



empatia

Participatory Budget: lessons from the EMPATIA
project

EUROPEAN SEMINAR: Fostering Innovation

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- 30 years in 30 seconds
- Current PB structure trend
- EMPATIA objectives
- Common problems and (some) results (our Pilots and other cases)

Every Participatory Budgeting (PB) process is a simple sequence of steps

1
ENCONTROS
DE PARTICIPAÇÃO



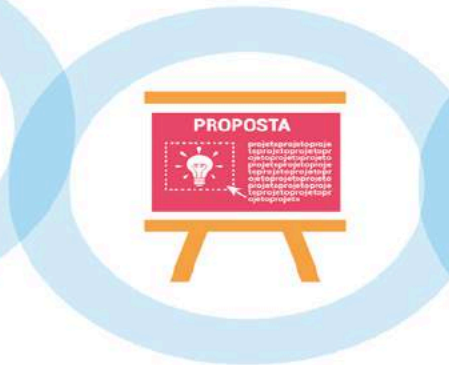
Participatory Meetings

2
RECOLHA DE
PROPOSTAS



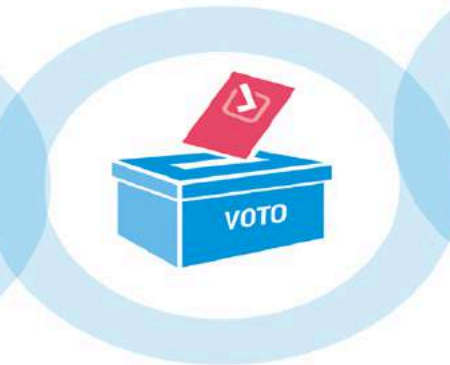
Collection of proposals

3
ANÁLISE
TÉCNICA DAS
PROPOSTAS



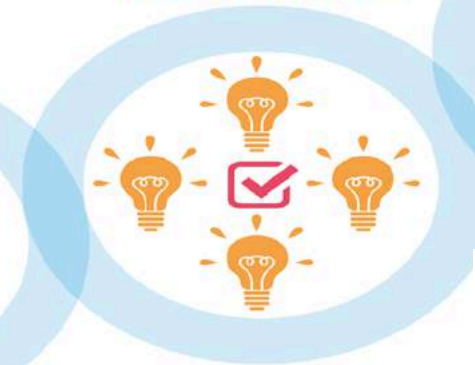
Technical analysis of feasibility

4
VOTAÇÃO
DOS PROJETOS



Vote on projects

5
APRESENTAÇÃO
PÚBLICA DOS
RESULTADOS



Public presentation of results

6
EXECUÇÃO
DOS PROJETOS
APROVADOS



Implementation of approved projects

Fast Forward to the Digital Age: where is PB now?



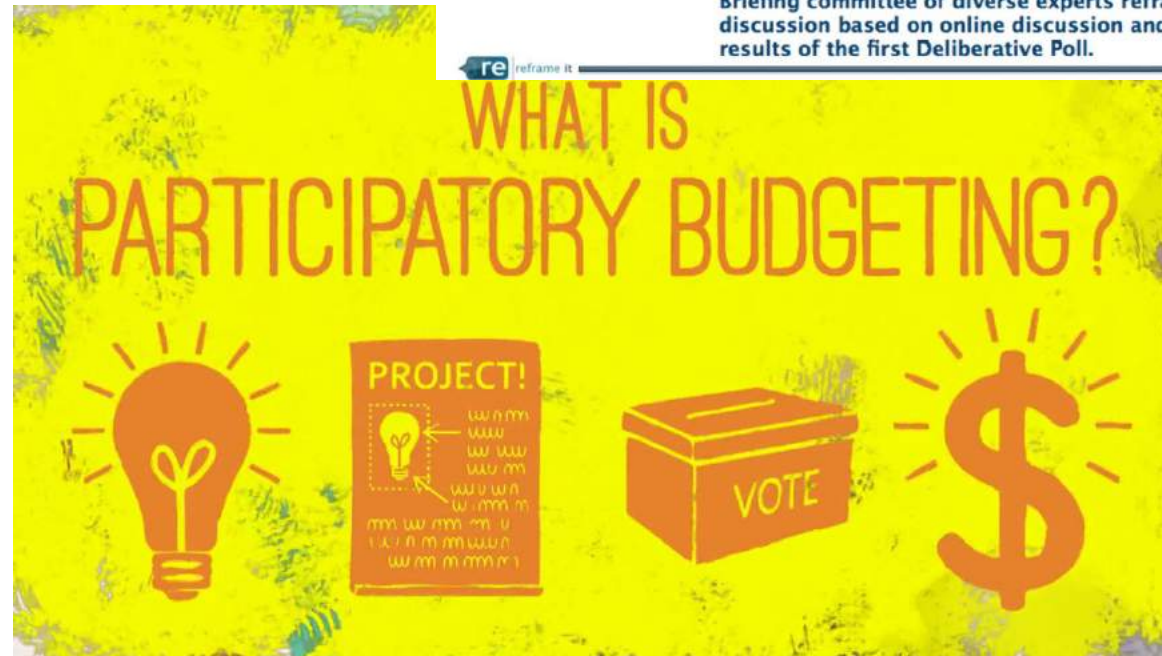
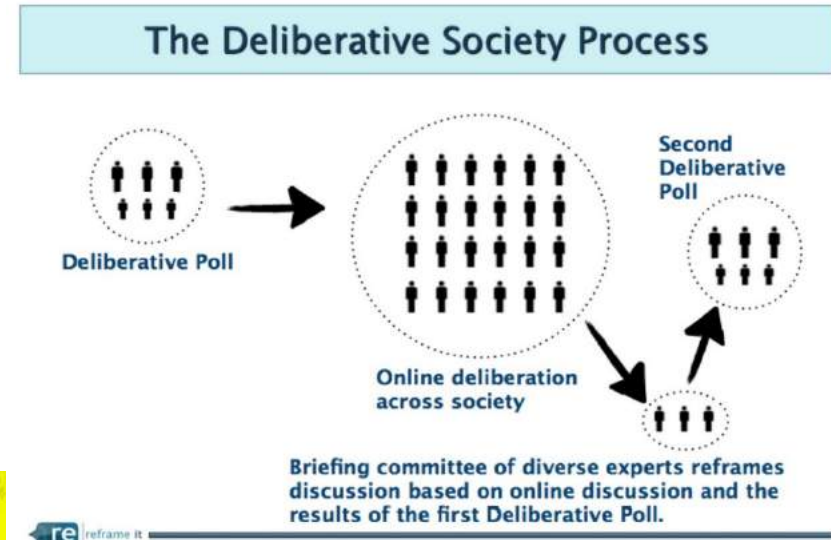
Example of single channel democratic innovations



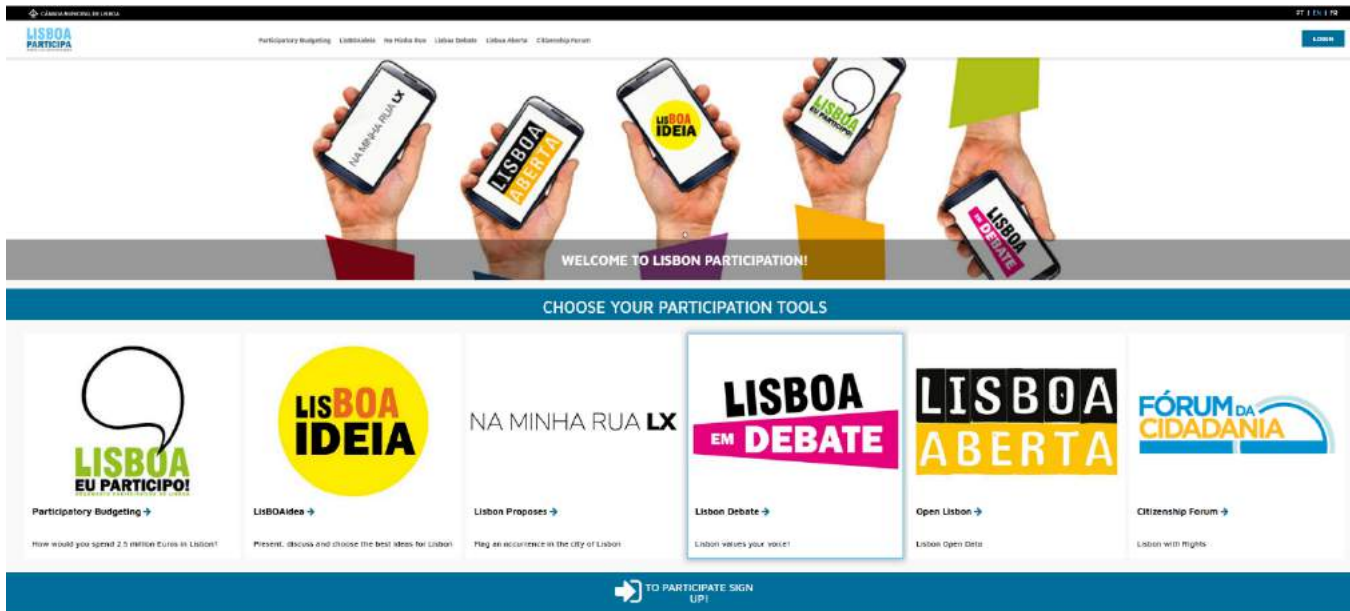
Example of multichannel democratic innovations



~~GOV~~
零時政府



Example of participatory systems



Co-design

Groups' demands

Public consultation

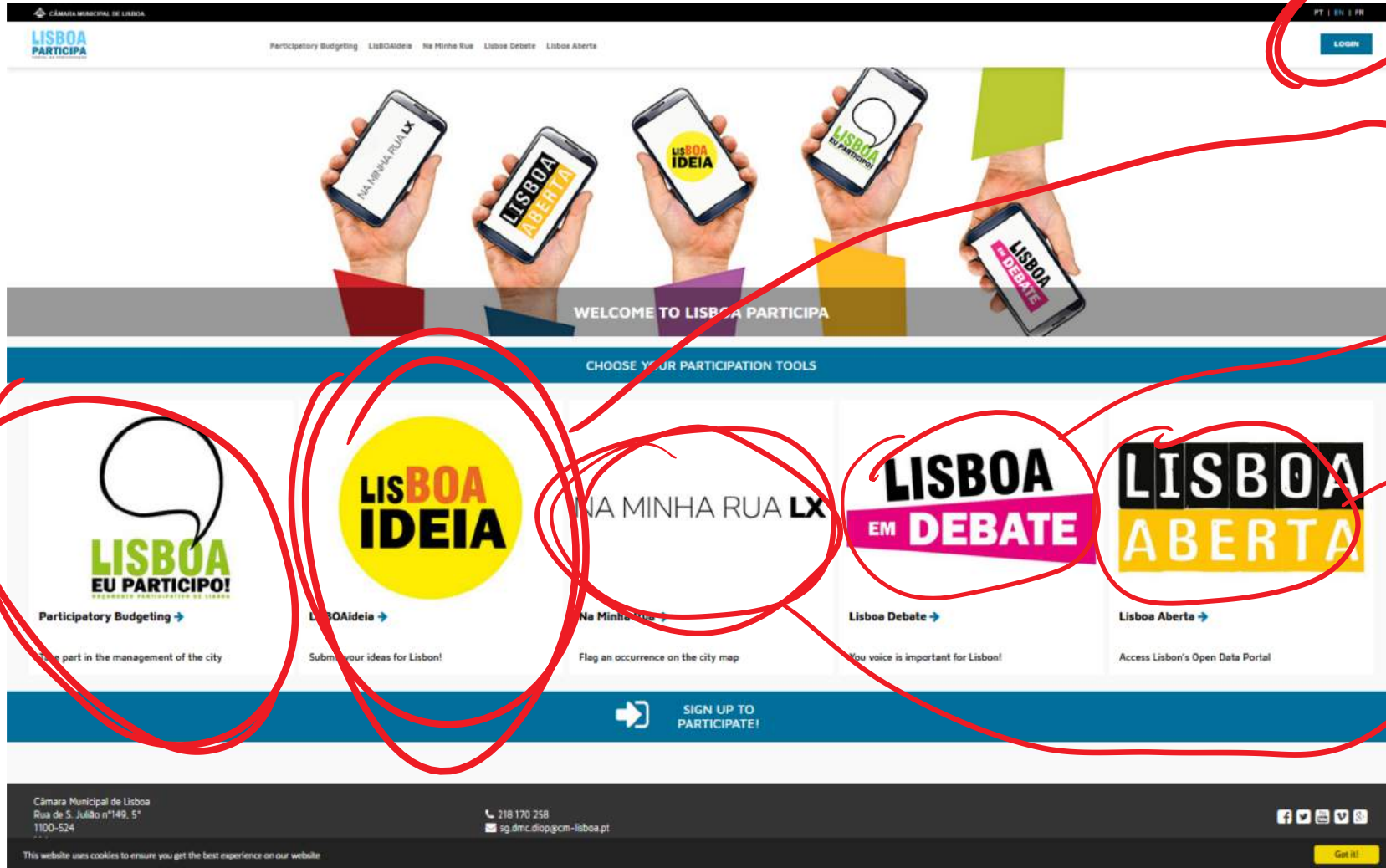
Individual citizens demands



Instruments to elaborate policies

With some integration...

BIG IDEAS
↑



INTEGRATED
LOGIN

SMALL
IDEAS

CONSULT

OPEN GOV

ISSUE
REPORTING

www.empatia-project.online



Common problems

Lack of clear vision

- Expected social, attitudinal or structural changes

Funding structure

- Where is the money coming from?
- Have you done the proper math?
- Plan for future PBs?



And... How participative?

Common PB approach by “government”

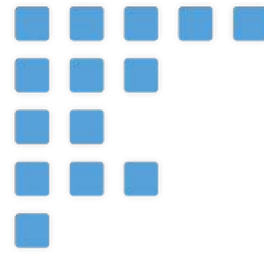
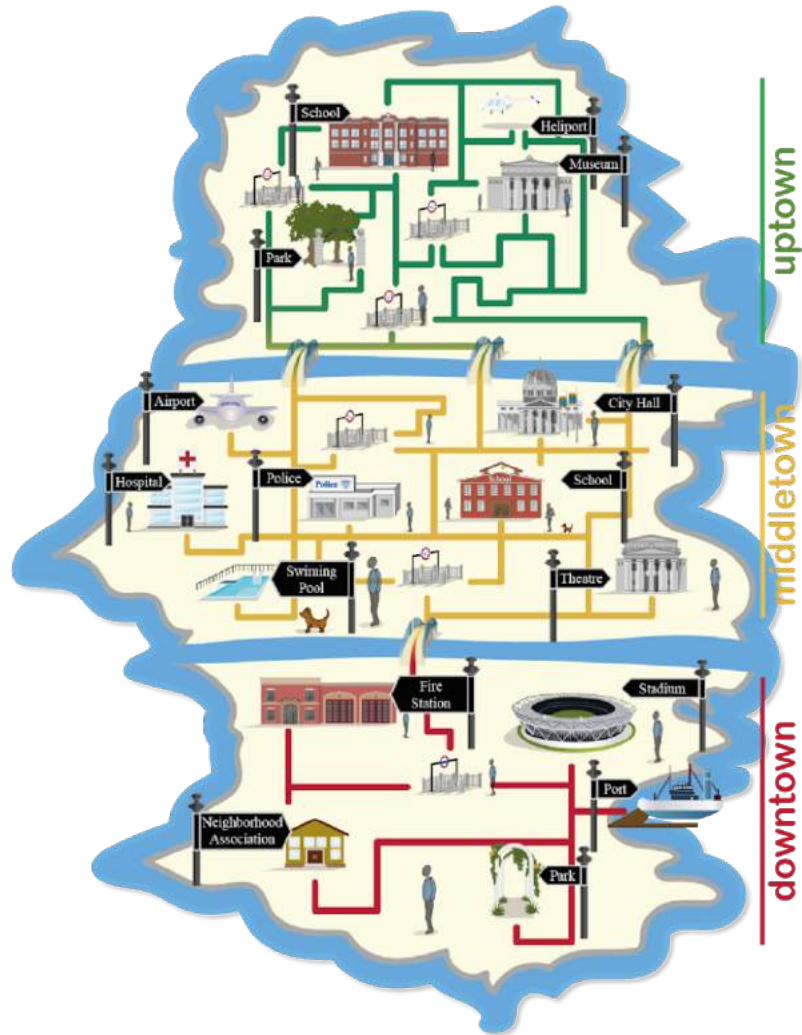
- top-down prescribed participatory budgeting programmes
- Perpetuating Faulty mechanisms
- Setting unpopular “rules of the game”

Who is doing differently?

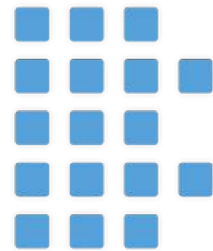
- Wuppertal citizen committee and the “common good check”



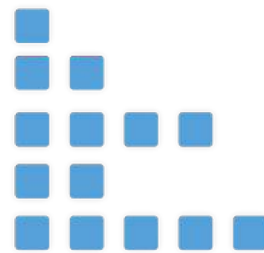
Empaville (Planning exercise)



Wealth
Public transportation
Security level
Leisure
Population density



Wealth
Public transportation
Security level
Leisure
Population density



Wealth
Public transportation
Security level
Leisure
Population density

Most PBs lack proper monitoring and evaluation

MONITORING

By monitoring we mean activities that are conducted in real time during the democratic innovation with the objective of understanding what is happening and allowing immediate interventions.

-> **exploratory**

Examples

- Who is participating?
- What time of the day people more often connect to the platform?
- Which channel of engagement is performing best?
- Where are we losing participants?

EVALUATION

By evaluation instead we mean a proper research design that starts from specific research questions related to the democratic innovation and explores them. Evaluation is episodic in nature.

-> **(ideally) designed for causal inference**

Examples of research questions

- What is the impact of participating in PB on trust in the local council?
- What is the most effective & efficient way to engage youth?
- How can we best re-engage participants that have been lost?

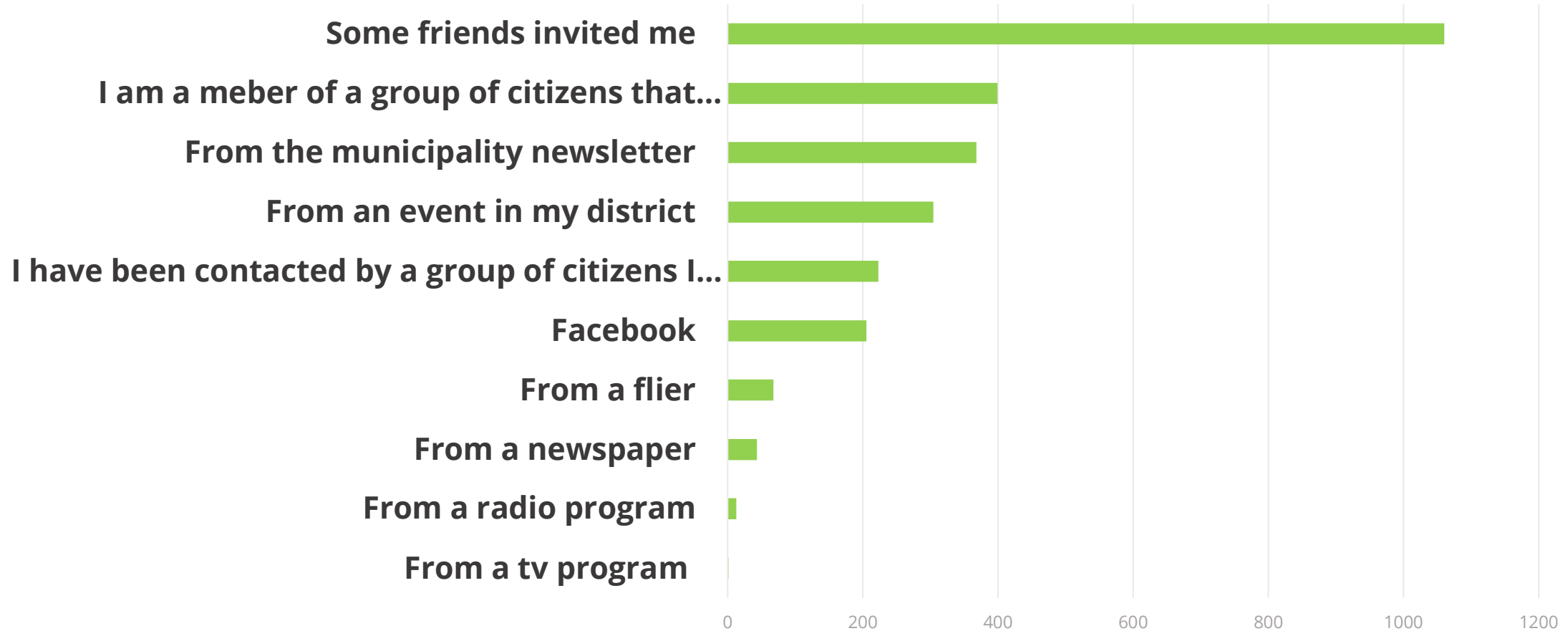
Examples from Milan: Monitoring & where do we lose people?

- In the first weeks of the ideation phase we observed that many people were registering without supporting any project (quantitative monitoring)
- Registration in Milan required a two step authentication that required more than 5 minutes. Leaving a support would require less than a minute. -> **PUZZLE**
- During face to face events people expressed some confusion for the difference between supporting a project and leaving an argument in favor or against a project
- We re-evaluated the design of the platform and we understood that the interface was confusing. Participants were mixing the possibility of leaving a positive/negative comment with the possibility of supporting. The interface was changed and the number of people registering without supporting project slowly declined.

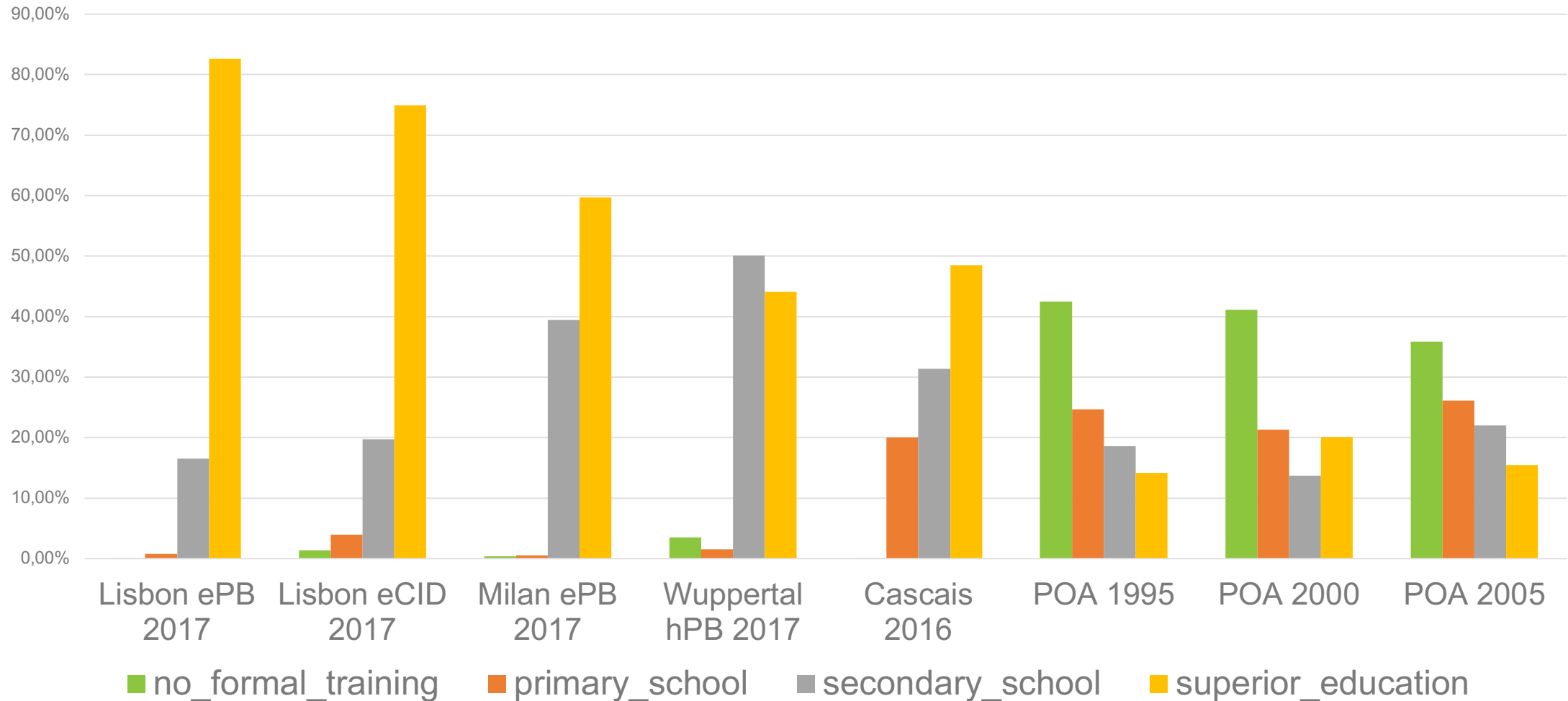
[advanced note: other things were changed to at the same time, such as increased explanations and more ads, so it is unclear what is the specific benefit of the change in design per se, only with a dedicated impact evaluation we could track that]

[low cost version] A simple engagement survey can still generate insights for the subsequent year

Self-reported engagement (Milan phase I)

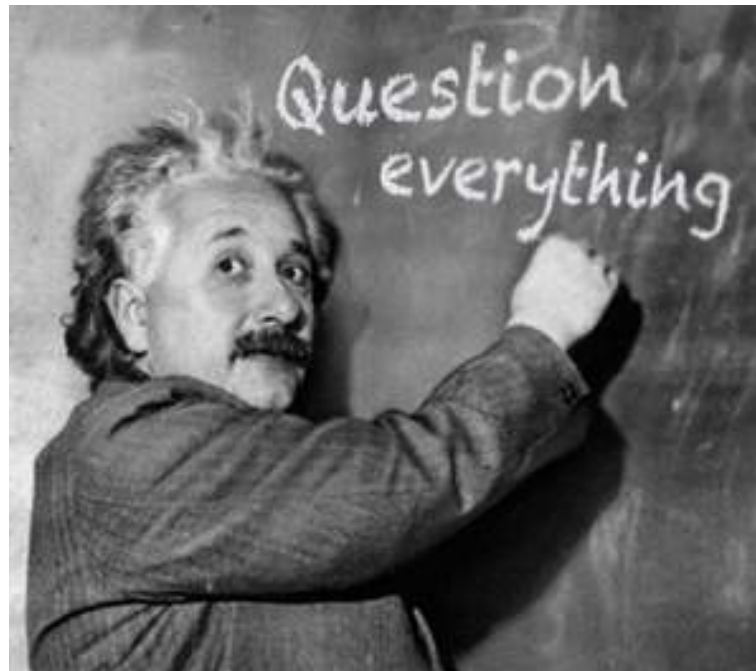


Monitoring inclusion and comparing



Thank you!!!!

Do not hesitate to contact me: kalincacopello@ces.uc.pt



What do we mean by hybridization?

