates the Wonju City Youth Training Center and Wonju City Temporary Youth Shelter.

(4) "Wonju Lopda"

Lastly, we plan to actively utilize the citizen sharing platform "Wonju Lopda", which means "Wonju-like" or "in the manner of Wonju" in Korean. This is a platform that collects, records, and shares various cultural events taking place in Wonju City. We regularly publish interesting daily content utilizing Wonju's people and spatial resources, and especially publish "Magazine <Jeomjeom>", which means 'gradually' in Korean. Seven issues were published in 2022, but no magazines have been published since then. We plan on publishing the first issue in 2024, which focuses on ways to utilize the Wonju Prison site, and actively distribute it to Wonju citizens to encourage citizen participation and interest.



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And as the final phase of the experiment, we plan to open a separate website as a permanent space where various issues that arise while living in Wonju can be raised and discussed freely. If the opinions of various citizens are accepted in three stages and ultimately civil groups can become active actors and continue discussions directly with the government, the Musil-dong site development project will take on a public nature that reflects the participation of Wonju citizens.

3. Expected results of the experiment

- How does this solution differ from existing solutions?

The problems with the existing state-led, unilateral Musil-dong prison site development project are as follows. First, Wonju citizens cannot predict when and how development will begin, and there is a possibility that it will be extended indefinitely. Second, the opinions of Wonju citizens who will actually use this site were excluded. As a result, there is a fatal problem that both effectiveness and publicness are reduced.

However, the living lab project we designed compensates for all these shortcomings. Living Lab is a problem-solving activity where local problems are solved by local residents themselves. First, we provide a space where various types of people can have conversations, so that any Wonju citizens, regardless of gender or age, can participate and express their opinions. This process itself has great significance as it allows Wonju citizens to proactively and positively seek solutions on their own.

In addition, if there is public discussion among citizens about how to utilize the prison site, the likelihood that the demands of Wonju citizens will be actually reflected increases. In this way, existing problems with publicness and effectiveness can be resolved. Furthermore, this living lab activity is not limited to Wonju City, but is significantly different from existing solutions in that it can contribute to the important agenda of urbanization, which is noteworthy not only in other regions in Korea but also in many regions around the world.

4. Conclusion

Through our Living Lab project, we have drawn several important conclusions. Firstly, the significance of citizen participation cannot be overstated. The Living Lab project demonstrates how crucial citizen engagement is in the development of solutions. Citizens, with their unique knowledge and experiences, can understand problems more realistically and propose more effective solutions. Additionally, we designed our project with the UN's SDGs in mind, specifically 'Innovation and Infrastructure' and 'Sustainable Cities,' showing that such projects can directly contribute to the achievement of these global goals.

Moreover, if our Living Lab project concludes successfully, it can serve as significant data for shaping regional and national government policies. This can enhance the effectiveness of policies and enable more inclusive and democratic decision-making. The most important point, however, is the reusability of the Living Lab model. A successful Living Lab project can provide a model that can be replicated in other regions, contributing to the spread of the Living Lab approach on a global scale.

Interdisciplinary collaboration plays a vital role in the Living Lab. Bringing together experts from different fields fosters innovative solutions and enriches the project outcomes. Furthermore, the sustainability and scalability of the solutions developed are crucial. Sustainable solutions ensure long-term benefits, while scalability allows the project to be adapted to different contexts and larger scales.

The integration of technology in the Living Lab enhances data collection, analysis, and the overall effectiveness of the solutions. Continuous improvement and feedback loops are essential, as Living Labs should evolve over time, incorporating feedback from participants and adapting to changing conditions and new information.

Lastly, Living Lab projects can empower communities by giving them a voice in the problem-solving process and making them active contributors to the development of their environments.

In conclusion, Team 4 hopes that our project not only achieves its immediate goals but also inspires broader application and innovation through the Living Lab methodology. Thank you.