

# The Untapped Potential of Participatory Systems

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Prepared for Online Participation on the local level - a comparative perspective  
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- Part I: a temporary language
- Part II: some quick facts
- Part III: advantages and disadvantages of participatory systems
- Part IV: back to theory



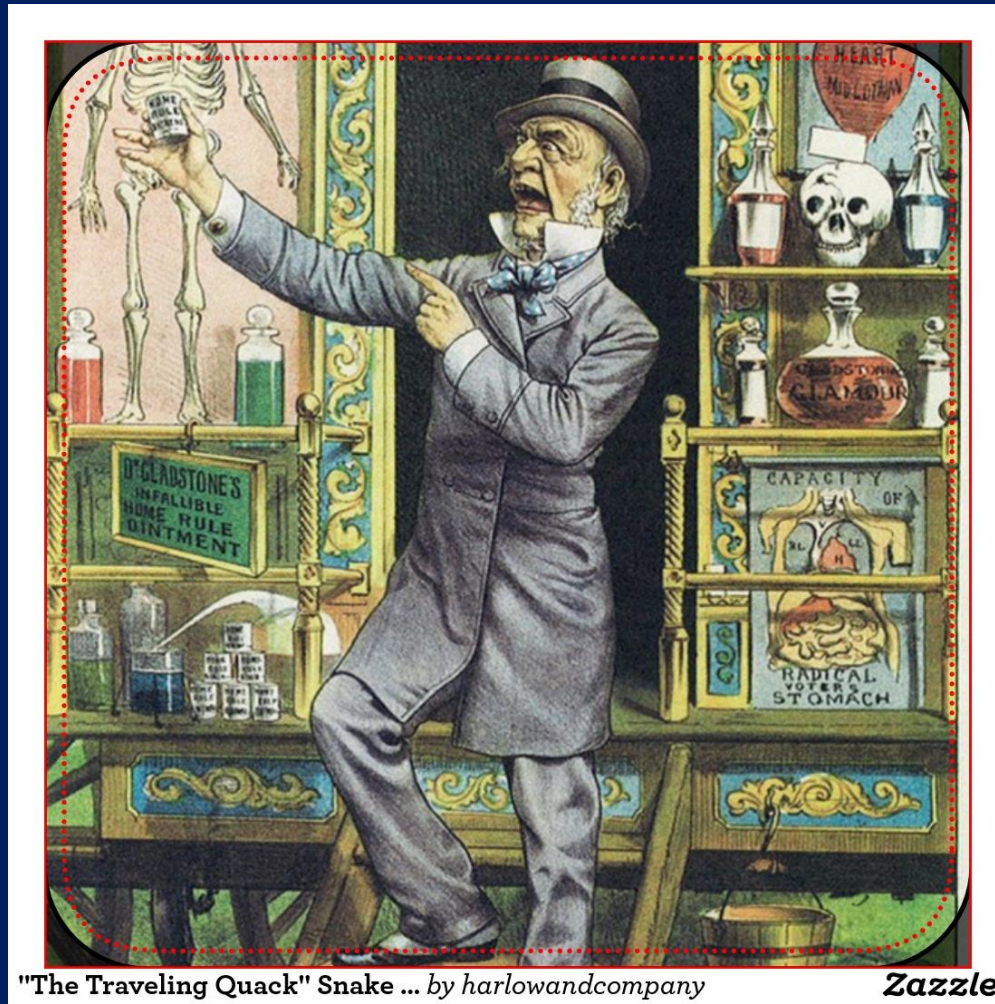
“We are in the midst of a transformation of democracy that involves thousands of new channels of citizen involvement in government, often outside of the more visible politics of electoral representation.”

Mark Warren

(2012 opening of grant application for Participedia)

PARTICIPEDIA

# The Problem: alchemic stage of the field



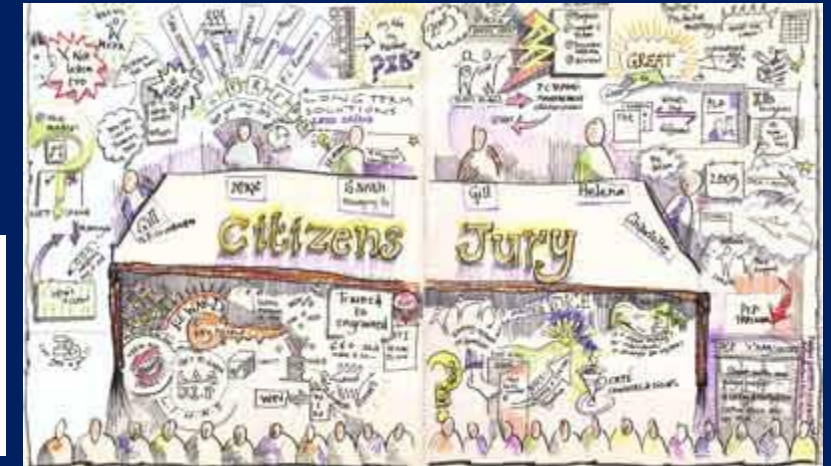
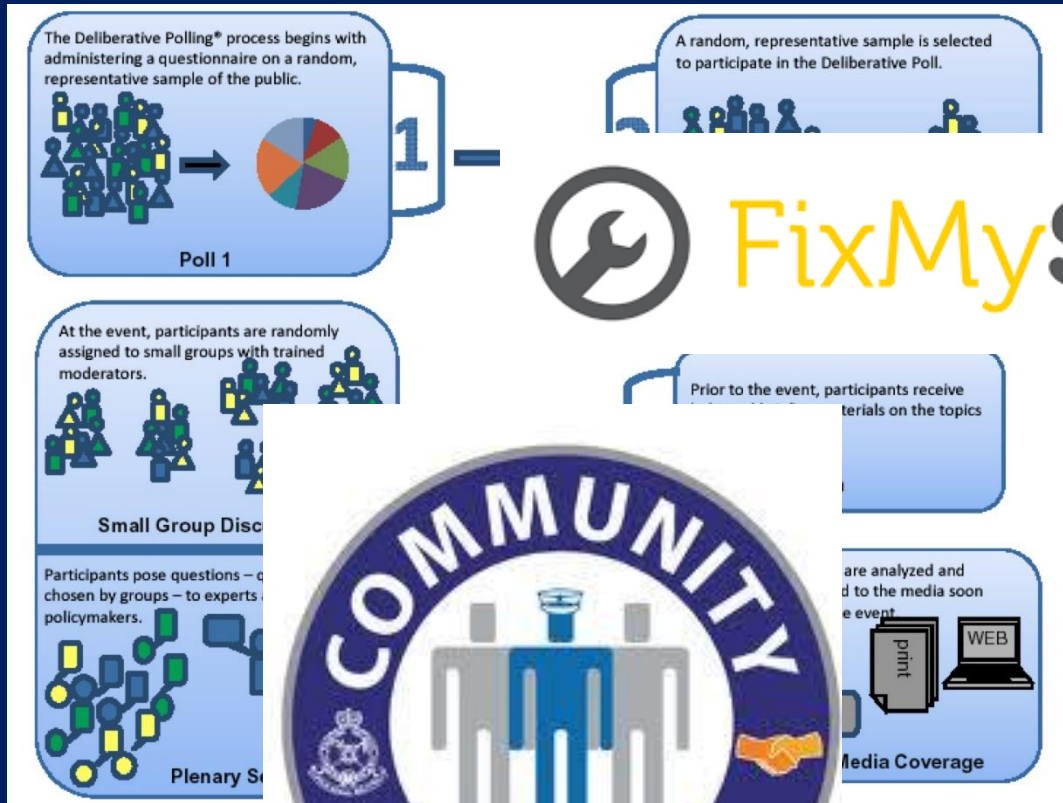
"The Traveling Quack" Snake ... by harlowandcompany

Zazzle

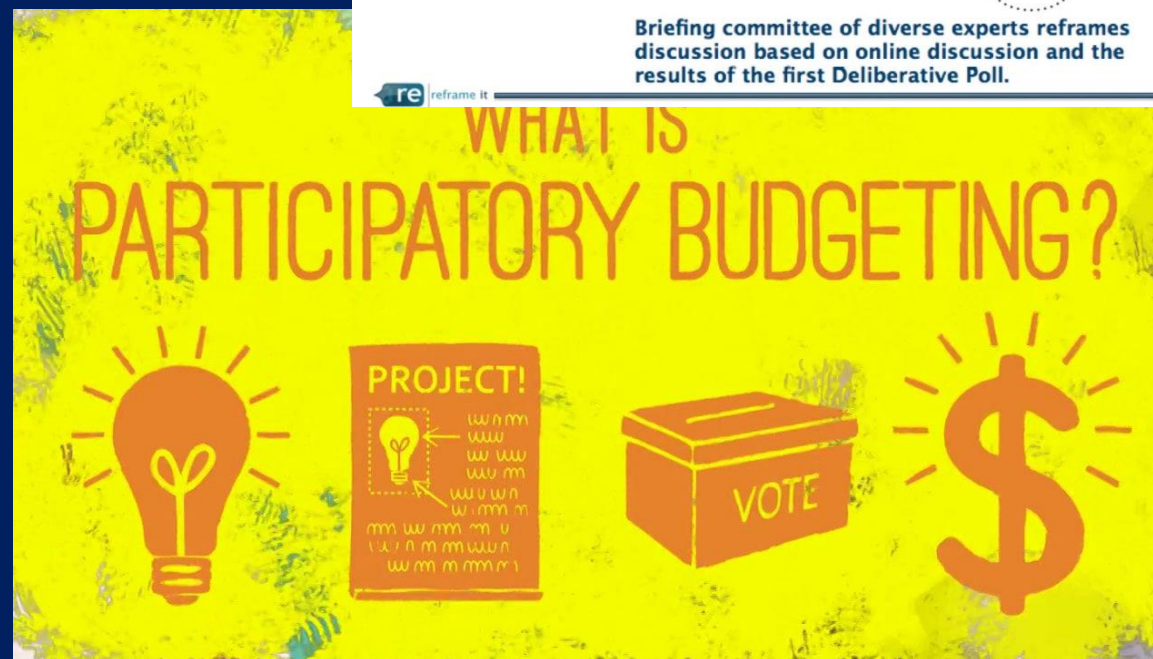
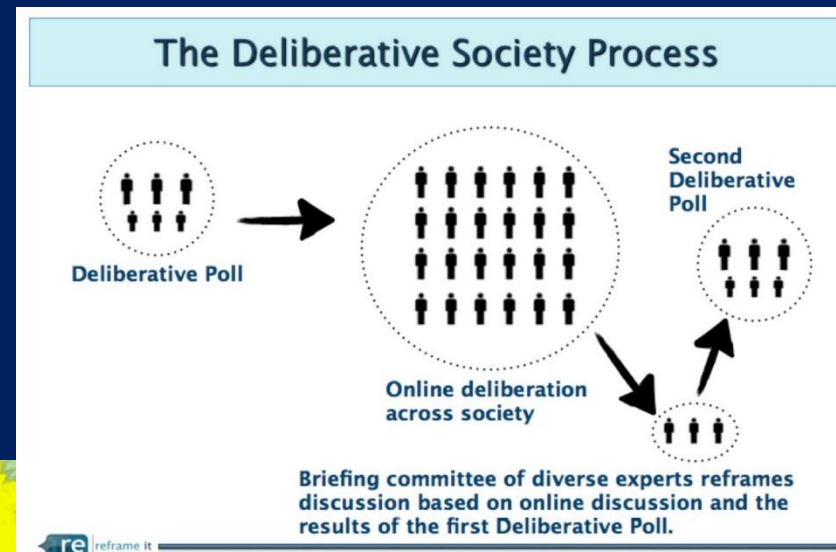
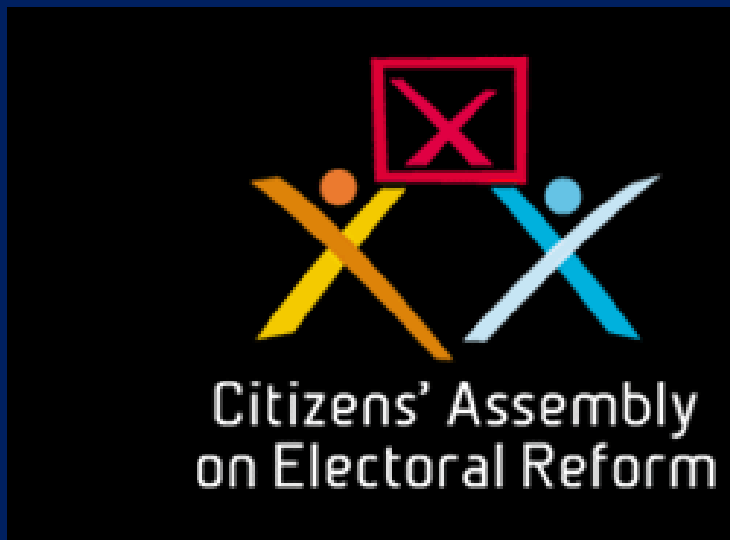
and when you start comparing...



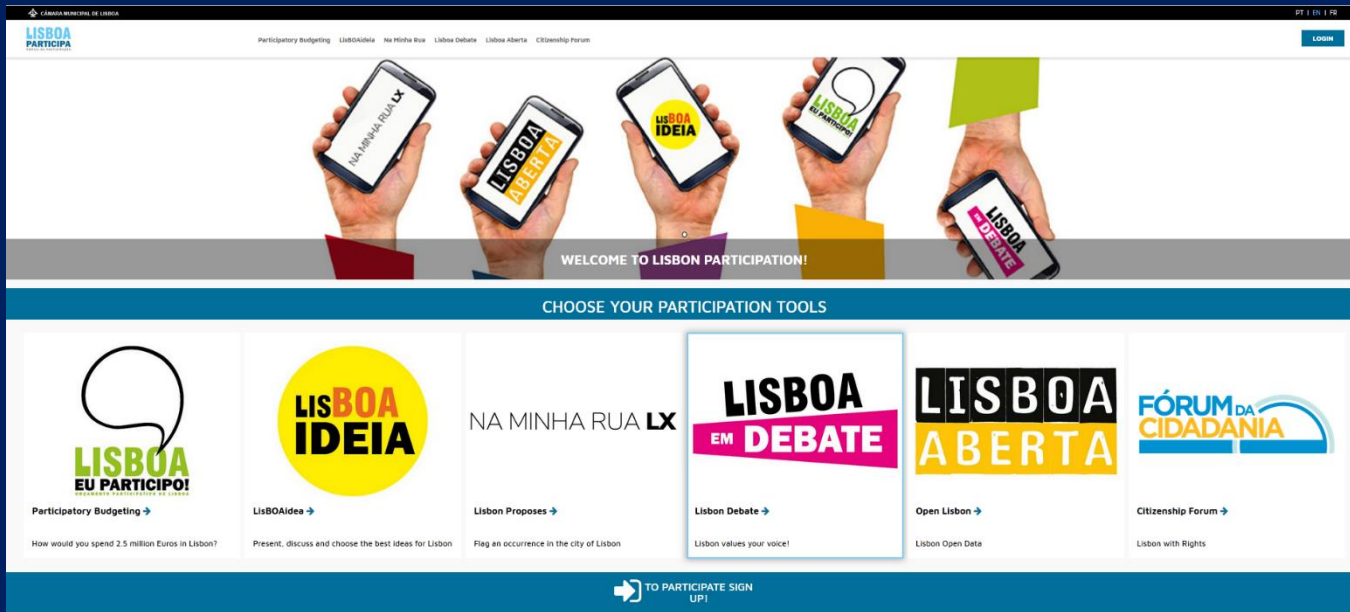
# Example of single channel (public/mode/component) democratic innovation



# Example of multi-channel democratic innovations



# Example of participatory systems



Co-design

Groups' demands

Public sultations

Individual citizens demands

Instruments to elaborate policies





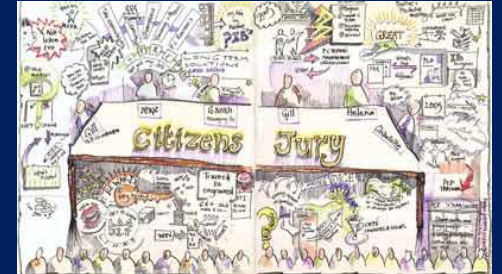
# First example of timid step toward integration

The screenshot displays the website for 'CÂMARA MUNICIPAL DE LISBOA' with the 'LISBOA PARTICIPA' logo. The navigation menu includes 'Participatory Budgeting', 'LisBOAideia', 'Na Minha Rua', 'Lisboa Debate', and 'Lisboa Aberta', along with a 'LOGIN' button. The main banner features five hands holding smartphones displaying different participation tools. Below the banner, a section titled 'WELCOME TO LISBOA PARTICIPA' leads to 'CHOOSE YOUR PARTICIPATION TOOLS'. Five tool cards are shown: 'Participatory Budgeting' (LISBOA EU PARTICIPO!), 'LisBOAideia' (LISBOA IDEIA), 'Na Minha Rua' (NA MINHA RUA LX), 'Lisboa Debate' (LISBOA EM DEBATE), and 'Lisboa Aberta' (LISBOA ABERTA). Each card includes a brief description and a link. A 'SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE!' button is located below the tool cards. The footer contains contact information for the Câmara Municipal de Lisboa, social media icons, and a 'Got it!' button for the cookie notice.

# Temporary language (not very elegant)

## Channel

A Channel of engagement is defined as a combination of messages and participatory processes designed to encourage a specific behavior in a (specific) target public.



## Multichannel Democratic Innovations

Multichannel democratic innovations are institutions that integrate messages and participatory spaces targeted to different segments of the population in a system specifically designed to increase and deepen citizen participation in one political decision making process (e.g.; decision how to spend the budget).



## Participatory Systems

Participatory systems are institutions that integrate multiple democratic innovations each with its own domain.



# How common are participatory systems?

## MAPPING PARTICIPATORY INNOVATIONS

EN | PT | FR | ES

Home | Share

Share the story of the participatory innovations in your city.

About | FAQs



PARTICIPATE!

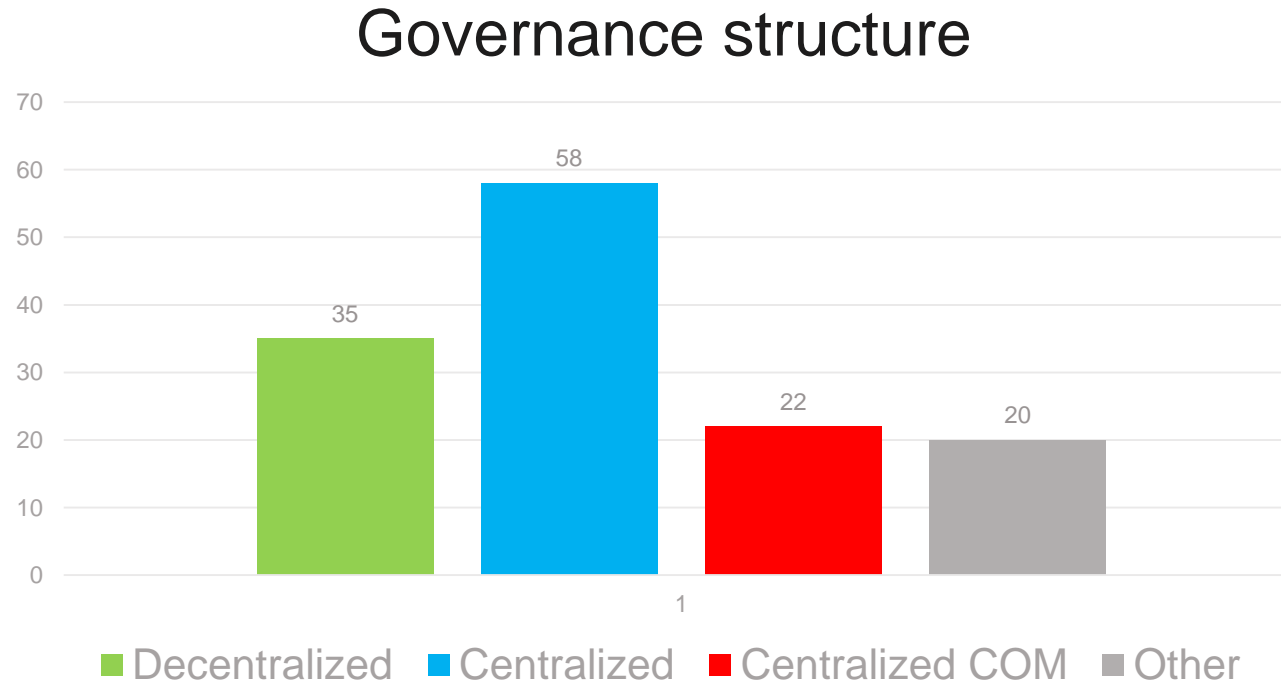
PARTICIPEDIA

empatia



Horizon 2020 European Union funding for Research & Innovation

# Quick “facts”: All 135 cities were running more than one participatory process



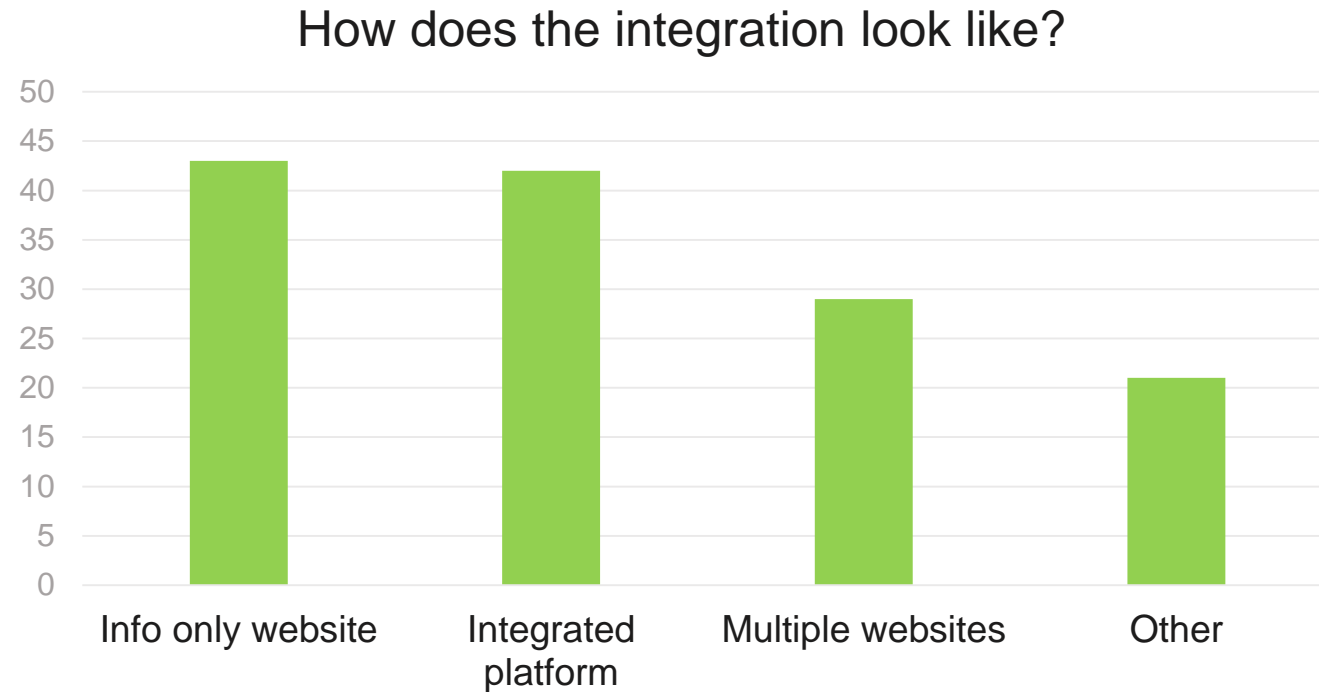
# Quick “facts”:

The majority of processes we got information on are hybrid or face to face, there are less “digital only” processes.

- a) City level PB (69 out of 135): 50% is hybrid, 32% ftf, 9% exclusively digital, rest is other
- b) Public Consultations of Social Groups (50 out of 135): 24% is hybrid, 58% is ftf, 12% is exclusively digital, rest is other
- c) Inclusion projects targeting minorities (35 out of 135): 14% is hybrid, 66% is ftf, 9% is exclusively digital
- d) Consultations of random samples (37 out of 135): 27% is hybrid 43% is ftf, 14% is exclusively digital

# Quick “facts”:

Growing number integrated participatory systems



# Many modern platforms are designed for participatory systems



# Core Functions of participatory systems platforms

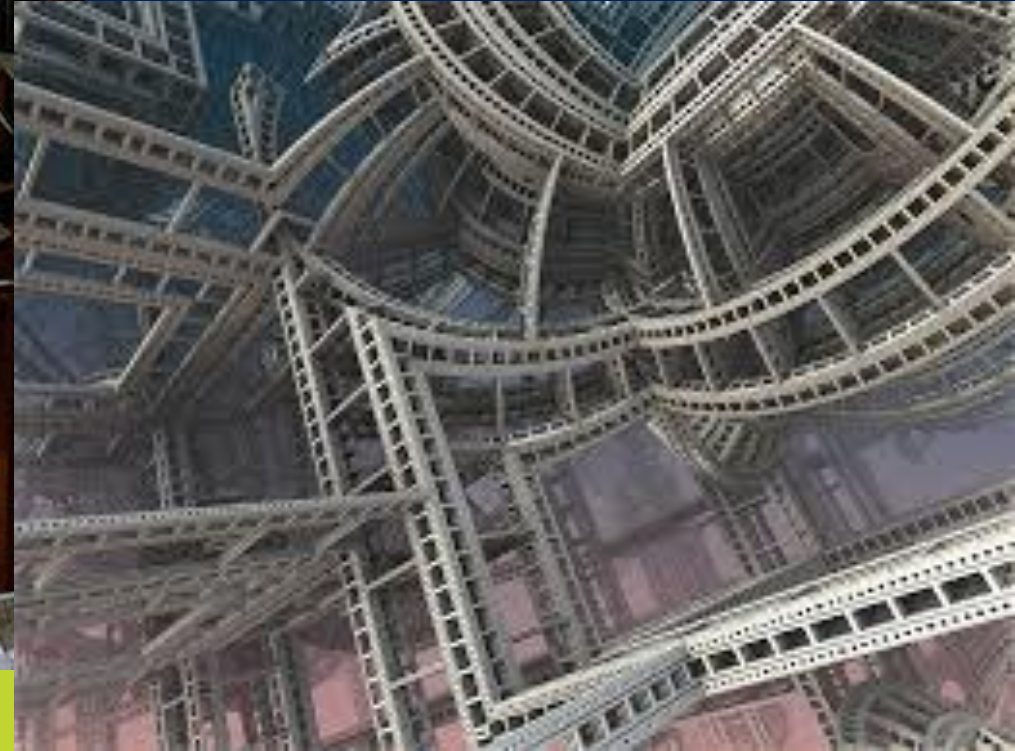
			Core Components												
Platform Name	Grant type, if any	What kind of deployment is it possible?	Analytics	Authentication	Community Content Management System (CMS)	Design	Events	Kiosks	Monitoring	Notify	Open Data:	Proposals	Vote	Questionnaire	
DemocracyOS	NONE	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	
OpenDCN	NONE	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	
AppCivist	YES, Public	SaaS	0	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	
Placespeak	NONE	SaaS	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X	X	
Pol.is	NONE	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	
OpaVote	NONE	SaaS	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	X	0	
Changify	NONE	SaaS	0	X	X	X	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	0	
My Neighbourhood	YES, Public Public	NA	X	X	X	X	X	0	X	X	0	X	X	0	
Your priorities	NONE	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	X	X	0	
Loomio	NONE	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	0	X	X	0	
Citizenbudget	YES,	SaaS	X	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	
Liberopinion	YES, Public Public	SaaS + All-in-one	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	0	0	0	X	X	
Budgetparticipatif.paris.fr/bp/	YES, Public Public	All-in-one	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	0	X	X	
Consider.it	NONE	SaaS	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	0	X	X	
Participare	NONE	SaaS	X	X	X	X	0	X	0	X	0	X	X	X	
Consul	YES, Public Public	All-in-one	X	X	X	X	X	0	0	X	0	X	X	X	



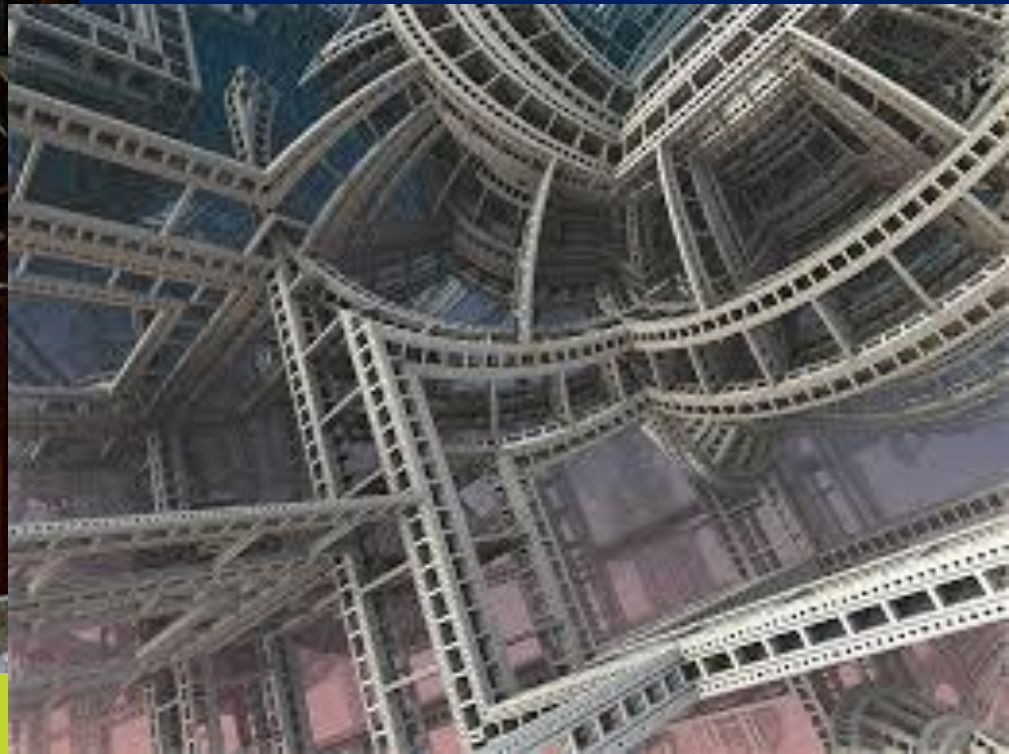
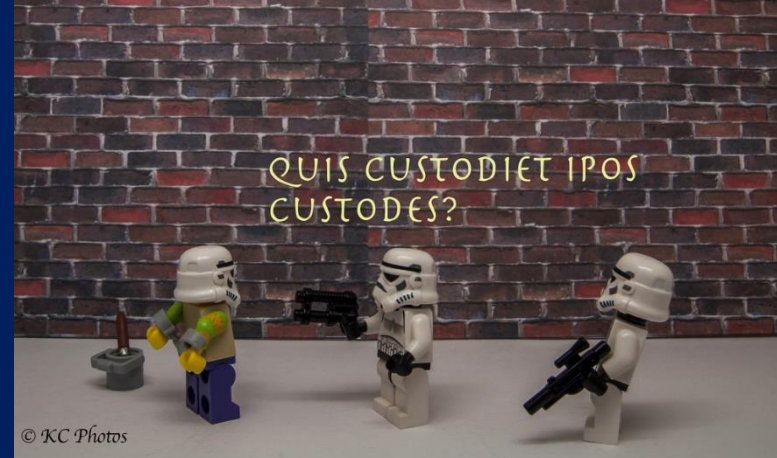
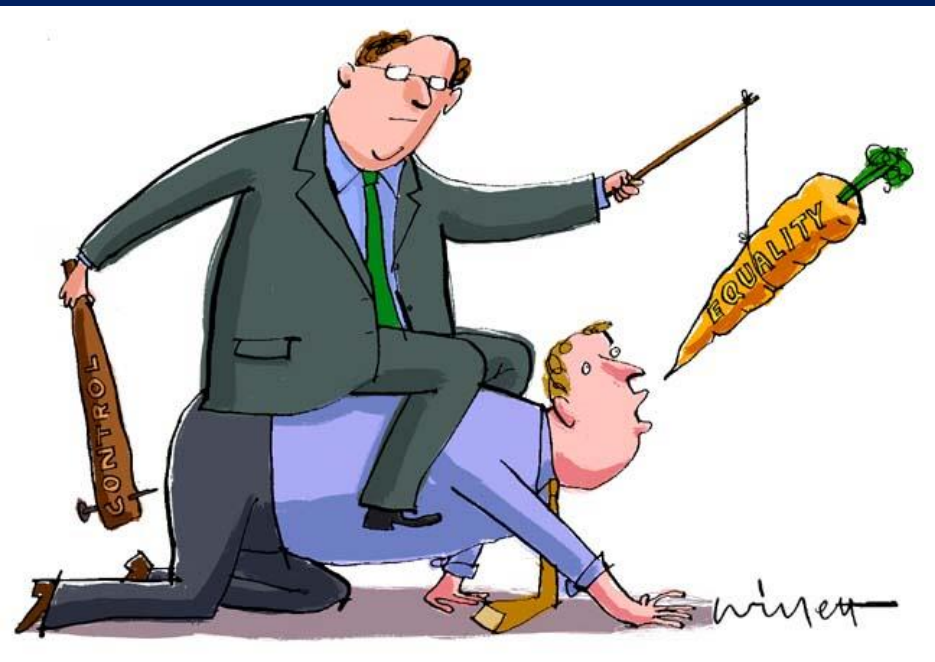
# The challenge



# Risks



# Risks



# Risks

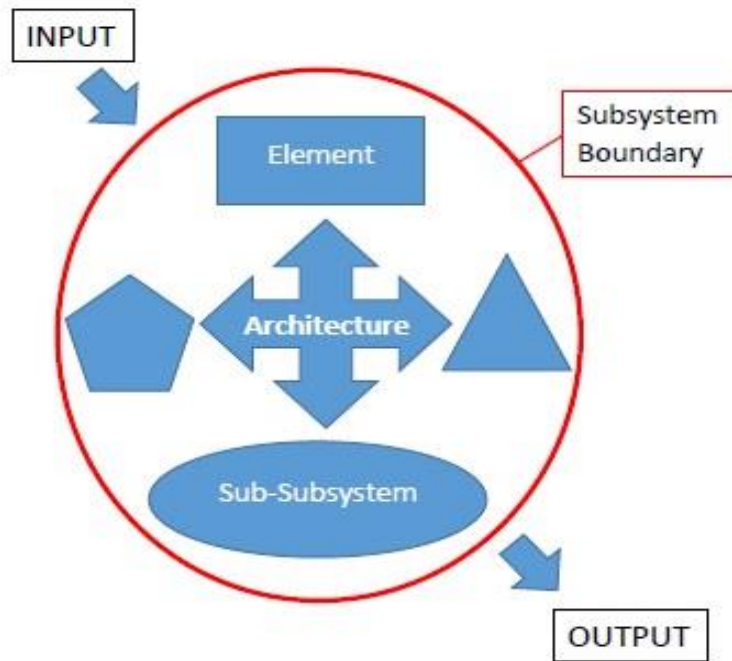


# Advantages



# Part 2: back to theory -> the systemic approach

DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS AS A SUBSYSTEM  
WITHIN THE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM



Within the democratic system we can analyze democratic innovations as subsystems.

A system is characterized by an input and output and an architecture that integrates and disciplines the relationship of its components. Some of these components are sub-subsystems, i.e. a set of elements which is a system in itself, and a component of a larger system. Other components do not constitute a system in themselves and thus we refer to them as elements.

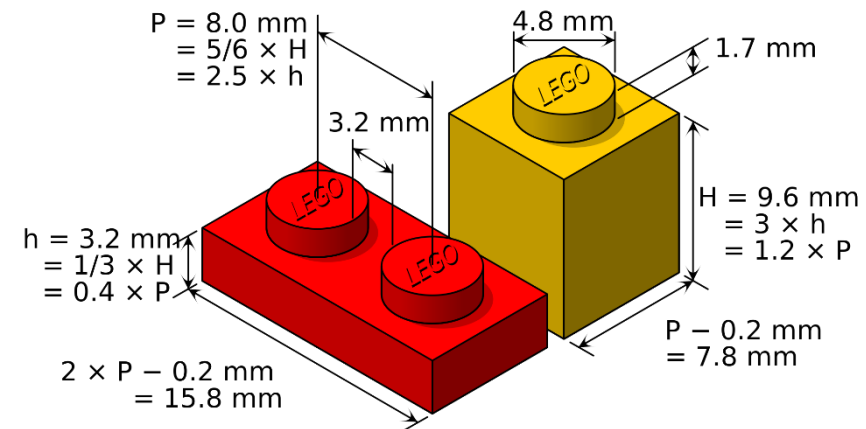


Table 1	Deliberative Polls	European Model of Participatory Budgeting
<b>Engagement</b>	For the typical one weekend DP the invitation period usually lasts around 1 month. The exact procedure changes depending on the firm hired to create the quasi-random sample of participants, but it borrows from the procedure to create quasi-representative samples employed in polling. With respect messages to keep participant on task during the event these are delivered by the facilitators at the table and during plenaries. Post event retention messages are limited or absent.	Participatory budgeting has multiple engagement processes that correspond to the phases of the process itself. On average there are two phases open to all citizens, one to define projects, and one to select projects. Thus PB organizers usually conduct two large engagement campaigns. Differently from DP participatory budgeting on average curates less the design of the participatory events and thus there are less messages to maintain participants on task. Lastly PB being cyclical has more post event retention messages that have the ultimate objective of creating a persistent community.
<b>Capacity Building</b>	In DP Capacity building starts before the event. Organizers send a balanced information package to all participants. Then during the event the initial day is all devoted to come-up with questions for an expert panel and clarifying doubts about the topic.	Capacity building in participatory budgeting processes is minimal. In some designs some representatives of the participants, sometimes called budget delegates or budget councillors, receive a bit of training. But on average the capacity building is limited to a short presentation describing the rule of the process (e.g.; amount of money, admissible projects, etc.).
<b>Problem Solving/Feedback</b>	DP usually tackles binary choices on a complex policy problem of public relevance (e.g.; should we introduce affirmative action policies or not?). DP generates ongoing feedback during the event that is divided in tasks that have to be completed to move to the subsequent task. Most DP are consultative in nature and thus have as final outcome an exit survey and a report.	The most common application of participatory budgeting focuses on identifying and selecting small public projects within a city. Thus the problems tackled by the participants is very familiar and simple. While the problem might be familiar to the participants and the solution to the problem might be easy to identify, the solution might be very difficult to achieve. The voting phase of PB process is a friendly competition game-like experience. Feedback is constant throughout the process.
<b>Small Group Discussion</b>	DP employ an accordion style design that moves between small group discussions and plenary moments. The small groups discuss the briefing materials and come-up with questions for the experts during plenaries. The main focus of small group discussion is argumentation and not ideation. DP employ facilitators and the experience in the small group is extremely curated.	Most participatory budgeting do not employ small group discussions. Those that do, such as the North American model, or some models in Portugal, focus on ideation and consensus building. There is almost no structured argumentation. Obviously spontaneous argumentation might emerge anyway.
<b>Taking Ownership</b>	DP do not allow participants to design the agenda and give extremely limited possibilities to take ownership of the process that is tightly controlled. In some processes participants are allowed in the beginning to rank the principles and goals the discussion should have. 23	Most participatory budgetings have a steering committee composed by representatives of the participants that is in charge to review the rules of the process and propose changes.

# The agenda

- 1) Understanding the effect of the lego blocks that compose democratic innovations
- 2) Understanding the effect of their sequence and interactions (emergent characteristics)
- 3) Understanding the effect of their interaction with the environment

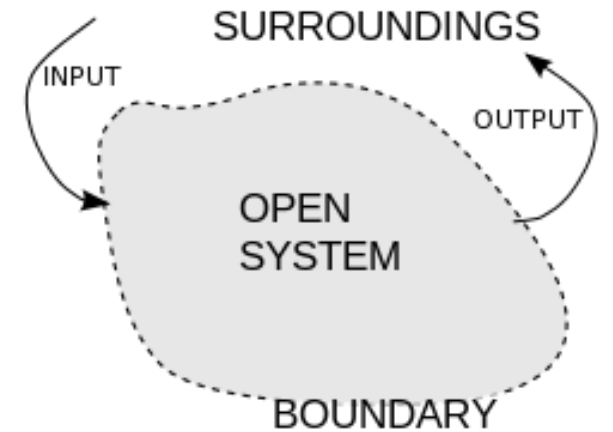


# We are already doing it...

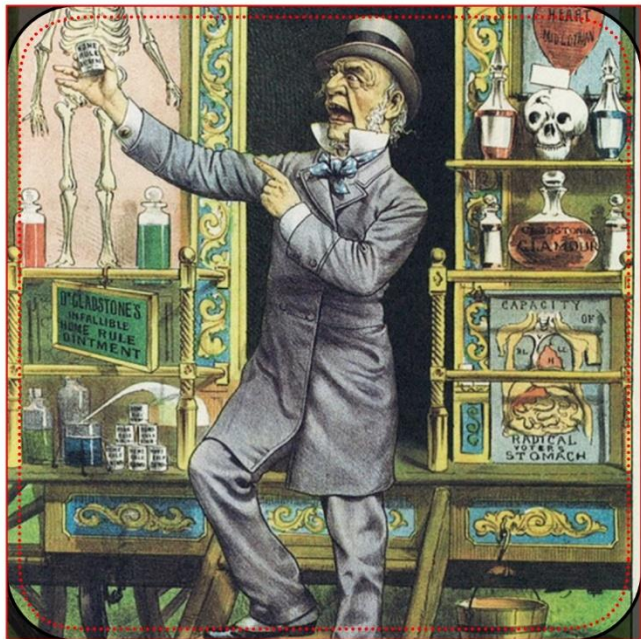
- Macro level -> scaling-up studies, interaction with national level institutions and actors
- Meso level -> subnational diffusion studies + impact of participatory Processes on public policy and interactions with local level actors and institutions
- Micro level -> effects of components of participatory processes

Operationally:

- 1) QCA
- 2) Proliferation of comparative studies
- 3) Interdisciplinary networks (CAPS, ECPR DI unit, Participedia...)
- 4) Control groups!
- 5) Going beyond the names and tags



# Objective: Move out from the alchemic stage of the field



"The Traveling Quack" Snake ... by harlowandcompany

Zazzle

### Periodic Table of the Elements

Legend:

- Metals (Blue)
- Transition Elements (Yellow)
- Radioactive (Red)
- Nonmetals (Pink)
- Lanthanide Series (Green)
- Synthetic (Light Blue)
- Noble Gases (Orange)
- Actinide Series (Purple)
- ( ) Atomic weight of the most stable isotope

Group notation: VIA 16, Atomic Number: 8, Number of electrons in each shell: 2, 6, Symbol: O, Name: Oxygen, Atomic Mass: 15.9994, Period: 2

1	2																	18
1 H Hydrogen 1.00794	2 He Helium 4.00206																	2
3 Li Lithium 6.941	4 Be Beryllium 9.012182											5 B Boron 10.811	6 C Carbon 12.011	7 N Nitrogen 14.00674	8 O Oxygen 15.9994	9 F Fluorine 18.9984	10 Ne Neon 20.1797	
11 Na Sodium 22.98977	12 Mg Magnesium 24.3050											13 Al Aluminum 26.981539	14 Si Silicon 28.0855	15 P Phosphorus 30.9736	16 S Sulfur 32.066	17 Cl Chlorine 35.4527	18 Ar Argon 39.948	
19 K Potassium 39.0983	20 Ca Calcium 40.078	21 Sc Scandium 44.9559	22 Ti Titanium 47.867	23 V Vanadium 50.9415	24 Cr Chromium 51.9961	25 Mn Manganese 54.93805	26 Fe Iron 55.845	27 Co Cobalt 58.93320	28 Ni Nickel 58.6934	29 Cu Copper 63.546	30 Zn Zinc 65.39	31 Ga Gallium 69.723	32 Ge Germanium 72.61	33 As Arsenic 74.92159	34 Se Selenium 78.96	35 Br Bromine 79.904	36 Kr Krypton 83.80	
37 Rb Rubidium 85.4678	38 Sr Strontium 87.62	39 Y Yttrium 88.90585	40 Zr Zirconium 91.224	41 Nb Niobium 92.90638	42 Mo Molybdenum 95.94	43 Tc Technetium (98)	44 Ru Ruthenium 101.07	45 Rh Rhodium 102.9055	46 Pd Palladium 106.42	47 Ag Silver 107.8662	48 Cd Cadmium 112.411	49 In Indium 114.818	50 Sn Tin 118.710	51 Sb Antimony 121.760	52 Te Tellurium 127.60	53 I Iodine 126.90447	54 Xe Xenon 131.29	
55 Cs Cesium 132.9054	56 Ba Barium 137.327	57-71 La-Lu Lanthanide Series	72 Hf Hafnium 178.49	73 Ta Tantalum 180.9479	74 W Tungsten 183.84	75 Re Rhenium 186.207	76 Os Osmium 190.23	77 Ir Iridium 192.217	78 Pt Platinum 195.08	79 Au Gold 196.9665	80 Hg Mercury 200.59	81 Tl Thallium 204.3833	82 Pb Lead 207.2	83 Bi Bismuth 208.980	84 Po Polonium (209)	85 At Astatine (210)	86 Rn Radon (222)	
87 Fr Francium (223)	88 Ra Radium 226.025	89-103 Ac-Lr Actinide Series	104 Unq Ununquadium (261)	105 Unp Ununpentium (262)	106 Unh Ununhexium (263)	107 Uns Ununseptium (262)	108 Uno Ununoctium (265)	109 Uue Ununennium (266)	110 Uun Unbinilium (269)	111 Uuu Untrium (272)								
		57 La Lanthanum 138.9055	58 Ce Cerium 140.115	59 Pr Praseodymium 140.90765	60 Nd Neodymium 144.24	61 Pm Promethium (145)	62 Sm Samarium 150.36	63 Eu Europium 151.965	64 Gd Gadolinium 157.25	65 Tb Terbium 158.92534	66 Dy Dysprosium 162.50	67 Ho Holmium 164.9303	68 Er Erbium 167.26	69 Tm Thulium 168.93421	70 Yb Ytterbium 173.04	71 Lu Lutetium 174.967		
		89 Ac Actinium 227.028	90 Th Thorium 232.0381	91 Pa Protactinium 231.03688	92 U Uranium 238.0289	93 Np Neptunium 237.048	94 Pu Plutonium (244)	95 Am Americium (243)	96 Cm Curium (247)	97 Bk Berkelium (247)	98 Cf Californium (251)	99 Es Einsteinium (252)	100 Fm Fermium (257)	101 Md Mendelevium (258)	102 No Nobelium (259)	103 Lr Lawrencium (260)		

# Thank you!

The first part of this presentation is based on a white paper available at:

[https://www.spadap.com/app/download/8937282968/spada-allegretti-secchi-stortone\\_2016.pdf?t=1467719346](https://www.spadap.com/app/download/8937282968/spada-allegretti-secchi-stortone_2016.pdf?t=1467719346)

The second part instead is based on a forthcoming chapter in the book of Elstub and Olivares.

Do you have a question? Comment? Feedback?



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