



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



## EUARENAS TOOLBOX OF EXPERIMENTAL PARTICIPATORY METHODS

Conceptual background and description

JUNE 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:

[euarenas.eu](https://euarenas.eu)

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods (D 4.4) was developed within the framework of WP4 - Piloting, as part of the EUARENAS project. This Toolbox aims to bridge the gap between research and action by testing and transferring innovative tools and methods of deliberative and participatory democracy into specific urban areas. Its dual objectives are to assist pilot cities in implementing their action plans and to serve as a valuable resource for urban professionals globally.

The development of the Toolbox was a collaborative and iterative process involving continuous feedback from pilot cities, Eutropian, WP4, and the broader project consortium. Over an eight-month period, extensive fieldwork, including interviews and desk research, was conducted to gather insights and real-world experiences from various participatory processes across Europe. This rigorous process ensured that the Toolbox was grounded in practical knowledge and tailored to the specific needs of its users.

The Toolbox comprises 20 detailed case studies, showcasing a diverse range of participatory tools and methods. These tools are categorised for ease of use and cover areas such as participatory budgeting, digital participation platforms, citizens' assemblies, and more. Emphasising inclusivity, the Toolbox highlights methods for engaging marginalised groups, ensuring that participatory processes are truly representative.

Key aspects of the Toolbox include its user-friendly online platform, which provides accessible resources for urban practitioners, policymakers, community organisations, and researchers. Additionally, the Toolbox offers training modules, both in-person and online, to build capacities and extend its impact.

The Toolbox addresses major European challenges by strengthening legitimacy, identification, and engagement within the democratic public sphere. It explores how social movements and local government reforms can create momentum for political change through more inclusive and participatory forms of governance. The knowledge and tools provided by the Toolbox contribute significantly to the broader discourse on participatory democracy and offer practical solutions for enhancing citizen engagement and democratic practices.

As a living resource, the Toolbox will continue to evolve with new insights and experiences. Its success underscores the importance of collaborative, iterative, and inclusive approaches in developing resources for participatory democracy. By bridging research and action, the Toolbox supports ongoing initiatives in pilot cities and provides a valuable resource for advancing democratic governance globally.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods (D 4.4) is set into the framework of WP4 - Piloting. WP4 aims to create a bridge between research and action, to test how the existing tools and methods of deliberative and participatory democracy identified in different European cities can be transferred innovatively and comprehensively into specific urban areas.

The preparation of the Participatory Toolbox is one of the three pillars constituting the work under WP4: it will support and will be supported by the implementation of the pilots, and by the action research accompanying the piloting.



Figure 1. Structure of WP4

The Toolbox was set to address a double objective: first, it aimed to assist the pilot cities in the implementation of their action plans by presenting and analysing the tools they could use during their pilots, and by providing them with suggestions on how to transfer these to their cases. Second, on a wider scale, our Toolbox was created to become useful for any other cities or urban professionals for implementing their projects and/or for creating their own participatory toolkits.

The EUARENAS Participatory Toolbox was prepared based on the needs of the pilot cities identified during the piloting process, WP4 coordination and the action research. On the other hand, by providing regular feedback on the use of the tools during a number of iterations, the pilots themselves have informed both the development and the content of the Toolbox, and as such, the Toolbox is an important instrument contributing to the practice-based outcomes of EUARENAS.

Accordingly, we have worked in close cooperation with WP3, and as a result, we have gathered the innovative tools of citizen participation and deliberative democracy described and analysed under the EUARENAS WP3: case studies – some of them having been provided by the pilot cities themselves. Besides these cases, we have collected other good practices of democratic innovations and selected based on our wider resources, responding to the needs raised by the cities. Altogether, the Toolbox comprises 20 case studies, collected forms across Europe, on different administrative levels. These innovative tools of citizen participation and deliberative democracy are collected and shared through a series of categories which make them searchable and more comprehensible, constituting a repository of methods and tools to support the pilot actions and further experimentations. The Participatory Toolbox also strongly relies on the results of WP1 on the Theoretical framework, by using the main concepts and theories identified. We also support WP2 on Methodology and WP8 on Impact, by highlighting the specific use and expected impact of the tools through our analysis of cases.

By looking at case studies of the Toolbox, readers have the chance to get a better understanding of aspects of transferability in specific socio-economic and urban contexts and explore the limits of their flexibility and adaptability.

This toolbox responds to a major European challenge: the need to strengthen legitimacy, identification and engagement within the democratic public sphere. It 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. It was specifically created as a website ([euarenas-toolbox.eu](http://euarenas-toolbox.eu)) to provide easy access to those who may be concerned and to make the dissemination of this resource easier and more effective. Its design, layout and the number of ways in which cases can be sorted and accessed, all ensure a seamless and straightforward user experience.

The current report is dedicated to present the process of the Toolbox development, as well as the final product. It describes the theory and methodology, the steps taken in developing the content (including the selection of cases, fieldwork, analysis and write-up) and the creation of the EUARENAS Participatory Toolbox website. After this brief introduction describing the motivations for creating the Toolbox and how it fits the broader framework of the EUARENAS project, the other chapters of the report are dedicated to the **(2) conceptualisation, (3) theory and methodology, (4) the structure, (5) selected cases, (6) process of the fieldwork and analysis, (7) iteration with pilot cities and the consortium, (8) practical application and overall analysis, (9) capitalisation and dissemination, as well as (10) conclusion.**

## 2. CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE PARTICIPATORY TOOLBOX

Most countries with democratic traditions understand democracy as being representative. This is partly due to physical limits of entire electorates to participate in decision making processes on a regular basis let alone to be involved in every decision a country makes. But there are other hindering factors of comprehensive participation. With the internet becoming an integral part of life for more and more people the physical challenge seems to lessen. We can easily imagine how websites or apps could enable every citizen (or at least most citizens) to vote on issues on a regular basis, hence reducing the need for political representation and instead go towards direct democracy. That said, people would have to dedicate considerable time and effort to inform themselves about given issues and to regularly participate in the decision-making process themselves. Hence, representative democracy seems to continue to be a legitimate way to make the majority of our decisions. But does it really satisfy the principle of inclusion? And does it ensure the meaningful participation of citizens in decisions affecting their lives?

Other than through the aggregation of political will during elections citizens rarely get the chance to participate in decision making processes that have a direct impact on their lives. This is why scholars of political science and of related disciplines, as well as social movements, activists, etc. have been preoccupied with the question of how to best extend the circle of those who participate in decision making. In effect, this question goes to the very core of what the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods aims to do. Our Toolbox offers tangible solutions that ensure the inclusion of people that otherwise would be left out of institutionalised decision making or governance processes. The Toolbox aims to offer ways in which the circle of actors can be extended through means of participation.

### 2.1 What the Toolbox aims to be

A toolbox is understood as a set of enabling tools that provide actors with guidance when looking to set any initiative into motion. If, more specifically, we talk about a toolbox of participation we understand these tools to offer means of including people into decision making or governance processes as well as the management of public goods. A toolbox should provide stakeholders (e.g., urban practitioners, administrators, bottom up organisations, etc.) and communities with tools, instruments, methods, good practices, etc. to extend their knowledge of participation on a practical level.

During the conceptualising phase of the toolbox development, we looked at a number of existing (urban) toolboxes for inspiration. Notably, we studied the Placemaking Europe Toolbox, which Eutropian co-designed with partners and which collects curated placemaking resources – digital tool manuals and handbooks in an open-source format. We also utilised the widely known and used URBACT Toolbox, especially when lamenting about the structure of our toolbox. The URBACT Toolbox is tailored to respond to 5 different stages of the public action-planning cycle and offers tools that suit different stages of a project. Finally, we were inspired by the outstanding implementation of Her City Toolbox, which gathers best practices in participatory urban planning and design that focus on development from girls' and young women's needs and perspectives in urban development.

Besides its most important objective of supporting the piloting process, our toolbox aims to give an overview of existing participatory mechanisms, tools and good practices. We aim to have it in an online database format, made user friendly and easily searchable. Aimed at municipalities looking to find the right participatory tool to use, but also going beyond that, aimed at other actors of the Quintuple Helix model (Government - local and central; Community - local and trans-local; Academia as well as Industry). Participation being at the core of our Toolbox, we intend to make this approach be represented in our methodology as well: the toolbox will be designed and created in strong interaction with the pilot cities who will be its main resources and its primary users.

## 2.2 How can the Toolbox best serve the project and the pilots

Within EUARENAS, the toolbox development served both an analytical (desk research-based) and applied purpose. For one, it aimed to be a repository of known participatory tools and cases that provides information both on the successes (“good practices”) of given tools applied in the past but also to highlight some of the difficulties associated with using those tools (“bad practices”). Secondly, and related to the analytical aspect, the Toolbox serves the purpose of practical use. It supports actors who are looking to plan and implement a participatory process by offering existing tools and real-life experiences related to them. The Toolkit will help project partners, in particular pilot cities, as well as the wider public to explore specific participatory tools that they are looking for. It also offers a framework which helps to find the right tool to use if they are not yet searching with a particular tool in mind. The Toolkit has a section which specifically helps actors looking for tools of participation without any preconceptions. It is important to structure the process of searching for tools in a way that serves both those who know what they are looking for, but those as well who would like to be inspired by reading up on a collection of participatory tools and case studies.

## 2.3 How do we produce outcomes that are useful to the wider public

In order to serve both the requirements and needs of the project consortium, in particular that of the pilot cities involved in EUARENAS (Gdansk, Reggio Emilia and Voru), and to be able to produce outcomes that are accessible and useful for audiences beyond the project consortium, the Participatory Toolbox is an open-access, user-friendly and neat repository of tools and case studies. By creating something that foregoes the framework of the project, EUARENAS is able to build a legacy that will help the development of deliberative democracy practices in Europe and beyond.



### 3. THEORY AND METHODOLOGY

This chapter begins with an introduction to the themes of deliberative democracy and participation, and proceeds with a glimpse of deliberative democracy and participation in practice. Then, it follows a methodological part which describes the different dimensions that make up the Toolbox. Importantly, the aim of this chapter is not to frame participation and deliberative democracy scientifically, but rather to simplify their definitions and facilitate their comprehension to the readers.

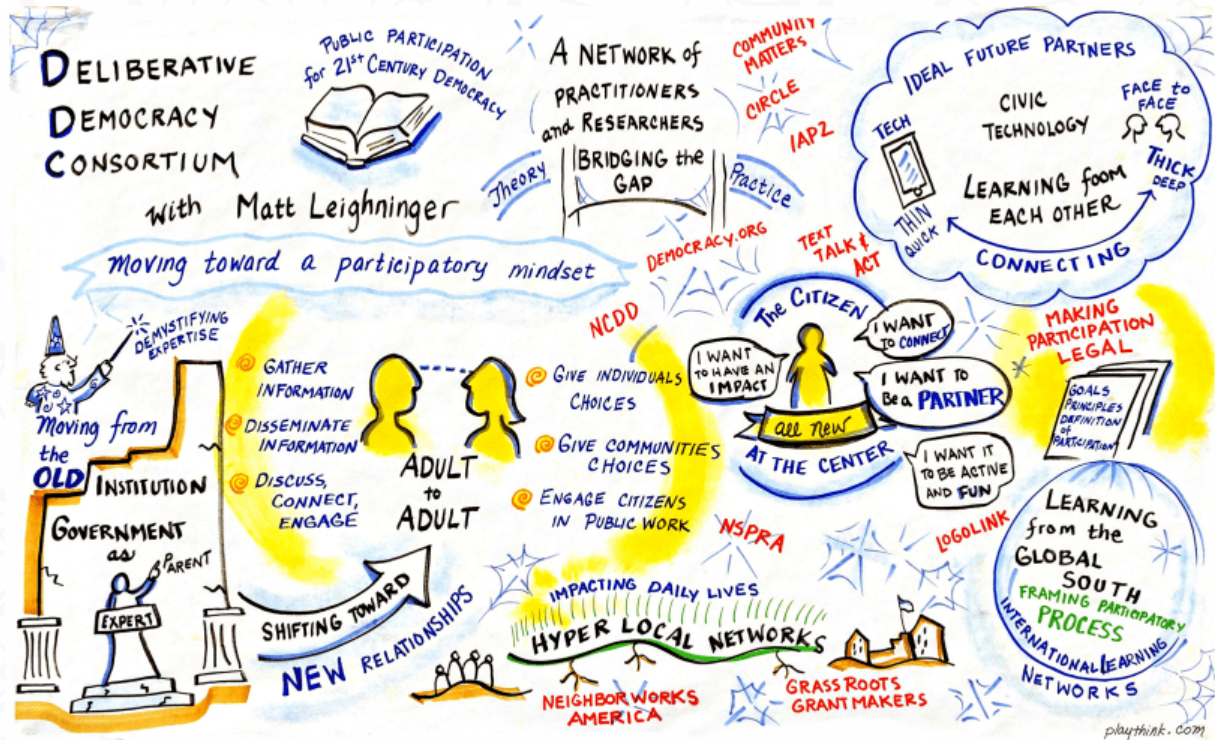


Figure 2. The Deliberative Democracy Consortium ©Deliberative Democracy Consortium

#### 3.1 Theory of deliberative democracy and participation

What we often understand as democracy today is usually some form of representative democracy. Because the direct participation of every eligible person is rather hard to achieve (as explained earlier), this provides a model of delegation of power and accountability which makes for a rather complex, yet mostly democratic system (depending a lot on characteristics of given systems). Nevertheless, other than through the aggregation of political will during elections, every-day citizens rarely get the chance to participate in decision making processes affecting their lives. That is if we merely look at formal institutions of democracy (Ufel et al, 2021). The concept of soft-democracy outlines democratic institutions that are not formalised and that can complement or even replace traditional decision-making realms and processes (Borrás and Conzelmann, 2007). These are usually bottom up deliberative and decision-making mechanisms, covered by the term 'participation' in urbanism and related disciplines. The term participation covers a wide range of mechanisms and tools used to consult citizens on given issues through deliberation and democratic or consensus-based decision making.

The main idea of deliberation was to substitute representation and majoritarian voting in parliaments with direct involvement and consensual decision making, as formulated by Habermas (2001), Cohen (1989) and Rawls (1997). Such an ideal model would satisfy the radical principle of democracy - that is, that everyone is involved in making the law - with individual freedom, where everyone affected by the law can voice their concerns and veto the solution. By eliminating the need for representation, deliberation also gets rid of the most problematic elements of it: political parties and their appetite for power that distorts democratic delegation of power and accountability (Ufel et al, 2021). Habermas (2001) and Cohen (1989) also

emphasise that meaningful deliberation and legitimate decisions derived from it can only be based on rational, logical argumentation based on facts.

Mini-publics, as proposed by Fung (2007) to describe deliberative practices, take place in small groups of about 25 citizens (e.g., citizens' assemblies, deliberative polling, ect.). This number of participants allows for a direct, quality deliberation among all while (if structured properly) maintaining the minimum requirement, allowing for scalability of the deliberative outcome. Mini-publics are only one branch of participatory realms and processes. However, if we understand these mini-publics as well as other participatory tools applied to include citizens into local-level decision making or the management of public goods as part of a larger system, we get to understand the concept of deliberative systems. Participatory tools can be seen in an ecosystem framework, where individual components (tools) and communities (participants) interrelate. Deliberative democracy is understood as a set of interrelated parts, such that a change in one tends to affect another. In this system, a 'division of labour' occurs between deliberative and non-deliberative institutions, practices and actors (Ufel et al, 2021). Precisely designed deliberation can have a positive democratic impact on the system on the whole. Similarly, a range of nominally non-deliberative elements or actors can directly foster deliberation, therefore should not be left out of the scope of interest of deliberative democrats.

### 3.2 Deliberative tools and practices

Public deliberation, which has been the main focus of this conceptual framework so far, is only one of many types of participation in the modern, liberal democratic realm. Different means of participation are also often employed when a need occurs to strengthen peoples' voices in representative systems. Participation, initiated both by authorities and by citizens, can have either a consensual or adversarial approach. In the first case - similarly to deliberative participation - the goal of engagement is to focus on the common good and solutions that expand the range of resources (material and symbolic) available to the community. The adversarial approach applies a different vision of politics, i.e. such where the interest of a particular group needs to be satisfied at the expense of others or secured in a radical struggle against the status quo (Ufel et al, 2021).

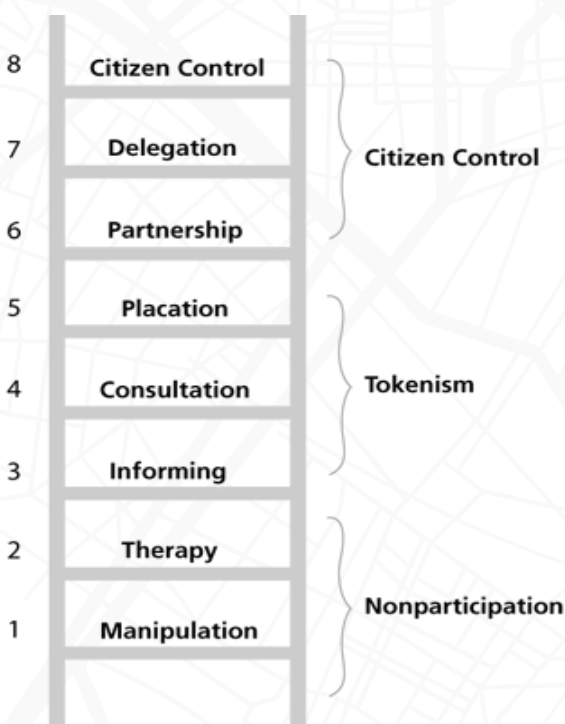


Figure 3. Degrees of Citizen Participation  
©Arnstein (1969)

The degree of the delegation of power or level of participation (as it is used more commonly) is one of the most important dimensions when looking at top-down participatory processes, initiated by those in power (on a local, national or even global scale). Through identifying the level of participation, we can get an idea of how meaningful are given tools at delegating power to citizens. The classical typology of Arnstein (1969) describes a ladder with eight steps, with higher steps representing higher degrees of participation, ranging from manipulation (as the first step) to citizen control as the highest one. At the higher levels of participation citizens have more power to negotiate, make decisions and change the status quo. They might even be responsible for the co-management or management of public goods. When it comes to the cooperation of various actors in co-creating, co-governing, co-managing, etc. public resources, it is crucial to highlight that while in many cases, a participatory process is time-bound, in the case of cooperative projects, participation needs often needs to be viewed as a continuous process. Although Arnstein's classification is useful, it does not

indicate the intent of the power holder (elected official) and to whom the power is delegated to through means of participation (citizen) sufficiently. Sarah White (1996), in a quadruple classification, describes the motivations of those in power for applying participatory tools and processes. She identifies (1) Nominal participation (used by those in power to legitimise plans or processes but does not delegate meaningful power to citizens), (2) Instrumental participation (trying to utilise the skills and knowledge of citizens, but usually to a predetermined and stated end - not an open ended process), (3) Representative participation (giving citizens a voice in decision making and implementation phases of policies or projects), (4) Transformative participation (empowers those who are involved and has the ability to alter informal and formal institutions responsible for marginalisation or exclusion). Based on these two typologies we can see that it is important to carefully study the fine details of participatory mechanisms and tools because what might seem like a tool to facilitate meaningful participation at a first glance, might not, in fact, move inclusion forward.

A large number of mechanisms and tools have been created to include citizens in local-level decision making. They vary significantly in e.g., the number of people they are able to include as well as in the degree of power they grant to those involved in the participatory process. With our Participatory Toolbox, we aim to (1) provide descriptions and examples of these tools, but we also (2) offer a classification of these tools according to a number of dimensions.

### 3.3 Methodology

The Participatory Toolbox we have created helps urban practitioners - and at first hand, those actively involved in the implementation of the pilot processes within the EUARENAS project - to choose tools and mechanisms of participation that suit their needs at given project circles or in given environments. The Toolbox aims to provide a comprehensive view of existing tools and good practices in participation while helping the reader choose between tools through classifications based on a number of dimensions detailed below.

**Description of tools and case studies:** The Toolbox offers a detailed description of given participatory tools in general, but it also offers descriptions of cases where these tools were applied. Cases are selected in two main ways.

(1) A handful of tools used in the EUARENAS case studies analysed under WP3 are presented and analysed with our own methodology and using our specific criteria. Priority is given to the cases provided by the pilot cities themselves, representing the activities they have already done previously and highlighting the tools they have already used, with an emphasis on what their experiences (good and bad practices) were with those given tools.

(2) Beyond the scope of EUARENAS, other cases/tools with detailed information were also selected, based on specific needs expressed by the cities during the action research accompanying the piloting process as well as during the piloting itself. It is important to make this distinction because tools in their application can vary significantly from case to case. When possible, the analysis of the tools corresponds to conclusions based on the pilot cities' experiences in using these tools in their local actions.

**Scale of process:** The Toolbox classifies the cases based on the scale of their implementation (international/national/local/neighbourhood), and it also describes the broader territorial impact of the cases.

**Initiators/ coordinators:** The Toolbox also classifies promoters of participatory projects (Supra-national/central government/central/local municipalities/bottom-up initiatives etc.). We provide a clear presentation of the motivation of these initial promoters of the processes, their relationship with other actors/participants and the changes of these relationships at the different stages of the process. These analyses are conducted in relation with WP3 and through interviews with the selected case studies.

Additionally, we discussed the transferability potential of given tools between different contexts.

**Participants:** The Toolbox also identifies participants of participatory tools and cases. Some tools are suitable to accommodate the input of citizens in general, but tools can also include specific groups or individuals such as, e.g., minorities, specific age or gender groups or marginalised groups, etc. We have placed a special emphasis on selecting cases that focus on youth as a target group. We chose to do so because (1) traditionally, this target group is often harder to reach and engage and (2) because the social, political and developmental impact can be greater, on the whole, if citizens become active or more engaged at an early age.

**Level of participation:** One of the most meaningful distinctions between different tools of participation is the level of participation they accommodate. We have taken Arnstein's ladder of participation as a basis to illustrate the extent of participation given tools facilitate.

**Methods/tools:** The Toolbox categorises selected cases based on the types of tools they utilise. This allows the reader to understand some of the broader methods under which different case studies and tools fall under. All cases fall within one of these six border method categories: (1) Participatory videos involved in co-governance, (2) Minipublic, (3) Participatory budgeting, (4) Digital participation platform, (5) Bottom-up participatory initiative, (6) Citizens' assembly.

**Duration:** The Toolbox differentiates between one-off and permanent participatory processes.

**Transferability:** Readers can also understand how easy or difficult it is to transfer given tools into different contexts (Low/Medium/High).

Because the Toolbox got compiled with the primary aim help the work of WP4 within the **EUARENAS** project and, more specifically, that of pilot cities, the Toolbox methodology and approach both incorporated a large degree of flexibility, seeking feedback from pilot cities at given stages of their action research and piloting. The Toolbox addresses concerns of the Pilot' Cities and builds on their feedback corresponding to changes to the methodology (dimensions, filtering, non-filtering categories, etc.) as well as the selected cases of the Toolbox to better suit their needs.

### 3.4. Methodology used to construct the Toolbox

Based on the work carried out throughout WP4, different methods of diverse nature and with specific purposes are employed. Here we describe them and their implications.

#### (1) A design thinking-based method:

The structure of the Toolbox finalised the needs and objectives of the cities as defined in their state of the art analyses and action plans. We created test analyses in order to obtain the cities' feedback on the use of the Toolbox at given stages of the Toolbox development.

#### (2) Secondary research

This included desk research, which was primarily built on data derived from WP3, and that were complemented with interviews taken with process initiators, organisers or researchers. Desk research was done on the **five case studies we decided to pick from WP3** to connect their work with WP4 and the development of the Toolbox. These cases are (1) the Helsinki District Liaison Officers (Finland), (2) the Office of Community Participation in Józsefváros (Budapest, Hungary), (3) the Gdansk Participatory Budgeting (Poland), (4) the Quartiere Bene Comune in Reggio Emilia (Italy) and (5) the Voru Social Hackathon (Estonia).

#### (3) In-depth interviews

The analysis of the tools is based on a series of in-depth interviews in order to understand the practical use of the tools, the main challenges/difficulties faced during its use and the good and bad

experiences, as well as a set of different contextual details. All 20 selected cases comprising the Toolbox are primarily based on interviews with people directly involved in the participatory process (initiators, process coordinators/organisers, researchers, etc.). The interviews provide an in-depth view into theoretical and practical considerations related to given participatory tools and their transferability.

#### **(4) Utilising constant feedback of the cities and the broader consortium**

Wherever it was possible, pilot cities were involved in assessing and analysing the tools and the Toolbox in an iterative process during a series of meetings and workshops. These were held at the weekly online meetings of WP4, as well as dedicated online workshops. Between 2021 and 2023, we held three in-person workshops at our Consortium meetings in Reggio Emilia (2021), Berlin (2023) and Wrocław (2023). These meetings and workshops, together with pilot cities and the wider consortium, helped to refine the methodology of the Toolbox and helped finalise its cases/tools.

#### **(5) Publishing articles**

We have started, and will continue to, publish articles showcasing a selection of tools based on common transversal elements in order to provide cities in our [Cooperative City magazine](#). They provide information and the reader to plan or implement similar participatory processes. The articles are available linked to the Toolbox, shared with pilot cities and used for dissemination purposes to promote the use of the Toolbox and the [EUARENAS](#) project.

## 4. TOOLBOX STRUCTURE

The online repository of deliberative and participatory democracy practices, although not vast, represents a large set of qualitative data. This, without an efficient mechanism to sort through cases, makes navigating different tools and practices rather complicated. One way to help users navigate through many dimensions is to allow them to narrow down the list of items to a manageable number that satisfies their specific criteria.

In this regard, the Toolbox is shaped around two main categories: filtering and non-filtering options. The former narrows down the list of tools through filter values, while the latter further describes the selected tools and participatory processes. In the following chapters, these two categories are explained in detail.

### 4.1 Filtering categories

By filtering, it is possible to analyse a given set of content to exclude items that do not meet a certain criteria. Importantly, a filter category is one or more properties of an item which contains several filter values. In accordance with the dimensions of the Toolbox mentioned in Chapter 3, the filtering categories are the following (in brackets, the filter values):

- Tool (*citizen's assembly, participatory budgeting, social hackathon...*);
- Scale of the process (*International, national, regional, municipal, district or neighbourhood level*);
- Initiators/coordinators (*national, city or district administration, NGO, informal group, individual citizen, and other*);
- Participants (*Representative, regular citizens, minorities, specific age or gender groups or marginalised groups*);
- Level of participation (*manipulation, therapy, informing, consultation, placation, partnership, delegation, citizen control*);
- Duration (*one-off, permanent*);
- Transferability (*high, medium, low*).

### 4.2 Non-filtering categories

Based on the filtering categories and the respective values, a selection of cases will be included in the Toolbox. Each case in the Toolbox, in addition to the previous categories and values, is communicated in a sort of a data-sheet that summarises the core of the selected case. The one-pager contains the following non-filtering categories:

- Abstract: Giving an overview of the case study and summary of its most important features.
- Motivation: A reason or reasons behind the initiator's decision to start the participatory process.
- Context of participation: The border socio-political context the given participatory process has is to be seen in, especially the state of the art of deliberative democracy or participation in the given country, region or city.
- Financial aspects: The financial resources needed and the sources of funding for the participatory process and related activities.
- Recruitment and inclusiveness: What method was used for the recruitment of participants, how was the recruitment process and what measures were taken to ensure the inclusiveness of the initiative.
- Process: A series of actions or steps taken in order to achieve a particular end.

- Outcomes and lessons learned: The way the process turned out and the key learnings associated with the project.
- Failure: These refer to obstacles or pitfalls within the participatory processes that had proven not to work well or that had produced unwanted results, and therefore advisable to look out for when adopting the tool/model.
- Transferability: Questions related to the successful transfer of the tool/model to different contexts.

In conclusion, each case includes the following information:

- Name of the practice and location
  - Tool / method
  - Level of participation
  - Initiators/ coordinators
  - Scale of the process
  - Participants
  - Duration
  - Transferability
- Description of the case
  - Motivation
  - Context of participation
  - Financial aspects
  - Recruitment and inclusiveness
  - Process
  - Outcome and lessons learned
  - Failure
  - Transferability

## 5. TOOLBOX CASES

After mapping deliberative democracy and participatory practices across Europe (and even beyond), we decided to include 20 cases of particular interest into our Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods.

Whilst there was no specific thematic criteria, a majority of the cases reveal a top-down participatory approach. Moreover, we deliberately highlighted cases spanning various levels of geographic and administrative scales, ranging from local initiatives, such as the creation of platforms for participation to global endeavours, such as the World Wide Views on Climate and Energy (WWV) initiative that engaged over 10,000 citizens in more than 100 locations worldwide to deliberate on climate change and energy policies.

Notably, we wanted to prioritise processes that involved marginalised groups as participants (youngsters, women, foreigners, lower income groups), recognising their pivotal role in advancing deliberative democracy in practical contexts. This emphasis underscores our commitment to fostering inclusive and meaningful democratic practices across different settings.

By delving deep into case studies through interviewing key individuals involved in the organisation of the participatory processes, we gained a directional view of the state of the art of deliberative democracy and participation, as well as an overview of the biggest challenges in the field today.

Name and location of the participatory process/tool		Filtering dimensions	Name and organisation of the interviewee
<a href="#">Laboratori di Quartiere</a>	Bologna, Italy	Permanent City administration, Research institute/university Empowerment, Partnership Participatory body evolved in co-governance Third sector, Voluntary participants City, District, Neighbourhood Medium transferability	Erika Capasso, President of Fondazione Innovazione
<a href="#">Vorarlberg Citizens' Council</a>	Vorarlberg, Austria	Permanent City administration, National/Federal administration, Regional administration Collaboration Minipublic Representation of citizens City Medium transferability	Michael Lederer, Head of the Office for Voluntary Engagement and Participation in Vorarlberg
<a href="#">Korsholm Citizens' Initiative Review</a>	Korsholm, Finland	One-off City administration, Research institute/university Consultation Minipublic Representation of citizens City High transferability	Maija Setälä, PALO (Participatory in Long-Term Decision-Making) research project coordinator at the University of Turku
<a href="#">Democracy Festival</a>	Paide, Estonia	Permanent Non-governmental organisation Information Bottom-up participatory initiative City representatives/officials/administration,	Kaspar Tammist, Manager of the Opinion Festival



		Third sector, Voluntary participants, Youth participants National/Federal Low transferability	
<a href="#">Quartiere Bene Comune</a>	Reggio Emilia, Italy	Permanent City administration Empowerment, Partnership Participatory body involved in co-governance Third sector, Voluntary participants City, District, Neighbourhood Medium transferability	Nicoletta Levi, Manager of the Policy Department of Participation Policies and Relations with City Services in Reggio Emilia
<a href="#">Barcelona Citizens' Climate Assembly</a>	Barcelona, Spain	One-off City administration, Third sector Collaboration Citizens' assembly Representation of citizens City Low transferability	Gerard Lillo Jové, Head of Department of Urban Participation, Ecological Transition, Urban Services and Housing in Barcelona
<a href="#">Finding Places</a>	Hamburg, Germany	One-off City administration, Research institute/university Consultation Digital participation platforms Voluntary participants City, District Low transferability	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg Rainer Noennig, Professor of Digital City Science at Hafencity University Hamburg
<a href="#">Helsinki District Liaison Officers</a>	Helsinki, Finland	Permanent City administration Information Participatory body involved in co-governance Voluntary participants District Medium transferability	Matti Fritsch, senior researcher of the Karelian Institute, Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, University of Eastern Finland
<a href="#">Civocracy</a>	Berlin, Germany	Permanent City administration, District administration, National/Federal administration, Non-governmental organisation, Private sector, Regional administration Consultation Digital participation platforms Voluntary participants City, District, International, National/Federal, Regional Neighbourhood High transferability	Marine Lesaint, Civocracy Digital Engagement Manager
<a href="#">Józsefváros Office of Community Participation</a>	Budapest, Hungary	Permanent District administration Consultation Participatory body involved in co-governance Voluntary participants District	No interview conducted, case based on primary and desk research by Lukács Hayes (Eutopian)

		High transferability	
<a href="#">World Wide Views of Climate and Energy</a>	Global	One-off Non-governmental organisation Consultation Minipublic Representation of citizens International High transferability	Bjorn Bedsted, Global Coordinator of World Wide Views
<a href="#">Vienna Youth Strategy</a>	Vienna, Austria	One-off City administration, Third sector Youth participants City Medium transferability	Nada Taha Ali Mohamed, Lead Coordinator of the Vienna Youth Strategy
<a href="#">UK Climate Assembly</a>	United Kingdom	One-off Non-governmental organisation Consultation Citizens' assembly Representation of citizens National/Federal High transferability	Brett Hennig, Director of the Sortition Foundation
<a href="#">Newham Permanent Citizen Council</a>	London, UK	Permanent District administration Consultation Citizens' assembly Representation of citizens District High transferability	Tom Lord, Director of Sortition Services at the Sortition Foundation
<a href="#">Helsinki Youth Council</a>	Helsinki, Finland	Permanent City administration, Non-governmental organisation Consultation Youth participants City High transferability	Henna Vasara, Helsinki Youth Council Councilor
<a href="#">Brussels Mixed Parliamentary Committees</a>	Brussels, Belgium	Permanent Regional administration Partnership Citizens' assembly Representation of citizens Regional Low transferability	Jonathan Moskovic, Councillor of Democratic Innovation at the Brussels Regional Legislature
<a href="#">G1000</a>	Belgium	Permanent Non-governmental organisation Empowerment Bottom-up participatory initiative, Citizens' assembly Representation of citizens National/Federal Medium transferability	Ben Eersels, Executive Director of the G1000

<p><a href="#"><u>Gdansk Participatory Budgeting</u></a></p>	<p>Gdansk, Poland</p>	<p>Permanent City administration Consultation Participatory budgeting Voluntary participants City High transferability</p>	<p>Michal Zorena, Head of Department for Social Development at the Municipality of Gdansk</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Voru Social Hackathon</u></a></p>	<p>Voru, Estonia</p>	<p>Permanent Regional administration Partnership Minipublic Voluntary participants Regional Medium transferability</p>	<p>Kadri Kangro, Inventor of the Vunki Mano Social Hackathon Model and Academic</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Democratic Confederatism in Rojava</u></a></p>	<p>Rojava, Syria</p>	<p>Permanent Regional administration Citizen control Minipublic Representation of citizens Regional Low transferability</p>	<p>Dr. Abdulkerim Omar, Mr. Eyyup Doru, DAANES in Europe, Yilmaz Orkan and Tiziano Saccucci</p>

## 6. FIELDWORK AND ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDIES

This section outlines the fieldwork and analysis phases that were integral to developing the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods. The fieldwork involved extensive interviews and desk research, followed by a thorough analysis of the collected data. This process ensured that the Toolbox was grounded in practical insights and real-world experiences.

### 6.1 Process of the Fieldwork

The fieldwork phase, which spanned eight months from May 2023 to December 2023, was a critical component of our research. This period involved the identification, outreach, and interviewing of key stakeholders managing various participatory processes across Europe

Conducting interviews proved to be challenging due to several factors. Firstly, identifying individuals who managed specific participatory processes, particularly older ones, was often difficult. Some potential interviewees never responded or declined to participate in our research. Secondly, many interviewees had busy schedules, making it hard to negotiate and finalise interview dates.

Before the interviewing phase, a thorough desk research phase was conducted. This phase involved collecting general information on the selected participatory processes and tools. The information gathered during this phase formed the foundation of each case study and guided the development of interview questions.

Interviews were primarily conducted online to accommodate the busy schedules of the interviewees and to facilitate broader participation. Each interview was recorded and transcribed to ensure accuracy and to allow for detailed analysis. Despite the challenges, the interviews provided invaluable insights into the practical application of participatory tools.

After an initial analysis of the interviews, we decided to present the qualitative case study results not as direct interview transcripts but as structured factsheets. This decision was made because data were also collected via desk research, and presenting the findings as factsheets allowed for a more coherent and comprehensive presentation of each case.

### 6.2 Analysis of Case Studies

The analysis phase involved a detailed examination of both secondary and primary data for each case study. Each case was analysed individually to identify the key factors contributing to the success or challenges of the participatory process.

Key aspects considered in the analysis included:

- **Initial Motivation:** Understanding why the participatory process was initiated was crucial. This included examining the goals and objectives set by the initiators and how these shaped the process.
- **Socio-Political Context:** The broader socio-political environment in which the participatory process took place was analysed. This context often influenced the design and implementation of the participatory tools.
- **Inclusion and Outreach:** We looked at how inclusive the participatory processes were, focusing on the methods of outreach and the extent to which different groups were involved. Special attention was given to the inclusion of marginalised groups.
- **Challenges and Failures:** Identifying what went wrong in each participatory process was essential for learning. These insights highlighted critical learning points and potential pitfalls to avoid in future implementations.

- **Critical Learning Points:** Key lessons learned from each case were documented. These lessons provided valuable insights into best practices and effective strategies for participatory processes.
- **Transferability:** The analysis also explored the transferability of each participatory tool to different contexts. Factors that influenced the ease or difficulty of transferring the tools were identified.

The results of the case studies were compiled into comprehensive factsheets, which are available online on the Toolbox website. These factsheets provide detailed descriptions and analyses of each case, making the insights accessible to a broader audience.

By systematically analysing each case study, we were able to distil valuable insights into the practical application of participatory tools. This analysis not only informed the development of the Toolbox but also provided a rich resource for practitioners seeking to implement similar participatory processes in their contexts.

The combination of rigorous fieldwork and detailed analysis ensured that the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods is a robust and practical resource. It draws on real-world experiences to provide actionable insights and tools for enhancing participatory democracy.

## 7. ITERATION WITH PILOT CITIES AND THE PROJECT CONSORTIUM

The development of the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods was a highly iterative process involving close collaboration with the pilot cities, Eutroplan, WP4, and the broader project consortium. This iterative approach ensured that the Toolbox was tailored to the specific needs of the pilot cities and was informed by practical insights from the field.

### 7.1 Collaborative Development

From the outset, the Toolbox was conceived as a dynamic resource that would evolve based on feedback and real-world application. The iterative process involved several key activities:

- **Regular Feedback Sessions:** Weekly online meetings and dedicated workshops were held to discuss progress, gather feedback, and refine the Toolbox. These sessions included representatives from the pilot cities, WP4, and the project consortium.
- **In-Person Workshops:** Three in-person workshops were conducted at consortium meetings in Reggio Emilia (2021), Berlin (2023), and Wrocław (2023). These workshops provided valuable opportunities for hands-on collaboration and deeper engagement with stakeholders.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Feedback from the pilot cities was continually integrated into the development process. This included adjustments to the methodology, selection of case studies, and refinement of the Toolbox's structure and content.

### 7.2 Pilot City Involvement

The pilot cities played a crucial role in shaping the Toolbox. Their involvement ensured that the tools and methods included were practical and relevant. Specific contributions from the pilot cities included:

- **Needs Assessment:** Pilot cities provided detailed information on their specific needs and challenges, which informed the selection and development of the tools.
- **Field Testing:** Tools and methods were tested in the pilot cities, providing real-time data on their effectiveness and areas for improvement.
- **Case Studies:** Some of the case studies included in the Toolbox were contributed by the pilot cities, highlighting their experiences and lessons learned.

### 7.3 Broader Consortium Engagement

The broader project consortium, including other WP4 partners, contributed to the development of the Toolbox through:

- **Thematic Expertise:** Consortium members provided expertise on specific themes, such as deliberative democracy and participatory governance, which enriched the content of the Toolbox.
- **Resource Sharing:** The consortium facilitated the sharing of resources and best practices across different contexts, ensuring a diverse and comprehensive set of tools.

By involving the pilot cities and the broader consortium in an iterative process, the Toolbox was continuously refined and enhanced. This collaborative approach ensured that the final product was not only theoretically sound but also practically useful for a wide range of users.

## 8. PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND OVERALL ANALYSIS OF THE TOOLBOX

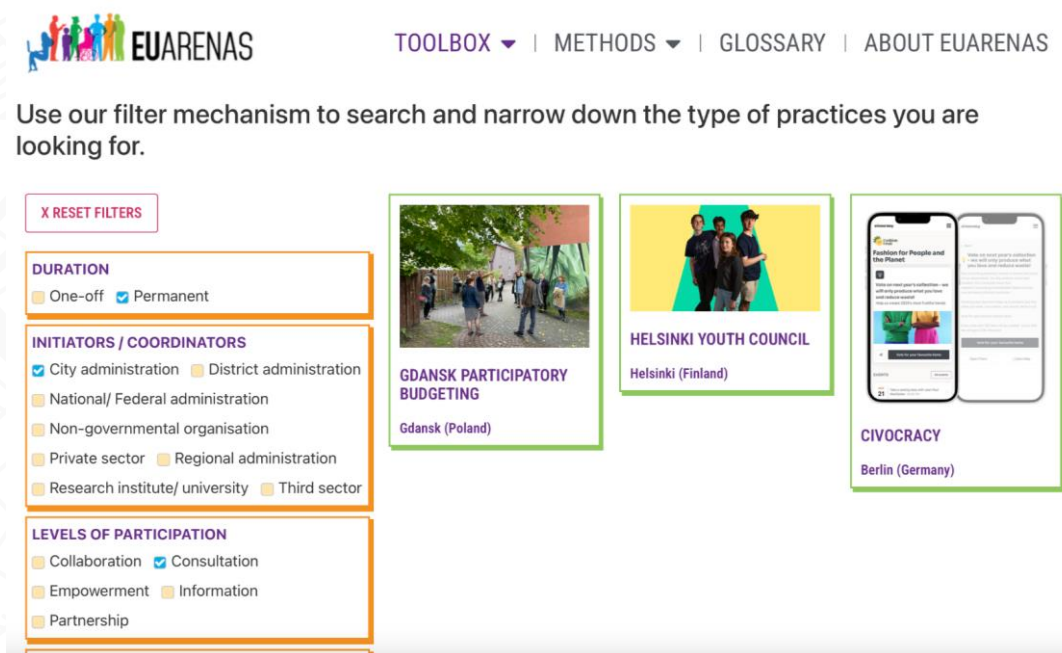
The Toolbox responds to a major European challenge: the need to strengthen legitimacy, identification and engagement within the democratic public sphere. It investigates the ways in which social movements coupled with local government reform initiatives manifesting themselves in local-level experiments, create momentum for political change that include more inclusive and participatory forms of governance.

### 8.1 Who is the Toolbox for?

The Toolbox is set to address a double objective: first, it assists the pilot cities in the implementation of their action plans by presenting and analysing the tools they can use during their pilots, and by presenting them suggestions on how to transfer these to their cases; second, on a wider scale, the online participatory toolbox targets urban practitioners looking to study, plan or implement a participatory tool. These could be people working in the civic sector, at municipalities or other types of organisations.

### 8.2 How to search in the Toolbox?

In order to help users navigate through its many dimensions, the filter mechanism of the toolbox allows them to narrow down the list of items to a manageable number that satisfies specific needs. The filtering categories are the following: Methods/ tool; Scale of the process; Initiators/ coordinators; Participants; Level of participation; Duration; and Transferability.



### 8.3 What are the methods featured in the Toolbox?

For the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods, we meticulously curated cases from diverse corners of Europe and beyond, aiming to capture a wide array of participatory approaches and geographic representation.

Each selected case, classified under six broader participatory methods such as participatory bodies involved in co-governance, mini-publics, participatory budgeting, digital participation platforms, bottom-up participatory initiatives, and citizens’ assemblies, stands as a notable example of democratic innovation, embodying unique strategies and outcomes.

In brief, with participatory bodies involved in co-governance we refer to a group that facilitates collaborative decision-making, actively involving stakeholders like citizens, community members, and representatives from relevant organisations; mini-publics' denotes a small, representative group of individuals randomly selected from the general population to engage in deliberative processes; participatory budgeting is a democratic and collaborative process that empowers citizens to actively contribute to the allocation of a portion of public funds; digital participation platforms serve as an online tool or system specifically crafted to foster civic engagement, collaboration, and participation in decision-making processes; bottom-up participatory initiatives refer to a process or project that originates and is driven by the active involvement, ideas, and contributions of individuals or communities at the grassroots level; and lastly, citizens' assemblies are a deliberative and participatory democratic process that assembles a representative group of citizens to collectively discuss and formulate recommendations on specific issues or policies.

### 8.4 What did we prioritise in the case selection?

Whilst there was no specific thematic criteria, a majority of the cases reveal a top-down participatory approach.

Moreover, we deliberately highlighted cases spanning various levels of geographic and administrative scales, ranging from local initiatives, such as the creation of platforms for participation like Quartiere Bene Comune in Reggio Emilia and Laboratori di Quartiere in Bologna, or the introduction of new institutional arrangements, like the Office for Community Participation in Józsefváros, Budapest, which rely on a combination of participatory and deliberative methods, to global endeavours, such as the World Wide Views on Climate and Energy (WWV) initiative that engaged over 10,000 citizens in more than 100 locations worldwide to deliberate on climate change and energy policies.

Notably, we wanted to prioritise the possibility of marginalised groups (youngsters, women, foreigners, lower income groups), recognising their pivotal role in advancing deliberative democracy in practical contexts, such as the Helsinki Youth Council that serves as a platform bridging young voices with local governance. This emphasis underscores our commitment to fostering inclusive and meaningful democratic practices across different settings.

### 8.5 What are the main issues around the inclusion of participants?

Inclusion remains one of the main challenges in setting up and running top-down participatory processes on any administrative level. In the interviews we wanted to get response to the following questions: How do we engage participants beyond the usual suspects in participatory processes? How can we ensure that underrepresented or marginalised individuals and communities are also present and included, in particular children and youth? What are the best tools or methods for inclusive or representative deliberative and participatory processes? The toolbox provides answers and best practices to these questions, offering guidance on fostering genuine inclusivity.

It is often challenging to engage a substantial number of people and even if there's interest in a specific participatory process, given segments of the population are much harder to reach and draw in (e.g. marginalised or vulnerable groups). The Toolbox showcases a few different proven techniques of inclusion. The Vienna Youth Strategy, for example, used targeted outreach to engage a large number of children and young people. Youth are usually particularly hard to reach and make them interested in participating. For this end, the Vienna Youth Strategy process employed methods that lowered the barrier of entry to the process. (1) They created strategic partnerships with schools and youth centres, (2) engaged most youth within-school-hours, and (3) used trusted adults like teachers or youth workers to facilitate the workshops. This led to over 22 thousand youth participants in the overall process.



Another noteworthy method of inclusion is the method of sortition which was used by many of the cases described in the Toolbox (e.g. UK Climate Assembly, Vorarlberg Citizen Council, Barcelona Climate Assembly, Newham Permanent Citizen Council, Brussels Mixed Parliamentary Committees and G1000). Although more and more widely used, especially in the context of citizens' assemblies, sortition as a method of recruiting participants is still rather unknown even though it is the most suitable tool we know to ensure true representation of populations in participatory processes. Sortition, also known as random selection, is used to form assemblies (samples) of citizens who are representative of the general population to deliberate. By randomly selecting participants, sortition ensures that various demographics (such as age, gender, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status) are fairly represented, thus facilitating more inclusion.

### 8.6 To what extent is power delegated to citizens?

Going beyond the somewhat outdated classification of Arnstein's ladder of participation (1969) that describes how empowered public institutions and officials deny power to citizens, and how levels of citizen agency, control, and power can be increased, the toolbox explores the nuances and the extent of the delegation of power, giving an overview of primarily top-down processes. It questions whether politicians and decision-makers primarily aim for tokenistic processes or if they are genuinely interested in sharing power for better and more inclusive governance. Additionally, it delves into what other barriers to meaningful participation could be present beyond political will, providing good practices and interesting examples concerning these questions.

When it comes to top-down participatory processes the initiator (e.g. local, regional or national government) always aims to delegate a certain degree of power and authority to citizens. However, the degree and, hence, the meaningfulness of the delegation of power varies significantly from process to process. Some participatory processes can be tokenistic and do not actually aim to empower citizens beyond getting a seal of approval from them. On the other extreme end of the participatory spectrum we can place deliberative or participatory processes that can reach binding decisions, meaning that the authority has to automatically enact the decision reached by the citizens. Processes with binding decisions as an outcome are very rare. We didn't find any mechanisms where the initiator doesn't leverage some kind of oversight at the final stage of the process. Two examples of cases, however, where broad authority is delegated to citizens should be noted here. One being the Quartiere Bene Comune of Reggio Emilia where the municipality used co-design and co-management tools, creating a partnership-like relationship between citizens and the local government. Another noteworthy case in terms of the extent of the delegation of power to citizens is the case of the Mixed-Parliamentary Committees in Brussels. Though the initiators of the process wanted to give equal voting rights to citizens and elected parliamentarians, the constitution of the Brussels region did not allow for this. For the time being, the Brussels initiative includes a follow-up event nine months after the assembly, where the Parliament and government report back to citizens on the actions taken regarding their recommendations. This commitment to transparency and accountability distinguishes the Brussels approach, ensuring that citizen contributions have a lasting impact on policy and governance.

## 9. CAPITALIZATION AND DISSEMINATION

This section focuses on the strategies employed to capitalise on the insights gained from the development of the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods and to disseminate these findings to a wider audience. The goal is to ensure that the knowledge and tools developed through this project are effectively shared and utilised by practitioners, researchers, and policymakers interested in participatory democracy.

### 9.1 Capitalisation

Capitalisation involves leveraging the findings and tools developed through the Toolbox to maximise their impact and ensure their sustainability. Several key strategies were employed:

- **Integration with Pilot Cities:** The insights and tools from the Toolbox were integrated into the ongoing activities of the pilot cities involved in the **EUARENAS** project. This integration helped to refine the participatory processes in these cities and provided real-time feedback to further enhance the Toolbox.
- **Workshops and Training Sessions:** To ensure that the tools and methods were understood and could be effectively applied, we organised workshops and training sessions for stakeholders in the pilot cities and the broader project consortium. These sessions focused on practical applications of the Toolbox and allowed participants to gain hands-on experience with the tools.
- **Ongoing Support and Feedback Mechanisms:** We established channels for ongoing support and feedback, enabling the initial users of the Toolbox (pilot cities) to ask questions, share their experiences, and provide feedback. This iterative process helped to continuously improve the tools and methods.
- **Broader Applications:** The Toolbox's application spans well beyond the pilot cities and the **EUARENAS** consortium. It is designed to be a useful tool for municipalities, urban planners, community organisations, policymakers, and practitioners involved in participatory governance and urban development across Europe and globally. Additionally, it serves as a valuable resource for NGOs, civic tech enthusiasts, and anyone interested in enhancing citizen engagement and democratic practices.
- **User-Friendly Interface:** The user-friendly interface of the Toolbox ensures that its future audience could include not only urban professionals or researchers of the topic but also interested lay people or students looking for topics to delve deep into. The intuitive design and accessibility of the Toolbox make it an excellent educational resource for academic purposes and for fostering public understanding of participatory democracy.

### 9.2 Dissemination

Dissemination is crucial to ensure that the knowledge and tools developed are widely accessible and used. Our dissemination strategy included the following key elements:

- **Online Platform:** The Toolbox was made available on an easy-to-navigate online platform ([euarenas-toolbox.eu](https://euarenas-toolbox.eu)). This platform provides access to all case studies, tools, and additional resources, ensuring that the information is accessible to a wide audience.
- **Publications:** We published articles showcasing a selection of tools and case studies based on common transversal elements. These articles were published in our [Cooperative City magazine](#) and linked to the Toolbox website. They provide detailed information and guidance on implementing similar participatory processes. We are also contributing to a chapter written about the Toolbox into the **EUARENAS** book that will collect the most important theoretical and practical findings of the consortium project.
- **Social Media and Digital Outreach:** We utilised social media platforms and digital outreach strategies to promote the Toolbox. Regular updates, success stories, and practical tips were shared to engage a broader audience and drive traffic to the Toolbox website.



- **Training Module Development:** We developed a training module based on the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods. This training helps urban professionals and city administrators build capacities based on the findings of the Toolbox. It covers deliberative democracy and participation both in theoretical and practical terms, utilising a number of case studies.
- **Key Training Issues:** The training addresses two main issues identified in the field of participation:
  1. **Difficulty of Inclusion and Outreach:** Strategies to reach participants beyond the usual suspects.
  2. **Extent of Delegation of Power:** Practical solutions based on the conclusions of the case study analyses regarding how power is shared in participatory processes.
- **Capacity Building Events:** We organised events in Rome and Budapest where we conducted capacity-building training with local stakeholders, including urban practitioners, city administrators and officials, researchers, and more. These events generated significant interest in the Toolbox and added relevance and substance to its findings.
- **Knowledge Transfer:** These events, along with further planned events, are excellent ways to transfer the knowledge generated in the project to the wider scientific and professional public



- **Online Training Module:** We are also creating an online training module based on the in-person training we developed. This module will be available as open-access online, allowing us to reach an even broader audience.

By capitalising on the findings from the development of the Toolbox and employing a comprehensive dissemination strategy, we aim to ensure that the insights and tools developed are widely adopted and have a lasting impact on participatory democracy practices.

## 10. CONCLUSION

This comprehensive resource, born from the collaborative efforts of Eutroplan, WP4, the pilot cities, and the broader EUARENAS consortium, serves as both a practical guide and an analytical tool for urban practitioners, policymakers, and community organisations.

The Toolbox was designed to address the dual objectives of supporting the pilot cities in their participatory initiatives and providing a valuable resource for broader application. By documenting and analysing a diverse range of participatory tools and methods, the Toolbox offers insights into the practicalities of implementing participatory processes and highlights best practices and lessons learned.

The iterative development process, involving continuous feedback and collaboration with pilot cities and consortium partners, ensured that the Toolbox was grounded in real-world experiences and responsive to the needs of its users. With 20 detailed case studies and a robust methodological framework, the Toolbox provides a thorough overview of participatory tools, categorised for ease of use and tailored to different contexts and needs. Emphasising the inclusion of marginalised groups, the Toolbox showcases methods for engaging diverse populations, ensuring that participatory processes are truly representative and inclusive. Moreover, the Toolbox serves not only as a repository of knowledge but also as a practical guide for implementing participatory processes. Its user-friendly design and accessible online platform make it a valuable tool for practitioners and researchers alike.

The Toolbox is more than a static resource; it is a living document that will continue to evolve as new insights and experiences are gathered. The training modules, both in-person and online, extend the impact of the Toolbox by building the capacities of urban professionals and administrators to implement effective participatory processes. As cities across Europe and beyond strive to enhance citizen engagement and participatory governance, the Toolbox offers a proven set of tools and methods to guide these efforts. The knowledge generated through this project contributes to the broader discourse on participatory democracy, providing a foundation for future research and practice.

The success of the Toolbox of Experimental Participatory Methods underscores the importance of collaborative, iterative, and inclusive approaches in developing resources for participatory democracy. By bridging the gap between research and action, the Toolbox not only supports the pilot cities in their ongoing initiatives but also offers a valuable resource for anyone committed to advancing democratic governance. We look forward to seeing the continued impact of the Toolbox as it is utilised, adapted, and expanded upon in various contexts. The lessons learned and the practices documented here will undoubtedly contribute to a more inclusive and participatory future for urban governance.

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## APPENDIX

### Standard Interview Questionnaire (with room for divergence)

1. Why did the participatory process begin?
2. What is the quality of participatory and deliberative democracy in your city/country?
3. What were your sources of funding, and how much is your budget?
4. How do you recruit participants?
5. To what extent is the participatory process inclusive? What measures were taken to include more marginalised or vulnerable groups of youth?
6. How did the participatory process develop and what were the challenges or unexpected events, and reactions?
7. What were the outcomes and lessons learned?
8. What did not go according to plan producing unintended results?
9. What are the elements that could be transferred to other contexts? What are the conditions of a successful transfer?