



**NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER ON THE
GROUND: TOWARDS REAL CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION**

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DIGITAL CITYMAKERS' SUMMIT
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Structure of the presentation

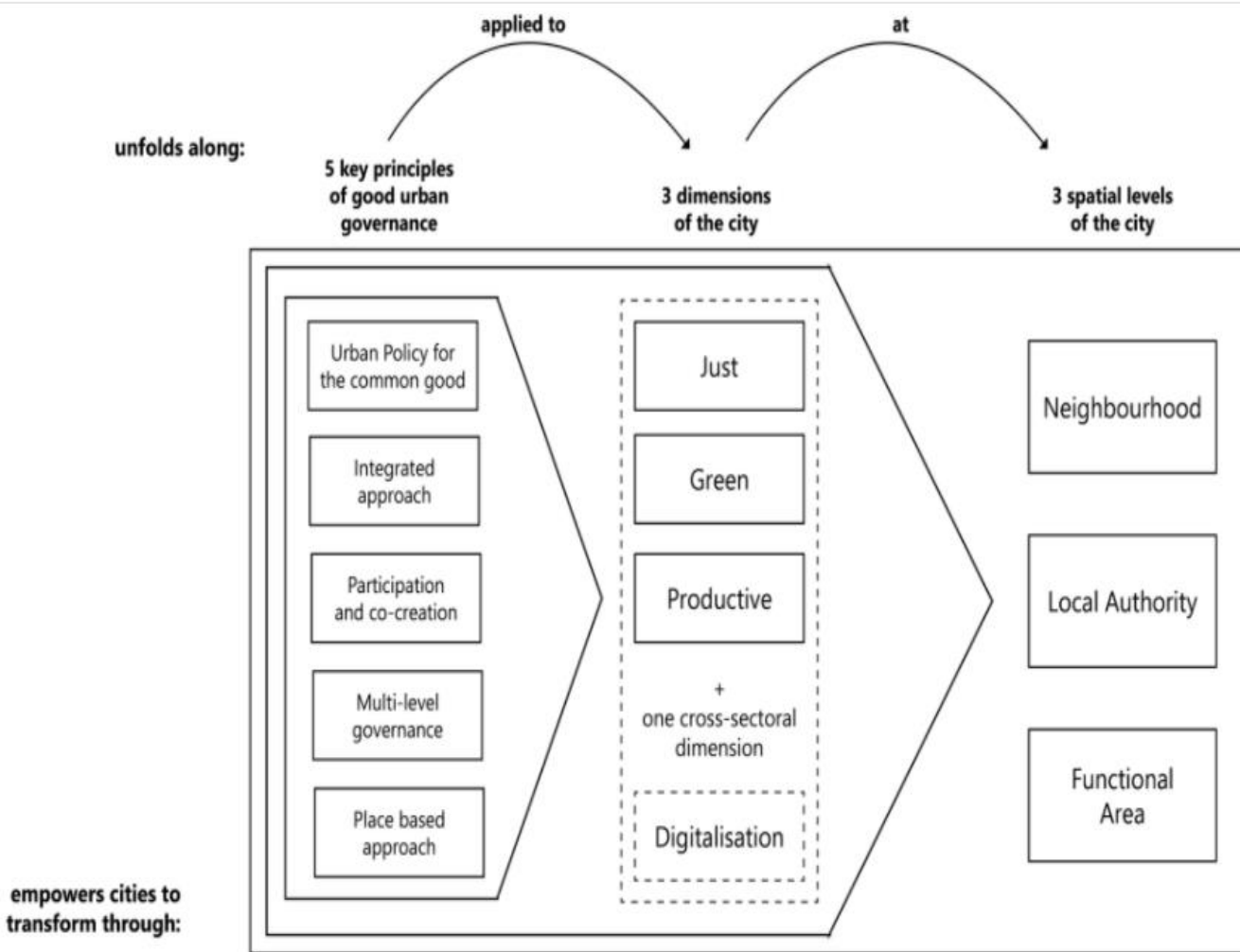
- ◆ **The New Leipzig Charter**
- ◆ **URBACT programme and City Lab on participation**
- ◆ **Participation: meaning, controversies and challenges**
- ◆ **Innovative ways of ensuring participation**
 - CLLD Lisbon
 - Participative budgeting Paris
 - Citizen councils and assemblies Gdansk
- ◆ **Conclusions**



THE NEW LEIPZIG CHARTER

The transformative power of
cities for the common good

The New Leipzig Charter (Nov. 2020)



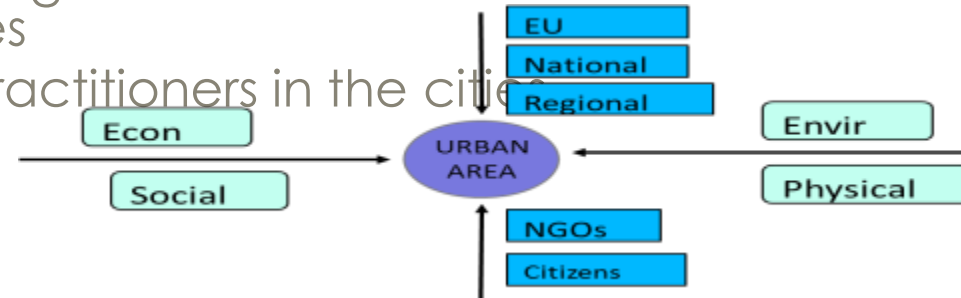
empowers cities to transform through:





URBACT III in a nutshell

- ◆ European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) programme co-financed by ERDF and Member/Partner States
- ◆ **Main objective:** To promote integrated and sustainable urban development in European cities
- ◆ Target: Decision makers and practitioners in the cities
- ◆ Duration: 2014-2020
- ◆ Budget: EUR 96 million
- ◆ Managing Authority: France - CGET
- ◆ Monitoring Committee composed by MS/PS and European Commission





Integrated + Participative x Transnational Exchange =
Sustainable Urban Development

- ◆ Integrated approach to solving complex urban issues
- ◆ Participative approach: involving all local stakeholders
- ◆ Transnational exchange: building networks of cities
- ◆ Trainings for action-oriented sustainable urban development



URBACT contribution to the Leipzig Charter on the city perspective

<https://urbact.eu/leipzig-charter>

Find out more about URBACT City Labs related to each of the Leipzig Charter's original principles >>>



Explore URBACT Good Practices related to each of the three dimensions of the New Leipzig Charter City >>>



**Green
City**



**Just
City**



**Productive
City**



Arnstein's
ladder of
participation
(1969)



Participation of citizens

- ◆ Real participation is ultimately about citizen control.
- ◆ There is frequent confusion about the link between partnership and participation.
- ◆ There can be partnership without participation but not participation without partnership.
- ◆ Many partnerships contain all relevant agencies in horizontal and vertical chains, but relatively few directly involve citizens. Moreover, when they do, the dialogue is frequently one-sided.



Participation in EU programmes

- ◆ The EU Structural Funds have encouraged ‘partnership’ as one of four founding principles of the 1989 reform. However, often this has been interpreted as a requirement to involve government at all levels (Member State, regional, city) and the social partners – who are understood as business organisations, trade unions, government and nongovernmental organisations.
- ◆ Participative approaches, the involvement of citizen organisations has been a key feature of successive declarations about urban policy, including the Bristol Accord and, as mentioned, the Leipzig Charter itself.
- ◆ But exactly what is meant by participation has always remained unclear.



Participation through area based programme

- ◆ To overcome the difficulties of coordination small spatial units can be selected to focus on.
- ◆ URBAN programme (up till 2006): concentration on deprived areas.
- ◆ National examples imitating URBAN: national policy framework for deprived areas, selected on the basis of indicators.

BARCA report (2009): to strengthen area-based interventions – this led to the new tools of ITI and CLLD from 2014 onwards

Budapest, Magdolna quarter





Does more money lead to more participation?

Socially sensitive urban regeneration programme in Budapest, Magdolna quarter:

- ◆ Phase I (2005-2008): funded jointly by the Budapest and the District 8th Municipalities – pilot project for Budapest Rehabilitation Fund socially sensitive subprogramme, 2.7 million eur total investment
- ◆ Phase II (2008-2011): ERDF funding – key project and a model program, 7.2 million eur total investment
- ◆ Phase III (2013-2015): ERDF, 13 m eur total investment

Integrated programmes: both physical and soft projects, but decreasing level of participation as the money increased.



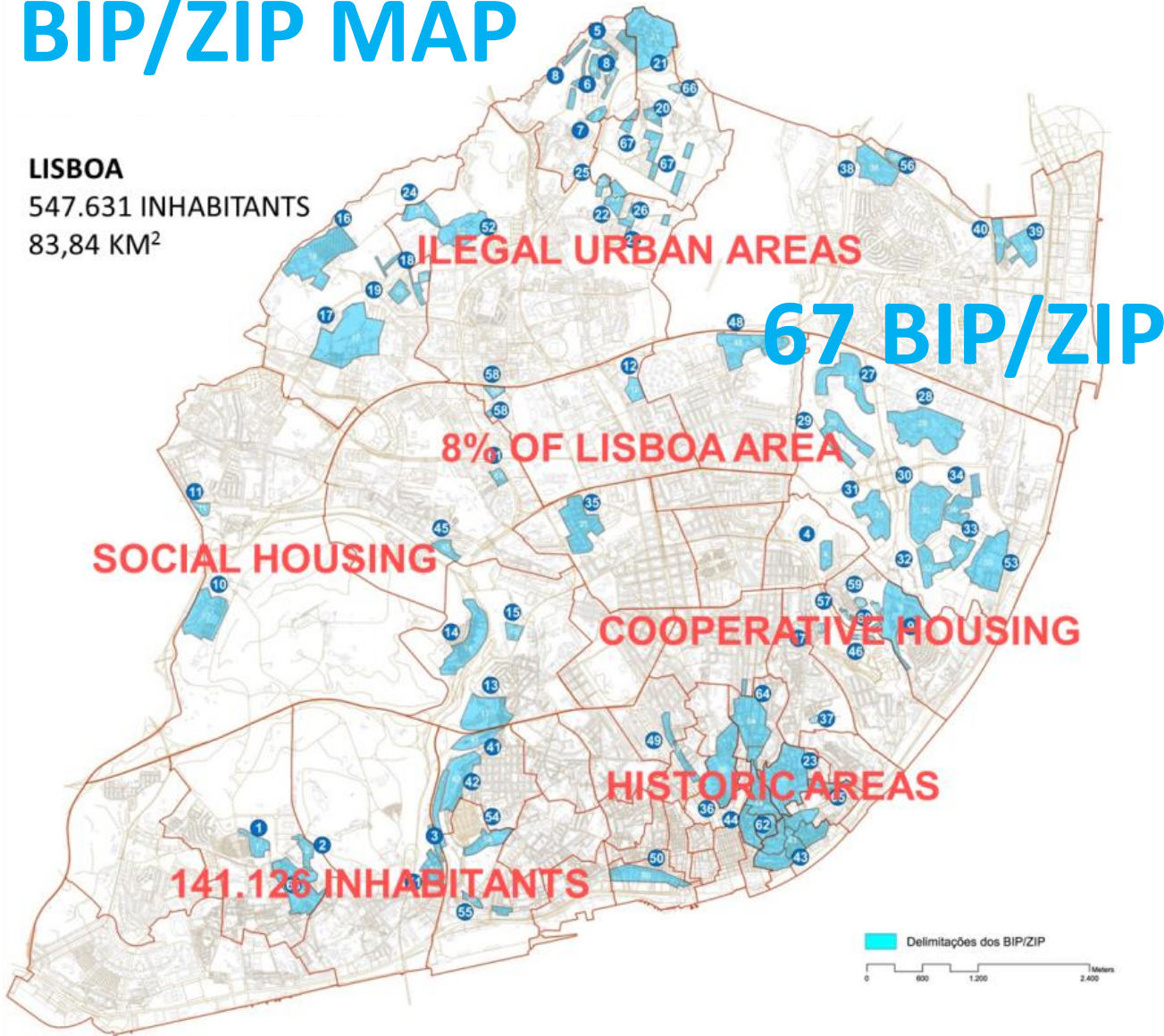
Community Led Local Development

<https://urbact.eu/integrated-toolbox-deprived-neighbourhoods>

- ◆ Based on Leader programme in rural areas, extended to urban areas since 2014
- ◆ Local Action Groups: the municipality might be represented but can not have majority in decision-making
- ◆ Lisbon: BIP-ZIP programme since 2009. Identification of the most deprived areas, covering 1/4 of Lisbon population. In all the 67 areas €50 th is available each year.
- ◆ In these areas the community is responsible not only for selecting projects but also to implement these.
- ◆ The city council has only equal vote to other 170 local NGOs. Each area has different governance model.

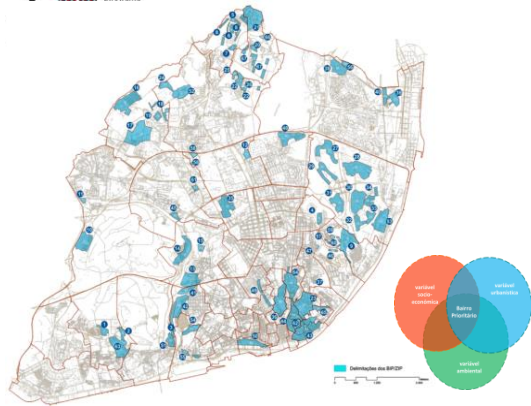
BIP/ZIP MAP

LISBOA
547.631 INHABITANTS
83,84 KM²



LISBON: BIP-ZIP urban regeneration programme

#1 | BIP/ZIP Map



#2 | BIP/ZIP Program



#3 | Co-Governance – GABIP



#4 | Collaborative Platforms



lisboa
aalborg
bari
com.
unity.
LAB
empowering
local
development

Lisbon
Local
Development
Strategy
For
Neighbourhoods
and Areas
of Priority
Intervention
(BIP/ZIP)





Participative budgeting in Paris

<https://urbact.eu/participatory-budget>

- ◆ Since 2014 each year residents can create, discuss and vote on proposals for how they want the city to spend €100m, around 5% of Paris's annual capital budget.
- ◆ Steps: collect ideas on digital platform; civil servants study the feasibility and evaluate the cost for each project; campaign and voting; implementation of the selected projects.
- ◆ Paris has 21 PBs: 1 PB per district for local projects (more money for poorer districts), 1 PB for the entire city for major or replicable projects, one PB for schools and one for social housing.
- ◆ 2016: 11 city-wide and 208 boroughs projects were chosen. 93,000 people were voting, 7% of the Parisian population was involved.
- ◆ Options for further development: require collective intelligence for each proposal, doing it bi-annually?





Parisians plant an urban forest at Porte de Montreuil, a project that emerged from participatory budgeting. (Photo by Enrico Fusto)

ORISÉ
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EMENTS
ISÉS
A 7H30
E
6H30

GARE DU NORD
GARE DE L'EST





Deliberative democracy: citizen assemblies

The Gdansk practice

Two major types of citizen assemblies:

- ◆ Most citizens assemblies expire after handing over their recommendations
- ◆ Some citizens assemblies are permanent citizen bodies with whom the city administration collaborates

Important factors: ensure diversity amongst the citizens (random picking, voluntary basis, quotas, etc.), give enough time and expert support, compensate people for their time, ensure some power (from consultative towards co-decision)



jestem z

GDAŃSKA *jestem aktywny*

Steps to change governance culture.

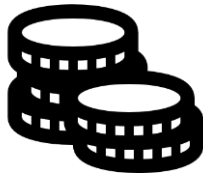
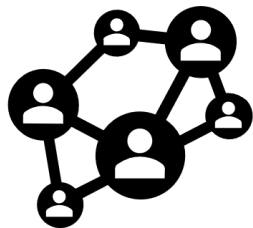
- **Mayor's vision** – „Gdansk as a community”
- **Gdansk Club** – think tank for social change and innovation
- **New profile of civil servants** – administration close to citizens, city as a broker
- **Cross-sectoral, integrated approach**, both horizontally and vertically within city administration and outside



Based on a presentation of Monika Chabior
Gdansk Deputy Mayor for Education and Social Services



Tools for the Citizens Involvement



- Integrated, diverse, cross-sectoral **working groups and advisory bodies**
- Digital platforms and open **data**
- Citizens **assemblies**
- Civil/participatory **budget**
- Local funds: seniors, youth, neighbourhood, social innovation, sports&mobility.



Everyday Solidarity - practice of cooperation



places



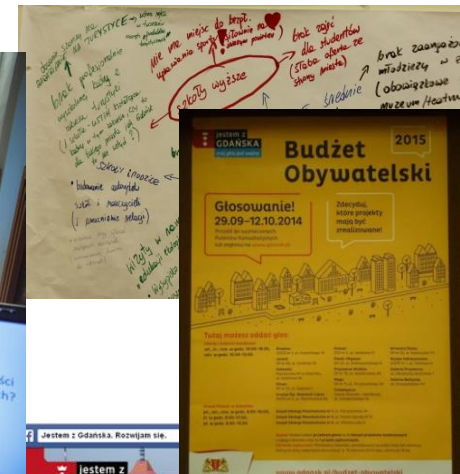
- 22 Neighborhood houses & clubs
- European Solidarity Centre – open institution





Key factors

- starting from the small to prove it works, trust building, neighbourhood approach
- budget is not a starting point, idea is
- using of informal communication and social media along with the official communication
- understanding that processes take time



National examples on citizen assemblies

Ireland

- 99 participants, 11 weekends (over one and a half years)
- Topics: **abortion ban, electoral regulation, referendums, aging population, climate change**
- <https://2016-2018.citizensassembly.ie/en/>

United Kingdom

- 110 participants, 6 weekends (over five months)
- Topic: How can the UK achieve **zero net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions?**
- <https://www.climateassembly.uk/>

France

- 150 participants, 7 weekends (over nine months)
- Topic: How can **GHG emissions in France be reduced by 40% by 2030** (compared to 1990 levels) **in the spirit of social justice?**
- <https://www.conventioncitoyennepourleclimat.fr/>

Local examples on citizen assemblies

Cambridge

- 60 participants, 2 weekends
- Topic: How can we **reduce congestion, improve air quality and ensure better quality public transport** in Cambridge and its catchment area?
- <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/city-access/greater-cambridge-citizens-assembly>

Camden, London

- 50 participants, 2 weekends
- Topic: What should Camden do in a **climate emergency**?
- <https://www.involve.org.uk/our-work/our-projects/practice/what-can-camden-do-address-climate-crisis>

Gdansk

- 56 participants, 3 weekends
- Topic: How to prepare Gdansk for **heavy rains**?
- <https://www.gdansk.pl/panel-obywatelski/pierwszy-panel-jak-lepiej-przygotowac-gdansk-na-wystapienie-ulewnych-opadow-deszczu,a,2812>

Lublin

- 60 participants, 2 weekends
- Topic: How can we improve Lublin's **air quality**?
- <https://www.lublin.eu/mieszkanicy/partycypacja/panel-obywatelski/>



Conclusions: new methods for citizen participation

- ◆ CLLD, participatory budgeting, citizen assemblies (and many more tools, like urban commons...) are new methods to enhance citizen participation, towards more substantive, co-creation type involvement of citizens
- ◆ Drivers for more citizen participation: financial crisis (enforcing the involvement of people into public services); wish of new politicians to rebuild political structures towards more collaborative models; new potentials offered by the digital transition (new open platforms, as Decide Madrid).
- ◆ COVID poses new challenges – there is even bigger importance to involve citizens in innovative ways, to avoid the strengthening of top-down policy making. Deliberative methods might be important to avoid the influence of fake news and distorted media.

The URBACT online webtool


<http://remakingthecity.urbact.eu>

ságos | remakingthecity.urbact.eu/index.php

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THE CITY

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A large, multi-story concrete apartment building with many windows, some of which are boarded up or missing. The building shows signs of wear and tear. A yellow arrow points to the right on the right side of the image.

Thanks for your attention!

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