EUARENAS

CITIES AS ARENAS OF POLITICAL INNOVATION IN THE STRENGTHENING OF DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

WORKING PAPER SERIES 3

FEBRUARY 2024

EUARENAS investigates the ways in which social movements coupled with local government reform initiatives, manifesting themselves in local-level experiments, create momentum for political change that include more inclusive and participatory forms of governance.

For more information:

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INTRODUCTION

One of the key aims of the EUARENAS project is to facilitate the creation of a knowledge exchange process around the topic of participatory and deliberative practices in urban settings. To this end, the EUARENAS consortium has set up a Community of Practice (CoP) by bringing together academics, practitioners and policy-makers interested in and active around the topic in a joint learning process.

In conjunction with EUARENAS Democracy Action Day, the second Knowledge Exchange Workshop was organised in Berlin on the 16th of May 2023. In a morning session, around 25 participants from the EUARENAS consortium and the external members of the Community of Practice, firstly, discussed current hot topics in research and practice on the basis of three quick-fire presentations provided by three members of the Community of Practice and, secondly, reviewed/sense-checked EUARENAS outputs and results in an interactive exchange between consortium members and the CoP. In the afternoon, the active exchange of knowledge and discussions was continued during the Democracy Action Day, which, based on local visions developed in the EUARENAS cities of Berlin, Helsinki, Reggio-Emelia, Gdansk and Voru, focussed on the creation of a pan-European vision for cities of the future - focusing on how engagement and participation in democracy can be strengthened.

In the following, the knowledge gained, experiences and learnings from the morning session are presented and discussed. We would like to particularly thank our Community of Practice for providing their time, resources and knowledge to the event, and ultimately the epistemic community surrounding the question of how to give citizens a stronger and more direct voice in local decision-making and democracy.

CURRENT AGENDAS IN RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

Three members of the Community of Practice provided inspiring short and to-the-point presentations on topics they are currently working with.

Mikko Rask, University Researcher at the Centre for Consumer Society Research at the University of Helsinki, provided his thoughts on a fundamental question: why do cities develop and apply models for citizen participation and what do they want and expect from it?

Katarzyna Dyzio, Director of Urban Activity at the City of Łódź, presented their current efforts in facilitating participation in the City Strategy co-creation process. Katarzyna's background is interesting in the respect that she transitioned from urban activism to the public sector.

Brett Hennig, Director of the Sortition Foundation, provided a closer look at their Democratic Lottery Selection & Stratification services to ensure broad representation in citizen assemblies and mini-publics.

MEASURING PARTICIPATION: WHY IT MATTERS FOR CITIES

Mikko Rask, University of Helsinki

Finnish municipalities are actively developing and refining models for citizen participation. From their work with medium-sized cities of 100,000-200,000 inhabitants, such as Lahti and Tampere, Mikko's team has identified the cities' key interests for which they deem participation to have a positive influence:

- Economic Growth: Boosting local businesses and job creation.
- Health & Well-being: Promoting public health and quality of life.
- Urban Attractiveness: Enhancing infrastructure and cultural amenities.
- Sustainability: Driving environmental and social sustainability.
- Democratic Governance: Fostering civic participation and democratic decision-making.

These interests diverge from traditional academic evaluations, which often focus narrowly on deliberative qualities and their assumed positive effect on the functioning of local democracy. In Finland, participatory budgeting is widely known and implemented, but funding channelled through this tool is significantly less compared to other types of participation, like support for civic associations, participatory digital platforms, and service design. These factors prompted Mikko's team to look at the potential use of big data to determine whether there is a link between the key city interests and the big investments in participation by municipalities.

Case study: Evolution of participatory budgeting in South Korea through the lens of Twitter

In South Korea, participatory budgeting is legally mandated in all cities. A study by Bokyong Shin has analysed data over 20 years, particularly on Twitter, to identify key themes related to participation and their trajectory over history. Major themes include the role of media, regeneration of communities, and decentralization of municipal government.

Findings from Finnish municipalities

In Finland, the co-creation research group at the University of Helsinki has developed a comprehensive meta-model, the Co-Creation Radar, which consolidates 300 different indicators for evaluating participatory initiatives. This model covers classical programme and project evaluation metrics such as objectives, implementations, results or outcomes, and most importantly, the actors involved. The model serves as a tool for diving deeper into the multi-dimensional aspects of citizen participation.
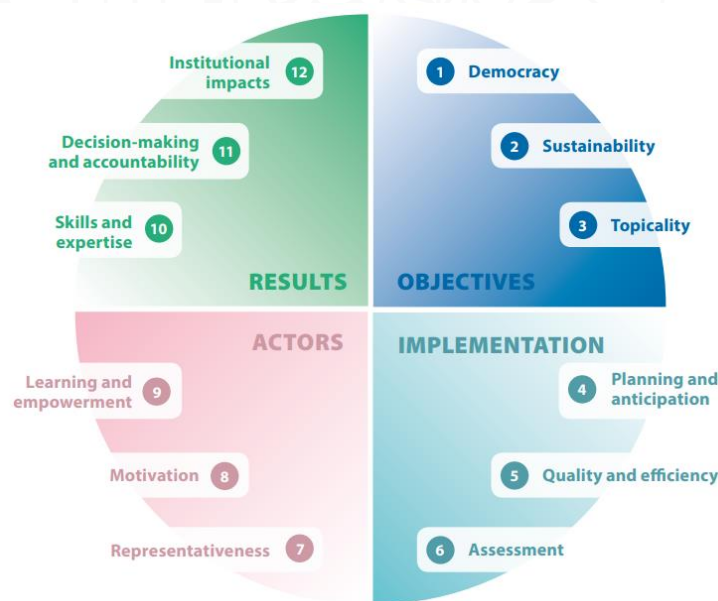
The Co-creation Radar [1]

However, Finnish municipalities face a significant leadership gap in implementing participatory initiatives. While there's high-level political support for citizen participation, city management often lacks ownership and well-founded indicators for monitoring these activities. Researchers aim to address this gap by leveraging big databases, statistical indicators, and qualitative information to improve evaluations and comparisons of participatory programmes.

[1] Rask, M. & Ertiö, T. (2019). *The Co-Creation Radar - A Comprehensive Public Participation Evaluation Model*. BIBU, University of Helsinki. https://bibu.fi/wp/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Bibu-Policy-Brief-2_englanti_verkkoversio-1.pdf

CO-CREATING THE CITY OF LODZ
A MULTIFACETED CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

Katarzyna Dyzio, City of Łódź

In recent years, the City of Łódź has made strides in involving its residents in the city's development and decision-making processes. With a vision to create a city of satisfied inhabitants who feel that they are part of the city and the community, Łódź utilises a variety of innovative tools and processes to facilitate citizen participation.

Engaging and consulting with the citizens

A cornerstone of the City of Łódź's approach to civic engagement are consultation process. City debates, participatory breakfasts for NGOs, consultation hours, participatory design, and research walks are some of the many activities designed to foster discussion and collect feedback.

Recently, the city engaged in an extensive consultation process for its city strategy, which took place both online and in places where locals meet, in parks and local neighbourhoods. Hundreds of meetings and workshops were organized to accommodate different groups, from youngsters to seniors and speakers of different languages, ensuring a diversified input into the city's future.

At the beginning of the process, we first asked a critical question: how should the city approach its citizens, inform them, and engage them to take part in the city strategy co-creation process? Methods available for reaching out are diverse, from advertising on public transport to face-to-face conversations on main pedestrian streets via cargo bikes.

Various forms of consultation workshops undertaken in Łódź (Credit: City of Łódź Office).

Participatory Budgeting

Initiated in 2012, participatory budgeting in Łódź focuses on social deliberation and co-responsibility, allowing residents a say in the allocation of city funds. It is one of the projects that involve the most citizens, with 10% of the residents actively participating in this initiative, and over 30 million PLN having been spent on projects directly chosen by citizens.

Citizens' Assemblies

Łódź has also introduced two editions of Citizens' Assemblies, the first one in 2020 on the development of green spaces and the second one in 2023 on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Participants were randomly selected between ages of 16 and 76. Notably, the first Assembly, held during the Pandemic, was the first online event of its kind in Poland.

Citizen Assemblies in Łódź (Credit: City of Łódź Office).

Microgrants and Special Funds

Beyond formal processes, the city also supports citizen-led projects through various financial mechanisms, such as microgrants, the Local Initiative, and the Own Contribution Fund. These funds are available to NGOs and informal groups, aiming to empower citizen-led ideas in areas like social activation, education, and the arts.

Urban Activity Factory

The Urban Activity Factory serves as a hub for civic engagement. It's a versatile space open to NGOs, community groups, and individual residents. In just one year, it has hosted over 300 workshops, activities, and meetings. The Factory serves as an innovation test field, a co-working space, and a learning centre for citizens interested in co-creating their city.

By adopting a multifaceted approach that combines traditional consultation with digital tools and spaces for community action, Łódź is setting a standard for citizen participation. The city's approach shows that when residents are provided with diverse and inclusive avenues for involvement, they not only feel part of the community but actively contribute to shaping its future.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE "BROADLY REPRESENTATIVE" IN DELIBERATIVE MINI-PUBLICS?

Brett Hennig, The Sortition Foundation

The Sortition Foundation is a non-profit organisation that specialises in the recruitment of representative samples of people for deliberative mini-publics. In the last four years, they have carried out the work for around 120 deliberative mini-publics, and the number will only increase. Working for citizen assemblies, they focus on ensuring "broadly representative" groups of people and bring them together.

The recruitment process for deliberative mini-publics typically involves a two-step method that varies across regions.

Step 1: Invite expressions of interest from randomly selected people

The first step involves randomly selecting a group of people from a particular database and sending them invitations to participate. For instance, some European countries use the resident register, while the UK utilises a postal database. France employs random phone dialing, while in Ireland and the first Scottish citizen's assembly, in-person invitations were made. In Germany, the selection starts at the municipal level, based on state populations, ensuring a mix of small, medium and large municipalities.

For global endeavours, such as the Global Citizens' Assembly prior to COP26, a population-weighted global database is used. Specifically, 100 points were chosen from the database, with more points attributed to more populous countries. In this case, 15 of those points were in India and 16-17 were in China. Local community organisations near these points are then asked to recruit 4-6 individuals, creating a pool from which a representative sample is then drawn.

Random selection process for the Global Citizens' Assembly for COP26 (Credit: The Sortition Foundation).

In Germany's national citizen assembly, currently under development with Nexus, the process involves first randomly selecting municipalities, then requesting those municipalities to randomly select a set of names and addresses. A total of 20,000 invitations will be sent out across Germany, and the response rate will determine the next steps of the process.

Step 2: Stratified selection by lottery

After initial responses are collected from an invited database, a secondary selection process corrects for skews in variables like education and socio-economic status. The categories for representation may include age, gender, geography, and a socio-economic proxy, which can vary based on the project and location. For instance, educational level is commonly used, while in the UK, data on regional deprivation may be used as a socio-economic proxy. Internal debates often occur on what constitutes a "fair" representation, considering complexities like intersectionality among groups. Additionally, an attitudinal question is often incorporated, especially if the assembly is on a specific issue like climate change, to ensure that diverse perspectives are represented. The goal is to pre-emptively address concerns about potential presence of an echo chamber where only like-minded opinions are expressed, by including people with different attitudes toward the subject.

The foundation has collaborated with U.S. academics from Harvard and Carnegie Mellon to develop <u>an algorithm that aims to make selections as fair as possible</u>. Nonetheless, the definition of "broadly representative" often undergoes political discussion and varies from project to project.

The future of deliberative democracy

Recruitment for deliberative mini-publics is evolving to become more transparent and engaging. There is a growing demand for physical lotteries, which is already a common practice in Poland. To meet this demand, instead of selecting just one assembly, multiple assemblies (potentially up to a thousand) are generated. A final assembly is then chosen by drawing numbers or balls from a container. This adds an element of excitement and allows participants to visually confirm their selection. This approach will soon be tested in Switzerland for a youth assembly, and the German government is also interested in adopting a physical lottery system.

Beyond individual projects, there is a broader movement toward institutionalising citizen's assemblies. For example, in Ostbelgien, the German-speaking part of Belgium, a permanent citizen council has been established. The City of Paris has followed suit. In the UK, the Sortition Foundation is launching a campaign to replace the House of Lords with a permanent citizen's assembly. The opposition leader, who is leading in the polls, has expressed willingness to abolish the House of Lords without specifying a replacement. This creates an opportunity to advocate for the institutionalisation of citizen's assemblies at a high level of government.

Material for the campaign "It's time to scrap the House of Lords" (Credit: The Sortition Foundation).

SENSE-CHECKING RESEARCH PROGRESS THROUGH THE COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

During the second part of the Knowledge Exchange meeting, Community of Practice members provided input into current work and outputs of the EUARENAS partners. This part of the event was structured in the way that the Lead Partner responsible for the discussed work briefly presented the materials (sent beforehand to the Community of Practice members), which was then followed by an interactive exchange and discussion consortium members and the Community of Practice.

TOWARDS THE EUARENAS HANDBOOK OF SUCCESSFUL DELIBERATION

Wojciech Ufel | SWPS University

The EUARENAS Handbook for Successful Deliberation, presented by Wojciech Ufel, is produced as part of Work Package 1 (Conceptual Development).

In the wider perspective, the entire Knowledge Exchange Workshop provided an opportunity to compare how the Community of Practice members understand and apply concepts such as participatory or deliberative governance. More precisely, it allowed us to explore the distinct ways they describe the ideal deliberative process they aspire to and how it differs from actual practice. Identifying these disparities has been the primary focus in EUARENAS Work Package 1 since the project's inception, aiming to critique existing theories and concepts to align them better with the social and political realities of modern-day democracies.

The nature of the meeting also facilitated more personal discussions. It was not surprising that all presenters from the first session of the day were well aware of these discrepancies, but for various reasons, such as institutional interest or the nature of public presentations, they remain tied to them. Given that one of the leading themes in Work Package 1 research is how concepts of participation and deliberation are shaped by political and social context of key stakeholders, these were important and influential talks, hinting at further cooperation in the future.

Another opportunity to discuss the concepts developed in the project materialized with the presentation of the conceptual outline of the " EUARENAS Handbook of Successful Deliberation," which was widely commented on by the participating CoP and consortium members. An almost hour-long discussion revolved around three themes:

- What unique perspective does the handbook offer, and how can we make it more distinct?

- What should be the optimal structure, both in terms of presenting theory and concepts, and when it comes to presenting practical examples?

- How can we make the content more comprehensible, logical, and methodologically sound?

Thanks to these comments and a close reading by CoP members from different backgrounds and with different needs, we were able to identify certain key gaps in our approach. We decided that this handbook should focus on relationships rather than institutions, and more specifically, speak about the roles that leaders – both formal and informal - can and should play in deliberation. The structure of the handbook should also depart from the traditional order, where theory is later supported by empirical evidence, but rather start with narratives and stories gathered in the project and provided by CoP members, and only later provide a more concise conceptual summary. However, more detailed and academic theoretical findings should be indicated, if not attached to the handbook in the form of direct links to published articles or working papers. Finally, we took note of a number of comments regarding particular elements of the handbook that need clarification or a more sensible ordering.

TOWARDS EVALUATING AND MONITORING THE EUARENAS PILOT ACTIONS

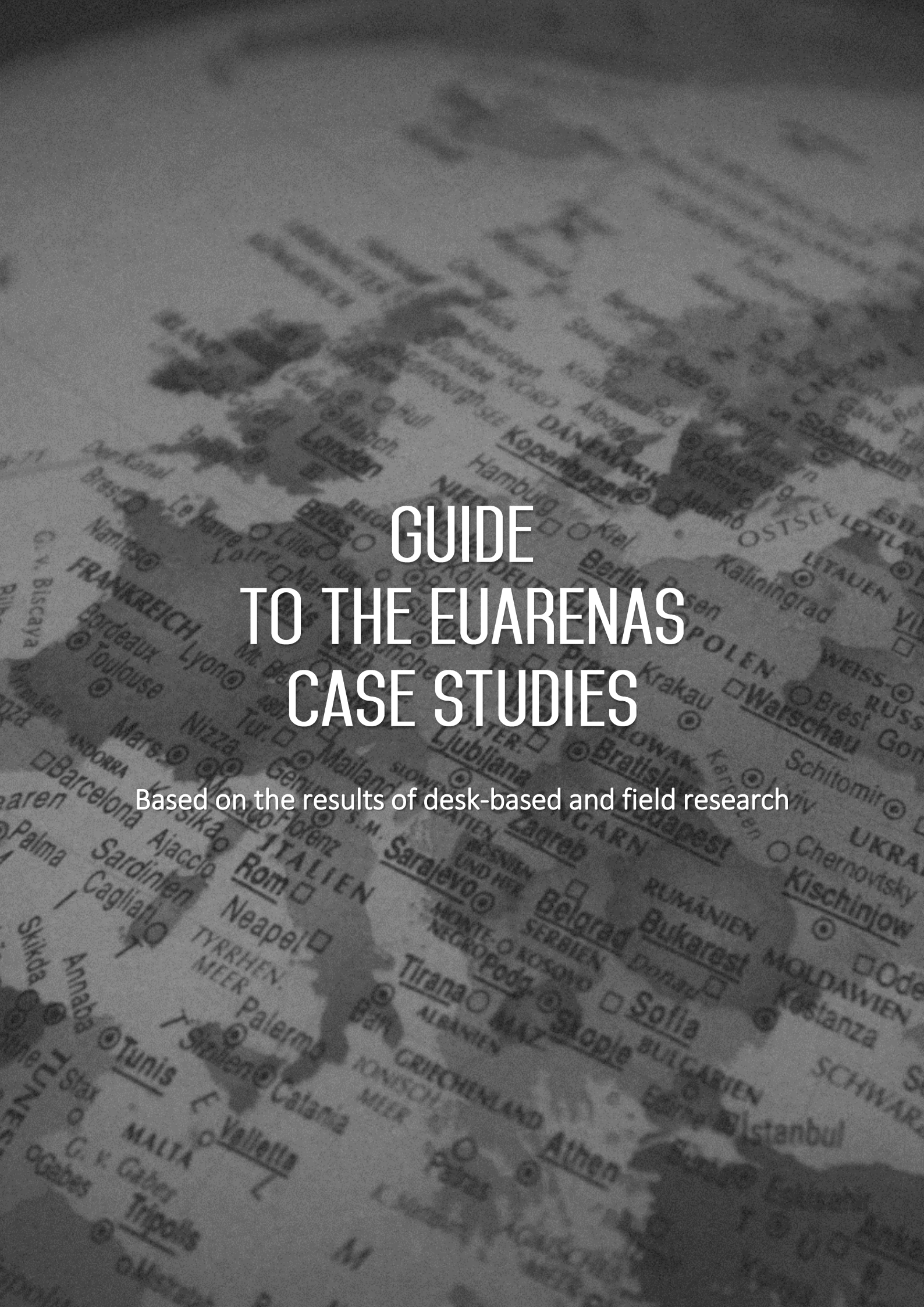**Krisztina Keresztely | Comparative Research Network**

The piloting of innovative deliberative and participatory approaches in three European cities is a key element in the multi-actor methodology applied by EUARENAS. Aiming to learn from practice and action research, the three city/regional administrations of Reggio Emilia Italy), Voru (Estonia) and Gdansk (Poland) implement their pilots over 2.5 years in co-operation with the academic/civil society partners in the project, providing the EUARENAS consortium with a unique opportunity to follow in real time how the deliberative and participatory processes in each locality unfold.

In Reggio Emilia, the local pilot involves the creation of neighbourhood councils (Consulte) and their integration into the City's decision-making system through district agreements. In Voru, the pilot involves the organisation of political hackathons as a tool of collaborative policy making. In Gdansk, five participatory workshops are organised as a socially sensitive participatory tool for engaging citizens into the master planning of a city area.

Within this action research process, an Evaluation and Monitoring Report is produced, which provides an account of results achieved and status of the three pilot actions during the first part of the pilot process, between January 2022 and June 2023. It presents the main approaches and methodology applied for the overall piloting process and describes in detail the overall actions, the main tools and activities employed during the action research. It also presents the main results of the pilots and a first list of the cross-case analysis questions to be developed during the second part of the piloting process.

The aim of this session, led by Krisztina Keresztély, was to present the Community of Practice members with the description of the main questions of a future cross-case evaluation of the pilots. The first draft of this list of questions was compiled by using the results of internal project discussions that were held during a project meeting in Voru and subsequent refinements done in later online meeting as part of the piloting Work Package.

The Community of Practice members provided advice and suggestions for improving the presented questions. However, an important takeaway from the session was that the overall approach towards the cross-case analysis was not developed and presented clearly enough. Based on the feedback provided by the CoP members and the participants, the EUARENAS partners agreed that the cross-case evaluation questions will still need further reflection, involving also the expertise and results from other Work Packages, especially from Work Package 1 on the theoretical and conceptual foundations of the project and from Work Package 3 on the case studies. Based on the discussions, it was determined that the current report should rather focus on the critical description of the complex and often innovative activities realised as part of the action research during the first one and half years of the piloting process. Following these suggestions, the authors decided to change the orientation of the report and to concentrate primarily on the presentation of the overall action research process, including the description of the methodology and tools used during the process and a summary of the main results achieved so far.

GUIDE
TO THE EUARENAS
CASE STUDIES

Based on the results of desk-based and field research

INTRODUCTION:

THE EUARENAS CASE STUDIES

The following Guide has been designed as a handy directory of participatory and deliberative innovations studied in Work Package 3 of the EUARENAS project. The aim of this Work Package is to understand and clarify the processes and mechanisms influencing innovative democratic experiments through a case study approach. According to our glossary, a case study is 'a dynamic process entailing development of a particular method in the local context (e.g., participatory budgeting in Gdańsk, citizens' assembly in Galway)' (Fritsch et al. 2021: 29). The study of different initiatives in European urban areas provided valuable insights into methods, processes, and tools to support citizen participation in local democracies which have been applied in other parts of the EUARENAS project, but which can also serve a wider audience independently.

During the course of the project 11 cases from 10 cities were selected and studied using a combination of desk-based and field research approaches (Table 1). **Desk-based methods** included an *analysis of existing documents*, such as legislation and academic publications, and a *media content analysis*, based on both traditional outlets and social media. The **field research** involved the collection of original research data through *Citizen Experience sessions*, using an innovative Community Reporting method, and *focus interviews* with actors on the urban scenes. The scope of both types of research and the sequential steps of data collection varied across the case studies, and some methods had to be updated to address challenges that arose along the way (see Table 1).

Table 1. Methods applied in data gathering phase of case study research.
(Source: Authors' own elaboration)

Governance innovation	City/ town	Scope of desk-based research		Scope of field research	
		Analysis of existing documents	Media Content Analysis	Citizen Experience sessions	Focus Interviews
Borough Liaison Officers	Helsinki	completed	completed	completed	completed
Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk)	Galway	partly completed	partly completed	completed	completed
Citizens' Assembly	Copenhagen	partly completed	partly completed	not applicable	completed (replaced with interviews)
Citizens' Assembly	Wrocław	completed	completed	completed (replaced with interviews)	completed
The Deal for Communities	Wigan	completed	completed	completed	completed
Office for Community Participation	Budapest	partly completed	partly completed	not applicable	completed
Participatory Budgeting	Gdańsk	completed	completed	completed	completed
Quartiere Bene Comune	Reggio Emilia	completed	completed	completed	completed
Quartiers-management Pankstraße	Berlin	partly completed	partly completed	completed	completed
Social Hackathon	Võru	completed	completed	completed	completed
Socialising Cultural Policy	Wrocław	partly completed	partly completed	completed (adapted)	completed

Once the data had been collected, the case study processes were analysed, first individually and then collectively. The results of the **individual case study analysis** are presented in the next section in the form of case study summaries. Each summary is in three parts:

- Part 1 introduces the "urban arena", i.e., the case study city and relevant background,
- Part 2 describes the idea behind the specific participatory/deliberative process (innovation) and how it has generally worked in practice to date,
- Part 3 highlights key best and worst practices and draws some basic conclusions that could be instructive/transferable to other cities or cases.

These summaries are also available online, together with the stories collected during the Citizen Experience sessions - they can be found here.

The **cross-case analysis** was based on eight research questions, which were formulated and adapted for the purposes of WP3 in line with the general objectives of the EUARENAS project. They are the following:

1. How do local democratic governance innovations emerge and to what extent they are the product of learning from other local governance contexts?

2. What actor constellations and agendas in these governance innovations?

3. Which are the key drivers that influence or bias democratic governance experiments?

4. What is the potential of change/ adaptation of the process to the changing conditions?

5. Which factors determine the effectiveness of governance innovations?

6. Which practices and institutional arrangements best facilitate citizen engagement and co-governance and democratize the local governance?

7. How do the innovations relate with regional, national and supranational levels?

8. How universal for implementation in other places and to other levels of governance successful local governance innovations can be?

Given the diversity of the case studies, the results of the cross-case analysis – presented in detail in The EUARENAS Case Study Report (2024) – have been accompanied by case study typologies that illustrate the similarities and differences between the studied processes of participation and deliberation, but more importantly, capture their richness and complexity. They are presented in the following section of this Guide (Tables 2-5), complementing the case study summaries.

Finally, the concluding section provides links to additional sources of information on the EUARENAS case studies, prepared by all the partners of the consortium. We hope that readers will find them interesting and useful!

CASE-STUDY
SUMMARIES

Borough Liaison Officers in Helsinki

Helsinki is the capital of Finland, located on the shore of the Gulf of Finland at the Baltic Sea. With the neighbouring municipalities of Espoo and Vantaa, it forms the metropolitan region of Helsinki – a fast-growing area that attracts many new residents from different parts of Finland and abroad. As is typical of a large city, socio-economic backgrounds of the population vary across districts.

In Finland, much of the activities and initiatives of municipalities are guided by the principles outlined in the Finnish Local Government Act. The participation of residents is ensured in Chapter 5 of the Act, which covers the Right of Participation of Municipality Residents. Overall, the quality of and interest in participatory and deliberative methods have increased in Finland in recent years. However, the adoption and implementation of various participatory and deliberative practices vary significantly across Finnish municipalities. It should also be noted that traditional representative modes of democracy have a strong standing in Finnish society, and Finns are generally perceived as relatively passive when it comes to democratic participation.

The Borough Liaison Officers (BLO) is a top-down action initiated in 2018 by the City of Helsinki administration. It is based on the geographical division of the city into seven boroughs (major districts) that collectively cover the entire urban area. The concept of appointing seven Liaison Officers, responsible for supporting participative and deliberative actions in different parts of the city, emerged in 2016 during the development of the Helsinki Participation and Interaction Model. The primary goal of this process was to improve links between citizens and civil society organisations within the neighbourhoods on the one hand and between citizens and the City (officials) on the other. BLOs also play a vital role in facilitating the Participatory Budgeting process in Helsinki. Additionally, alongside the seven BLOs, there are three Business Liaison Officers who establish communication links between the City administration and small businesses in the city.

The Helsinki case leans more towards a participatory rather than deliberative spectrum of urban democratic innovation. Nevertheless, the presence of the Borough Liaison Officers itself conveys a message to residents that participation is valued and taken seriously by the City. Participation in this context is integrated within and coordinated by the administrative government system of the City. This approach is driven by the understanding that participation itself is essential and vital for democracy. Despite being top-down, the BLO initiative is bidirectional, providing the City with a locally rooted anchor 'in the field,' and offering the local population a channel for accessing the City's decision-making and service provision systems.

All parties involved acknowledge that the BLOs have dedicated a significant portion of their work time to support the implementation of the Participatory Budgeting process. There is now a growing interest in exploring and establishing new roles for the BLOs. With appropriate training, BLOs could play a more active role in conflict mediation and in fostering empathetic relations and debates among city actors and residents. Moreover, there is an ambition to expand their activities into the realm of local knowledge procurement, which involves leveraging the expertise and local knowledge of residents to find solutions to complex urban problems.

Overall, the BLO initiative could be described as still being in its formative phase, a reflection that also holds true for participation and deliberation in the governance of the City of Helsinki as a whole, considering longer-term developments.

Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk) in Galway

Galway, with a population of 80,000 inhabitants, is the capital city of Galway County. It is renowned as an innovative tech centre and a green city. Socioeconomically, it primarily comprises a middle-class demographic. PeopleTalk Citizen Jury was an initiative set up by the Jesuits in Ireland, seeking to rebuild trust in public life and to give citizens a say in public sector reform. The idea behind it was the desire to simplify bureaucracy and enhance transparency in local governance. The selection of the citizen jury as a participatory method to engage citizens and increase their level of involvement was aligned with the already possessed know-how in deliberative techniques and their implementation.

The Galway County PeopleTalk Jury was officially established at the invitation of Galway County Council on 25th February 2013. Being a top-down endeavour, it was organised by the local clergy in consultation with the regional and local government. Participants mainly consisted of individuals deeply embedded within their communities, experienced in community meetings, and dedicated to progress and improvement. Many Citizen Jury members were and still are involved in various community development efforts and similar groups. Invitations to join the Jury were also extended to representatives of diverse social and cultural institutions.

Overall, the assessment of the process is mostly positive—participants engaged, networks formed, grassroots issues took centre stage, and gender balance was upheld. Focusing on the most basic civil services rendered the process relatable, and adopting a 'people first' and 'policy second' approach fostered a cohesive and accessible working group. The Jury harnessed citizens' frustration and transformed it into a foundation for progress. Members leveraged their connections within government circles to bridge the gap between themselves, the populace, and the governance structures they sought to interact with, even without official positions within the government or elsewhere. For instance, the Jury aided individuals encountering 'brick walls' with government agencies, guiding them toward the correct agencies for assistance and circumventing the need to navigate extensive application processes from scratch.

However, the process did exhibit drawbacks. A significant concern was the unbalanced age distribution, with the majority of participants aged 50 or older, leading to a prevalence of topics pertinent to this age group. The influence of stakeholders was also uneven, with varying levels of involvement and engagement. Some stakeholders resisted sharing power or questioned the rationale behind citizen participation. The process also fell short in terms of media coverage, not receiving the attention desired by participants. In retrospect, participants felt that the initiative was not adequately promoted, resulting in lower attendance at some public meetings.

Citizens' Assembly in Copenhagen

The Danish capital city of Copenhagen is renowned for its socio-economic and ethnic diversity, making it a major cultural hub and an international destination. In administrative terms, it enjoys a high degree of local autonomy. Participatory practices in the domains of general governance and planning are well established in the city. However, the high quality of public services and the proximity of local decision-makers to citizens also contribute to a reduced perceived need for participation and deliberation.

The Citizen's Assembly (CA), financed by the local government, was introduced in the city in 2019. The sustainable (automobile-free) development of Copenhagen's Medieval Centre was the specific project that the city chose to develop in collaboration with its citizens. A lottery method was employed for selecting participants to ensure fair representation of local residents – 36 participants were chosen to engage in the CA process. The process was designed to prevent hierarchies from forming between citizens, experts, activists, and city representatives. An important aspect of the Copenhagen CA was that political representatives had no direct influence on the process and were not permitted to actively participate in deliberations. Their role was restricted to that of observers, highlighting the key strength of the CA: citizen ownership of the process. The CA resulted in concrete recommendations, which are currently being implemented through five experimental traffic reduction and street pedestrianisation projects.

The CA process is considered exceptionally effective in terms of both achieving its objectives and setting a precedent for more responsive and inclusive governance. Turning points emerged through discussions about the costs and benefits of traffic reduction. Consequently, the CA process gradually brought together and reconciled diverse perceptions about the implications of reduced cars and parking spaces for the inner city. A significant impact of the CA was the depoliticisation of a highly controversial issue that politicians had been hesitant to address. The CA, centred around citizens without external interference, seemingly created a deliberative enclave effect, even given the diverse participant makeup. The dialogue progressed from cautious approaches to the most radical solution—a 70% reduction in traffic.

Another notable strength of the CA was its iterative learning process, where introducing new information and framing questions in alignment with the city's long-term development goals further depoliticised the traffic reduction question. However, it's important to acknowledge that the CA model may not always be transferable across scales due to institutional contexts and constraints. Consequently, differences can arise between vertical and horizontal transferability. The upscaling CAs to the national level hasn't seen significant success: government actors are grappling with how to include citizens in their deliberations while focusing on broader topics. The extent of real decision-making impact remains unclear. Horizontal transferability is simpler, as similar groups of citizens, facilitators, experts, and city government actors can be assembled.

Citizens' Assembly in Wrocław

Wrocław, situated in southwestern Poland within the historical region of Silesia, is the largest city in the region and also serves as the capital of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship. It has gained a reputation for its economic success and vibrant cultural scene. Despite its rich participatory traditions and the 'dialogical' branding as 'the meeting place,' the 2020 Citizens' Assembly (CA) marked Wrocław's first official foray into deliberative practices. Local authorities made this decision in response to social and political pressures from activists who drew inspiration from similar initiatives in other Polish cities.

In recent decades, Wrocław has seen urban expansion away from its centre, prompting many residents to relocate to adjacent areas. This trend informed the central theme of the CA: the organisation of the local transportation system. The assembly focused on two key questions: How should peripheral districts be connected with the city centre? How can the public transportation system be effectively structured? The CA received financial backing from the city and was facilitated by Dom Pokoju, a local NGO with considerable experience in public consultations and mediations. This choice proved to be right, given Dom Pokoju's longstanding collaboration with city authorities while maintaining a commendable level of independence in expert selection, participant recruitment, and discussion facilitation. However, it's worth noting that only registered city inhabitants were eligible to participate, thereby excluding many students, temporary workers (especially migrants), and commuters residing in the suburbs but engaged with city life. This selection bias led to a noticeable underrepresentation of young people.

In terms of impact, over fifty recommendations issued during the CA were officially accepted by the city, with only one being rejected due to technical infeasibility. However, up to the present day, the city officials have not taken further action to implement the assembly's outcomes, nor have they made direct references to these outcomes in their policies. For instance, during the consultation phase for a new biking policy, the CA's results were scarcely mentioned, despite aligning with one of the assembly's key recommendations.

Overall, stakeholders express a shared dissatisfaction with the CA's outcomes. While politicians and public officers acknowledge that there are no plans for future CAs due to the perceived complexity and cost, activists and social movements have become disillusioned by the overt politicisation of the process. Once regarded as a promising avenue for citizen empowerment, CAs are now seen as flawed mechanisms that can be both inefficient and susceptible to manipulation by malevolent actors. While stakeholders generally agree that the CA was well-organised and that its results are technically valid, they do not consider the CA to be innovative or politically impactful. Nonetheless, they do not discount the possibility that it may indirectly influence city policies in the future.

The Deal for Communities in Wigan

Wigan is a town located in the Greater Manchester area of Northwest England, with a population of slightly over 100,000 inhabitants. The town was an important centre of textile manufacture during the Industrial Revolution but—as with many industrial towns in this region—it faced decline after those industries had dwindled. As a mainly working-class town with high levels of poverty, it is traditionally left-wing with a predominantly Labour council and a Labour MP. However, it is generally socially conservative.

Since 2011, Wigan Council has embarked on a major transformation process, shifting towards asset-based approaches on a larger scale. This involves empowering communities through a 'citizen-led' approach to public health and fostering a culture that enables staff to redesign their work in response to the needs of individuals and communities.

The Deal for Communities, launched in 2014, is an informal agreement between the council and the residents and workers of Wigan towards acting together for a better quality of life in boroughs. A key underlying motive was to efficiently manage public service provision during a time of austerity by engaging with communities and residents in a more proactive, cooperative manner. This approach invited residents to contribute and take responsibility where relevant, while the council pledged to provide appropriate services and keep council tax as low as possible. The public-facing aspect of the Deal was formalised as a 'give–get' agreement between the council and the local people. This encompassed actions such as transferring council assets to the community, establishing The Deal for Communities investment fund (i.e., funding to community organisations for service delivery), local initiatives to involve residents in their town, volunteering opportunities, place-based works, and community events. While initially centred around cost containment and reducing residents' council tax burden, it also aimed to foster a new relationship between the council and local communities. The programme's continuation, known as The Deal 2030, employs slightly different language, emphasising well-being and the cultivation of a thriving town through collaboration between the council, statutory services, civil society, and communities.

The Wigan Deal does not offer off-the-shelf solutions that can be readily employed by other regions overnight – it is not a tool to be adopted, but rather a culture to be grown. The transformation has been marked by a series of decisive steps, such as training all council and partner organisation staff in engaging residents through different conversations, making significant changes to the workforce composition, and developing new ways of working. Although the overall approach and underlying values have been non-negotiable, an enabling style of leadership has allowed staff considerable autonomy in implementing the principles of The Deal in their work. The critical success factor in this case has been the willingness of council staff to embrace a new way of working, along with the Council's readiness to go "all in" and make bold choices.

Via its funding and asset transfers, The Deal has brought about positive changes in communities, including improvements in health and well-being, and support for education among children and young people. However, it is not widely regarded as a mechanism for enhancing citizen engagement in democracy, even though if it does teeter around the edges of it. This might explain why some citizens feel that The Deal falls short of their expectations, arguing that it should go further. Although the process aims to redefine the relationship between citizens and the Council, differences in understanding and perceptions about the extent of citizen control over decision-making exist. For some, the power shift appears illusory. Criticisms have also emerged from community members, highlighting a divergence in stakeholders' perspectives on what The Deal should be, how it should function, and what impact it is actually having.

Office for Community Participation in Budapest

Józsefváros is one of the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Budapest in terms of the socio-economic status of its residents. The district is formally independent, possessing discretionary powers in various domains. For instance, it has its own Mayor, Mayor's Office, and local council. However, several constraints curtail the district's authority. One key constraint stems from the fact that the local leadership is in opposition to the currently ruling party. Given the ruling party's super majority in the National Parliament, the Central Government can utilize its influence to restrict the financial and other resources available to the district-level Municipality.

Hungarian municipalities have been relatively behind in implementing participatory mechanisms and processes in their local operations and decision-making. The Office of Community Participation, established in Józsefváros in 2019, marked the country's first municipal office of its kind. This development followed the election of opposition Mayor András Pikó to office. Over the span of approximately two years since its inception, the office has begun to lay the groundwork for participatory mechanisms and processes, encompassing both the operation of the Municipality and the inclusion of citizens in local-level decision-making and city planning. The objectives outlined by the municipality and the Office were clear: (1) involving citizens in decision-making processes, mobilising and activating as many individuals as possible to achieve more embedded and consensual decisions related to city development and resource allocation, (2) integrating participation into every municipality-led process to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness of the municipality.

The impact brought about by the office was meaningful and visible to internal and external stakeholders. Most importantly, the Office introduced numerous participatory tools and processes, including community development, participatory planning, town-hall and residential assemblies, participatory budgeting, co-design, and co-management projects, among others. Nevertheless, a notable limitation of the entire process is that, despite the Office's considerable efforts to engage participants in deliberative or participatory processes, the circle of individuals included and activated remains rather limited. This tendency often results in the same active citizens participating, significantly impeding the overall impact and inclusivity of the Office. Nevertheless, the establishment of the Office itself can be seen as a highly significant step with potentially far-reaching impacts. Despite some limitations, the Office has transformed the governance dynamics in Józsefváros and made the municipality far more responsive to the needs, views, and expectations of local residents. Participatory processes should be further adjusted and refined, yet this case serves as good practice for those aiming to enhance participation.

Participatory Budgeting in Gdańsk

Located at the Baltic coast, Gdańsk is the 6th largest urban centre in Poland and the capital of the Pomeranian region. The local authorities, together with the neighbouring cities of Gdynia and Sopot and around 50 adjacent administrative units, are currently applying for the legal status of a Metropolitan Area. Gdańsk stands as an urban leader among Polish cities in terms of citizen participation at the local level, being one of the pioneers in implementing participatory and deliberative innovations in the 2010s. These include participatory budgeting (2012/2013 – onwards) and civic assemblies (2016, 2017x2), followed by establishment of two pro-inclusive and pro-diversity consultative bodies – Immigrant Council (2016, part of the Gdańsk Model of Immigrant Integration) and the Gdańsk Council for Equal Treatment (2016, part of the Gdańsk Model for Equal Treatment).

Participatory Budgeting (PB)—a consultation procedure for the citizens to decide on expenditure of a specific amount of the municipal budget, loosely based on the original concept from Porto Alegre—has already had a meaningful history of implementation in Poland. Significantly, it introduced a fresh perspective on municipal budgets as common resources, "belonging" to all citizens. In 2018, due to central regulations, PB became an obligatory form of public consultations for higher-ranking cities, those that are at least the capital of a county, Yet, in Gdańsk, as in most other Polish cities, the participatory dimension of PB has been somewhat constrained. The process often resembles the compilation of individual citizens' "wish lists" rather than informed, collaborative decision-making. Currently, PB boils down to submitting proposals and voting to select the most favoured ones. This process tends to exhibit an overrepresentation of citizens with high social capital among the participants, and a dominance of "hard" investment projects over "soft" socially-oriented ones among the winning proposals. Moreover, local authorities often employ PB for tasks related to fulfilling their statutory obligations, such as maintaining pavements or providing recreational infrastructure. Consequently, despite fulfilling quantitative success criteria—such as high attendance and a substantial number of submitted proposals—the process's quality remains unsatisfactory.

Based on the research findings, the shortcomings of the PB process in Gdańsk stem from several factors. Most significantly, citizens have limited influence over the design and implementation of PB procedures. This limitation is coupled with inadequate process evaluation and poor knowledge transfer among all actors involved. Furthermore, there is no systematic integration of PB into policy-making mechanisms—the process runs its own course, despite potential opportunities for embedding it into existing governance mechanisms. Moreover, due to its lack of inclusivity and flawed overall design, the process underutilises its potential for community building and effective social production of urban space. On a positive note, some good practices are worth highlighting, such as the recent introduction of Green PB to promote the climate change agenda, and the simplification of participation criteria to involve immigrants and non-registered citizens.

Quartiere Bene Comune in Reggio Emilia

Reggio Emilia, a provincial capital and among the top-performing Italian and European cities, stands out for its thriving economy, high social capital indexes, and a well-established network of welfare and educational services provided by both the public sector and third-sector organisations. Leveraging its vibrant social fabric, the municipality has actively pursued the goal of enhancing citizen activism to implement the principles and practices of horizontal subsidiarity. This involves citizen participation in designing and implementing public policies, aligning with the administrative decentralisation that began in 1970 to focus citizens on their neighbourhoods and foster a "critical" relationship with the municipality.

Introduced in 2014, the Quartiere Bene Comune (QUA) programme employs the innovative Co-City Protocol, founded on the concept of an urban neighbourhood as a commons. This approach emphasises collaborative and polycentric governance of diverse urban resources—physical, environmental, cultural, knowledge, and digital—termed "commons." These commons are managed or co-owned through contractual or institutionalised public-community or public-private-community partnerships. QUA aims to establish an advanced collaborative model in which communities can design and implement innovative solutions tailored to their needs. The policy addresses a range of challenges: transforming participation into civic protagonism, introducing a new administrative paradigm and a more effective and efficient model of "public-community partnership" for service production, and enhancing social cohesion by fostering collaboration among various stakeholders, including citizens, third-sector organisations, and the municipality. Accordingly, the aim is to make stakeholders co-protagonists throughout the collaborative action's life cycle, from analysis and option selection to solution definition, project management, result evaluation, and impact reporting.

The QUA model is rooted in a place-based approach and community involvement. Mutual trust and open, two-way communication between citizens and the municipality are pivotal elements, ensuring commitments and responsibilities are shared for a successful process. The dedicated Department of Competitiveness and Social Innovation, equipped with experienced municipal staff adept in managing participatory processes, contributes significantly to QUA's effectiveness.

However, QUA does exhibit some shortcomings. Notably, it faces inclusivity challenges, with underrepresentation of certain citizen categories (e.g., young people, foreigners, those not typically engaged in participatory projects). Additionally, there's a shared perception that not all potentially interested citizens are involved. Some individuals are repeatedly engaged in various contexts for voluntary activities and co-planning initiatives. Sustainability of collaborative projects over the medium and long term is another critical issue, as prolonged implementation might erode trust between citizens and the municipality. Lastly, confining collaborative projects within neighbourhood boundaries risks fragmenting outcomes from the citywide perspective.

Quartiersmanagement Pankstraße in Berlin

Berlin, as the capital city of Germany, has rich experience in local governance initiatives. Since 1999, the Soziale Stadt programme (renamed Sozialer Zusammenhalt in 2020), financed by the German Federal government and the Länder (states), has been dedicated to revitalising socio-economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The primary objective of the programme is to stabilize designated neighbourhoods and promote cohesive development of living standards across the city. This mission is realised through the operational tool of Quartiers-management (QM), currently active in 33 neighbourhoods, including Pankstraße.

Managed by a private company and overseen by a team of professional Neighbourhood Managers, QM focuses on engaging residents and local organisations through a range of measures. The QM facilitators support inhabitants of disadvantaged areas in establishing decision-making structures – Quartiersrat, which is composed of representatives elected by all residents. These structures determine activities or measures to be supported using allocated budgets. Although QM is operated through private institutions and funded via the programme, it exists as an independent entity separate from local governance bodies. Nonetheless, it maintains a continuous dialogue with the local public administration.

In the case of QM Pankstraße, the core resident-elected institutions serving two-year terms are the Action Fund Jury and the Neighbourhood Council. The Action Fund Jury, comprising nine neighbourhood-committed residents volunteering their time, decides on fund allocation of up to 1,500 euros for small local projects. The Neighbourhood Council is a citizen participation body that influences the focus of neighbourhood management's efforts and allocates funds for medium-term and structural projects starting at 5,000 euros. At least half of the council's members are residents of the neighbourhood, while the rest represent various stakeholders active in the QM area, including schools, day-care centres, social institutions, associations, businesses, homeowners, and representatives from the arts and cultural scene.

The QM addresses a variety of neighbourhood-specific topics, which can range from local cleanup initiatives and intercultural dialogue to inclusion, education, or adapting to climate change.

A QM will be appraised as 'resolved' when an area under its oversight is considered economically stabilised by the regular scientific report. It can be deemed a success when a QM makes itself obsolete.

The key strength of QM lies in activating civil society in marginalised neighbourhoods by providing them active creative power through the jury and council. At the same time, there are some weaknesses. The funding scheme hinges on resident participation in elections, which, even with extensive campaigns, typically sees low turnout (2-5%). Consequently, several tasks initially intended for residents' delegation remain the responsibility of QM. Additionally, the cooperation with local administration faces hurdles due to resistance within certain offices. Despite political support for QM at higher levels, some offices lack even a dedicated point of contact for QM or its residents.

Social Hackathon in Võru

Estonia, with a population of only 1.3 million, is a small country where citizen engagement, has become an integral part of policymaking. National strategic goals focus on developing E-governance and technology-based information society. However, this development is uneven—distant rural areas tend to lag behind more advanced urban centres. Võru County, comprising five municipalities totalling 35,000 inhabitants, stands as one of the most peripheral regions in terms of both location and socio-economic performance. A prominent challenge for local democracy is the poor quality of public discussion, lack of constructive dialogue, and limited feedback from public authorities, resulting in citizen passivism.

In 2017, the Development Centre of Võru County was established to foster balanced and continuous county development while facilitating cooperation among private, public, and third-sector organisations. While lacking direct political or legislative power, it maintains strong connections with local political decision-makers through its council. The centre also partners with various ministries, representing local governments and legal entities, through which national government development resources are directed to the region.

Supported by EU Horizon funding in 2018, the Development Centre of Võru County designed and piloted a Social Hackathon (SH) as a new method to address the urgent need for responsible citizenship skills at the local level. Since then, it has become an annual event. The overall goal of SHs in Võru county is to co-create the future of communities where value is generated through partnerships and networks. Adapted from the IT industry, SHs envision and create new local contexts and social innovations, thus generating greater regional value, empowering progressive thinking in rural areas and upgrading the image of the region. Unlike traditional hackathons, the focus isn't solely on ready-to-use solutions to predefined problems; rather, it empowers stakeholders to better understand challenges, collaborate on solutions, foster relationships, and share knowledge. The process starts with participants proposing ideas, which are then elaborated upon by separate teams. These teams, comprising members from the community, private, and public sector, have 48 hours to develop their ideas before presenting them to the jury at the concluding event.

Ensuring high standards inclusiveness, accessibility, and equal participation for individuals of diverse backgrounds and perspectives, along with providing an environment conducive to open communication and networking, are vital for enhancing co-creation, which is translated into the effectiveness of SHs in Võru county. Other best practices include systematic evaluation based on process monitoring and collecting participant feedback, as well as involving influential stakeholders in the jury who can later facilitate the implementation of winning concepts. However, the SH in Võru has yet to be formalised within local government or regulated by legal procedures; the connection remains informal through a project-based approach. The present challenge lies in re-designing and implementing this tool as an arena for local-level policy co-creation and integrating it into municipal processes.

Socialising Cultural Policy in Wrocław

Wrocław is an administrative centre and a business hub, with industrial production, trade, science that attracts investors from different parts of the world. It is also a city with a rich cultural background. For example, it boasts the heritage of the Orange Alternative, an anti-communist, performative collective from the 1980s.

The process of increasing participation of residents in decision-making processes regarding the city's cultural policy was initiated by the local government in 2011. So far, it has consisted of the following initiatives: unsuccessful application to the European Capital of Culture 2012, successful application to European Capital of Culture 2016, organisation of the Culture Congress in 2016, and, especially, the activity of the Culture Group Wroclaw leading to establishing of the Congress of Culture 2020 and setting up elections to the Social Culture Council operating under the city mayor.

While the underlying concepts behind Wrocław's application for the European Capital of Culture 2016 (ECoC), which centred on activating diverse urban actors and building culture collectively, are considered pivotal for driving social change, the programme's implementation has garnered predominantly negative evaluations. One issue arose from the removal of the project's originators, designers, and individuals with expertise, competence, and skills in orchestrating high-quality cultural events from the implementation team. Transparency was lacking, and discretionary decisions of authorities prevailed. An inadequate personnel strategy led to a decline in the inventive and artistic quality of cultural events, exemplified by the generally poorly received opening ceremony of the ECoC 2016. Consequently, the 2016 Culture Congress presented a list of critical observations and demands that, if embraced, could contribute to a more informed shaping of the city's cultural policy. However, its outcome only resulted in the formation of a document titled "Current Culture," which, as local authorities emphasize, cannot be considered a "strategy".

The 2020 Congress similarly failed to yield satisfactory or lasting solutions. Among the various initiatives assessed under the framework of SPiCP, the Culture Group Wroclaw (CGW) emerges as the most positive effort. It connects and networks visual artists, filmmakers, coordinators of film programmes and festivals, writers, directors, actors, musicians, curators, art critics, cultural animators, activists, journalists, cultural researchers, and ordinary cultural recipients. Nonetheless, despite its proclaimed egalitarianism, deliberativeness, and participation, the CGW has been criticised for retaining control within a small circle of members in close contact with local authorities. Furthermore, though many citizens invested in Wroclaw's cultural development held high expectations for the Council of Culture to overcome the apathy in which the cultural policy found itself after 2016, the process of socialising the city's cultural policy has not met these expectations.

In summary, a fundamental conflict of interests has arisen in Wrocław between the authorities elected within representative democracy and activism or expertise seeking new solutions for the future. Most of the elected members of the Social Culture Council believe that it has not fulfilled its role. They feel powerless in influencing decisions regarding the appointment of managerial positions in cultural institutions, setting directions for the development of these institutions, or funds allocation.

CASE-STUDY
TYPOLOGIES

Table 2. Typologies concerning basic characteristics of the case studies
(Source: Authors' own elaboration)

		Borough Liason Officers HEL	Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk) GAL	Citizens' Assembly CPH	Citizens' Assembly WRO	Deal for Communities WIG	Office for Comm. Particip. BUD	Participatory Budgeting GDK	Quartiere Bene Comune RE	Q-managemnent Pankstr. BER	Social Hackathon VOR	Social. Cult. Policy WRO
Region	WE	●	●	●		●			●	●		
	CEE				●		●	●			●	●
Co-governance culture	high		●	●		●			●	●		
	medium	●						●			●	
	low				●		●					●
Urban status / position in urban hierarchy	capital	●		●			●			●		
	city		●		●			●	●			●
	town					●					●	
Objectives for participation /deliberation	involving citizens in decision-making	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	improving interactions between stakeholders	●	●			●	●			●	●	●
	improving local services			●	●	●					●	●
	co-managing urban resources								●			
Method / technique	open participation	●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	participatory / delib. bodies involved in co-governance	●					●		●	●		●
	minipublics		●	●	●						●	
Approach	non-deliberative	●					●	●				●
	deliberative		●	●	●	●			●	●	●	●
Spatial scale of the process	district / neighbourhood	●					●	●	●	●		
	municipal			●	●	●		●				●
	regional		●								●	
Frequency mode	one-off		●	●	●							
	annual event since the launch							●			●	
	permanent/ continuous process	●				●	●		●	●		●

NOTES: Citizen Jury was one-off but lasted for two consecutive years, two Social Hackathons were organised in 2019 in Võru and The Deal was replaced by The Deal2030 in 2019 (a continuation of the former process)

Table 3. Typologies concerning relevant features of the case study processes related to the research questions (Source: Authors' own elaboration)

		Borough Liason Officers HEL	Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk)	Citizens' Assembly CPH	Citizens' Assembly WRO	Deal for Communities WIG	Office for Comm. Particip.	Participatory Budgeting GDK	Quartiere Bene Comune RE	Q-management Pankstr.	Social Hackathon VOR	Socialising Cultural Policy
Level of participation achieved	consulting	●					●					●
	involving					●		●		●		
	collaborating		●	●	●						●	
	empowering								●			
Initiator	city/district administration	●		●		●	●		●			●
	third sector		●		●		●	●			●	
	national/ federal administration									●		
	academic milieu								●			
Organiser/ Coordinator	city/district administration	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●
	third sector		●	●	●						●	
	regional government		●								●	
	private company									●		
Embeddedness	legal	●						●	●			●
	institutional	●	●	●			●	●	●			●
	financial	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●
Participants	citizens	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	third sector	●	●	●		●	●	●	●			●
	city representatives / the administration	●				●			●			●
	representatives of civil / public services			●	●	●			●		●	
	public institutions (schools, etc.)							●		●	●	
	business milieu	●				●			●		●	
	academic milieu			●	●				●		●	●
	artistic and cultural milieu									●		●

Table 4. Factors affecting effectiveness of the processes across the case studies
(Source: Authors' own elaboration)

		Borough Liason Officers HEL	Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk) GAL	Citizens' Assembly CPH	Citizens' Assembly WRO	Deal for Communities WIG	Office for Comm. Particip. BUD	Participatory Budgeting GDK	Quartiere Bene Comune RE	Q-managemnt Pankstr. BER	Social Hackathon VOR	Socialising Cultural Policy WRO
Planning and pre-arrangement	degree of the city/town's political independence				●		●					
	political orientation of the local authorities						●					
	broader political context						●					
	legal procedures on the state level	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	willingness to share power		●			●	●	●	●			●
	actors' general knowledge of the process	●	●	●		●	●	●		●	●	
	informative role of the media and promotional campaigns		●					●				
	result-oriented approach	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
Implementation	legal procedures on the state level	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	actors' general knowledge of the process						●					
	result-oriented approach						●	●				
	continuous evaluation and adaptation		●			●	●	●	●		●	
	organisers' attitudes, skills and expertise	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	●
	communication channels	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
	level of trust	●	●	●		●	●	●	●		●	
	level of citizen engagement	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	
Completion and reporting	continuous evaluation and adaptation						●		●			
	legal procedures on the state level	●			●	●	●	●	●	●		●
	willingness to share power		●			●	●	●	●			●
	communicating results to the citizens	●				●	●			●		
	implementation of the agreed solutions			●				●			●	

Table 5. Duration of processes under investigation
(Source: Authors' own elaboration)

INVESTIGATED PROCESSES	YEARS ACTIVE																					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Borough Liason Officers HEL																	●	●	●	●	●	●
Citizen Jury (PeopleTalk) GAL												●	●	●								
Citizens'Assembly CPH																		●				
Citizens'Assembly WRO																			●			
Deal for Communities WIG													●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Off. for Comm. Particip. BUD																		●	●	●	●	●
Participatory Budgeting GDK											●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Quartiere Bene Comune RE													●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Q-managemnent Pankstr. BER	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Social Hackathon VOR																		●	●	●	●	●
Socialising Cult. Pol. WRO										●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION?

EUARENAS website

The EUARENAS *Case-Study Report* (2024) Deliverable 3.3 (coming February 2024)

Fritsch M, Trowbridge H, Grabkowska M, Kappler L, Valeriani M, Keresztely K, Ufel W (2021) Towards an EUARENAS Glossary - key concepts and working definitions. In: *EUARENAS Deliverable 6.5: Working Paper Series 1*, 27-36.

StoryMap of the EUARENAS Case Studies: *The 11 governance innovations across Europe*

WP4 Toolbox (coming June 2024)