



# Greenvolve

GREEN CITIES WITH SMART CITIZENS

## COLLECTION OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PRINCIPLES AND DIFFERENT TYPE OF METHODS

*GREENVOLVE Green Cities with Smart Citizens*

2021-1-HU01-K220-ADU-000033719



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## Statement of originality

This output contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.



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## 1. Project overview

The Greenvolve project intends to empower 18-65-year-old people to be able to participate in public consultations or even participatory decision-making in the questions of GREEN CITY. We believe that aware and open-minded citizens can and should be involved successfully in urban decision-making and, thus, contribute to their own greener, cleaner and healthier environment, neighbourhood and city. Furthermore, co-creation in urban development is an important methodology for the municipalities as it is the most efficient way to take into account the needs of citizens directly. Consequently, the Greenvolve project aims at supporting common values, civic engagement and participation, while helping to understand and promote the European Union's objectives and values related to environment, climate and energy.

*Figure 1-The main aims of the Greenvolve Project*



## 2. Executive summary

Once the first project result has been developed with each project GREEN CITY ELEMENTS, we aim to develop a complete ADULT EDUCATION TOOLKIT FOR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT in order to promote responsible cocreation with public administrations.

The Greenvolve project aims to develop an ADULT EDUCATION TOOLKIT FOR CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT.



To develop this second project result, the first activity is this A1 document called “COLLECTION OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT PRINCIPLES AND DIFFERENT TYPE OF METHODS” that has been prepared by project partner DIPGRA. The partnership will validate this document by expert staff members of the partners before its finalisation.

Active citizenship is among the eight key competences for lifelong learning in the European Council’s recommendation (2018)<sup>1</sup>.

‘Citizenship competence’ refers to the ability to participate in civic and social life by understanding the basic concepts, global developments, and sustainability.



There are several Erasmus+ projects that have developed materials that support active citizenship, but in this collection, we focus specifically on green cities as the innovation in the different methods of involving citizens is evolving rapidly.

Our goal in this second project result is to create a complete toolkit (collection of participation principles, competences for participation, and visual materials) on basic knowledge and skills related to citizen involvement, focusing on green city elements to be used by general citizenship and adult education centres (the materials can be used as well by other possible interested stakeholders such as municipalities).

The present **COLLECTION** creates synergies with the other project results of the project, as a part of the ADULT EDUCATION TOOLKIT, as it will be used with the GREEN CITY ELEMENTS to promote better participation while promoting sustainable

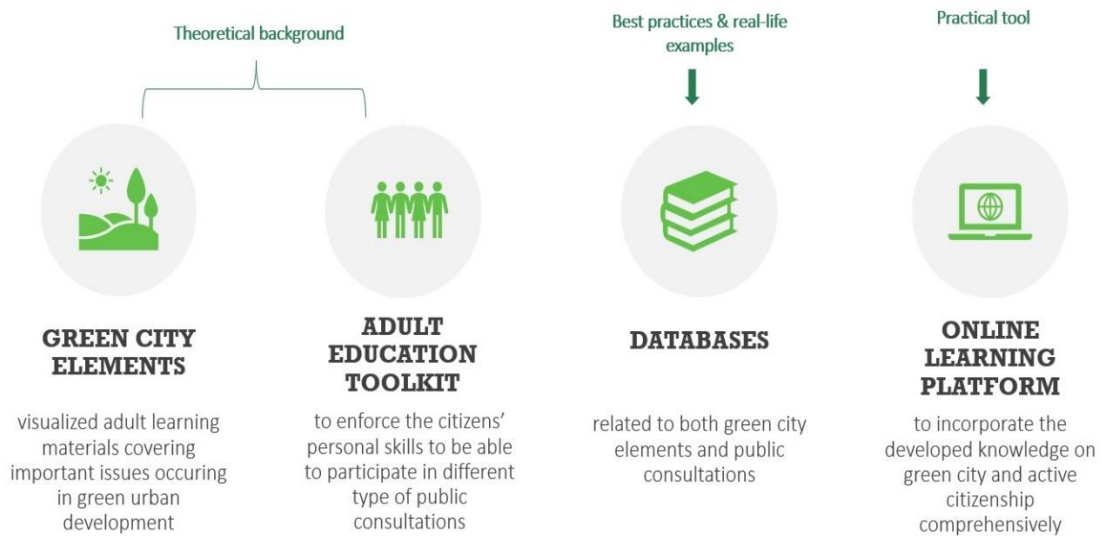
<sup>1</sup> <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/297a33c8-a1f3-11e9-9d01-01aa75ed71a1/language-en#:~:text=The%20Council%20of%20the%20European%20Union%20adopted%20a,sustainable%20lifestyle%2C%20employability%2C%20active%20citizenship%20and%20social%20inclusion.>



infrastructures/policies in our cities and will be available in the project online platform alongside with a database of real examples of already done participatory processes aiming at green city elements in different EU countries.

Figure 2-The Project objectives

## Project objectives



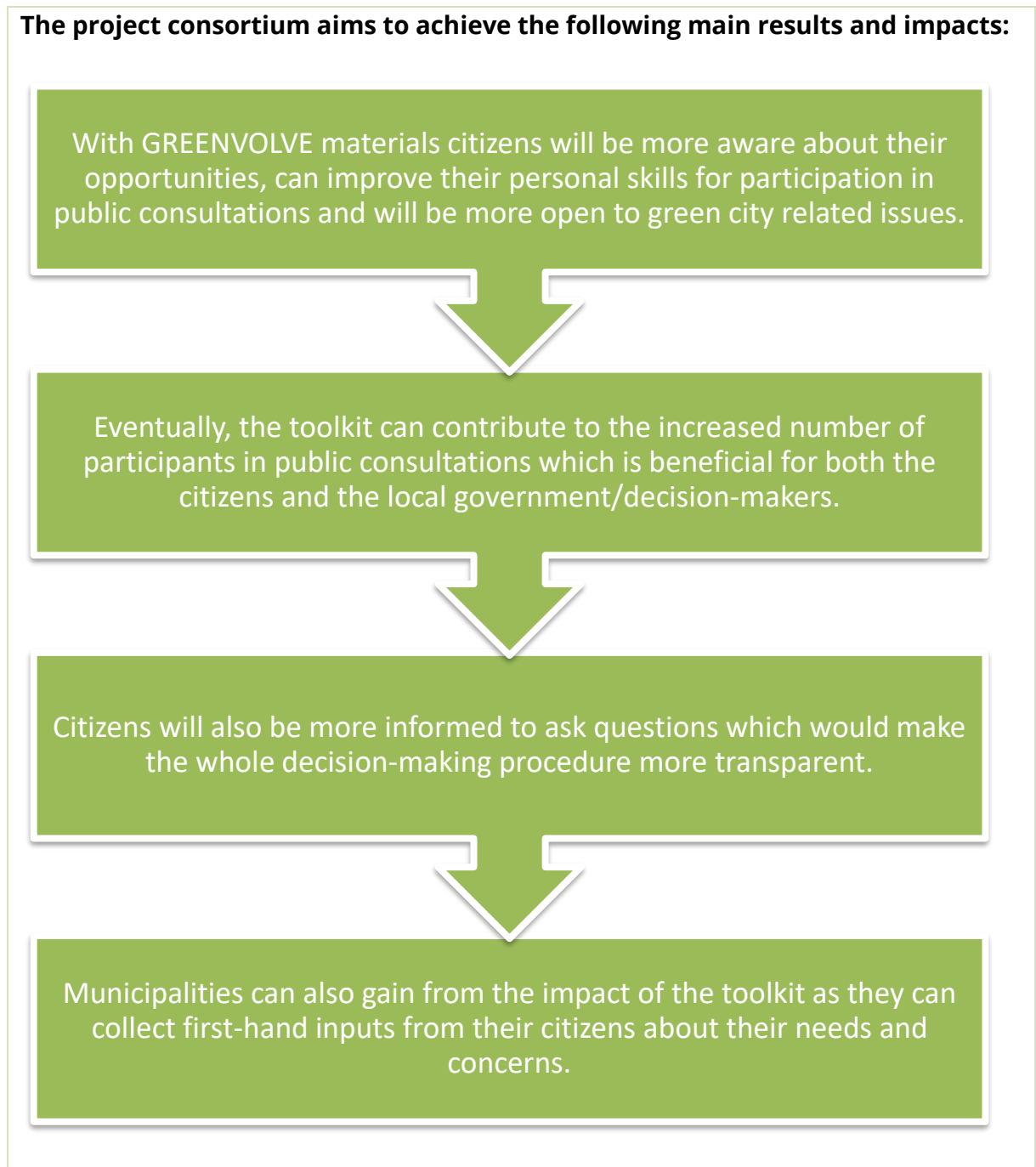
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Figure 3-The goal of the toolkit



### 3. Expected results and impacts of the Adult Education Toolkit

*Figure 4-The expected results of the toolkit*



## 4. Introduction to Public Participation

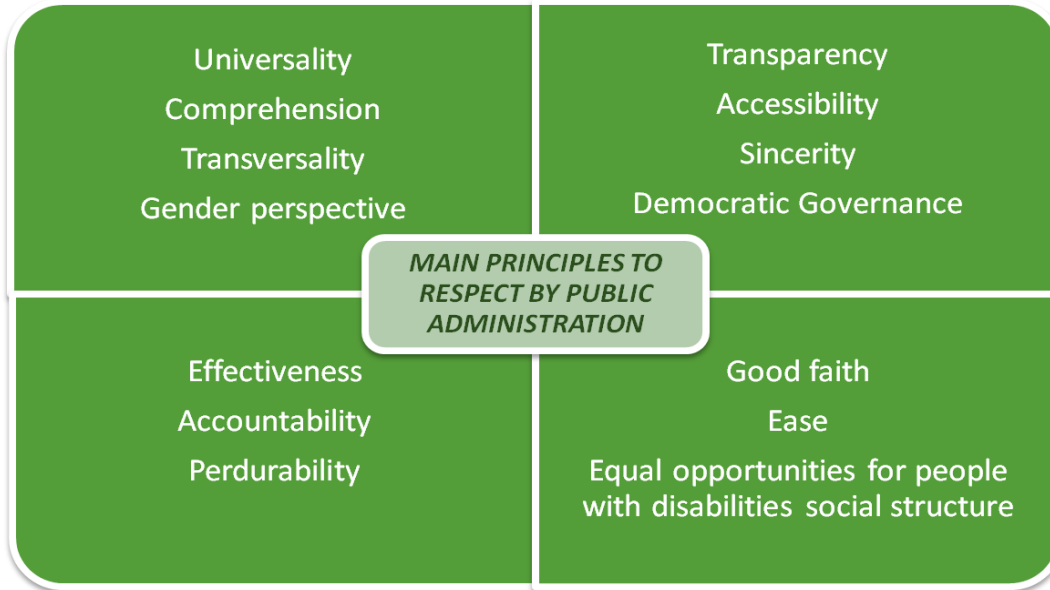
The purpose of Citizen Participation primarily aimed at:

*Figure 5-The purpose of citizen participation*



To do so, the public administrations have to respect the following main principles<sup>2</sup>:

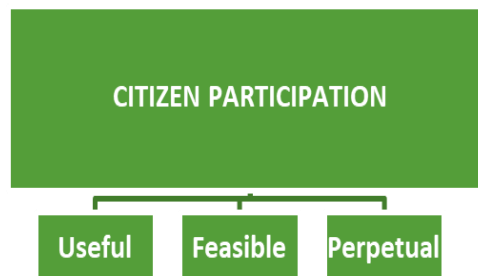
*Figure 6-The main principles to respect public administration*



*Universality, Comprehension, Transversality, Gender perspective, Transparency, Accessibility, Sincerity, Democratic governance, Effectiveness, Accountability, Perdurability, Good faith, Ease, Equal opportunities for people with disabilities social structure*

To achieve so, public administrations must make available for citizens all the information in a way that is Accessible, True, Exact, Simple, and Understandable.

*Figure 7-Citizen participation*



<sup>2</sup> <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/boja/2018/4/1>

Finally, public administrations and citizens must cooperate so that citizen participation is useful as well as feasible, it keeps going and it is maintained over time.

*Figure 8-The prerequisites of public participation*



## 5. Collection of Citizen Involvement Principles

### Introduction

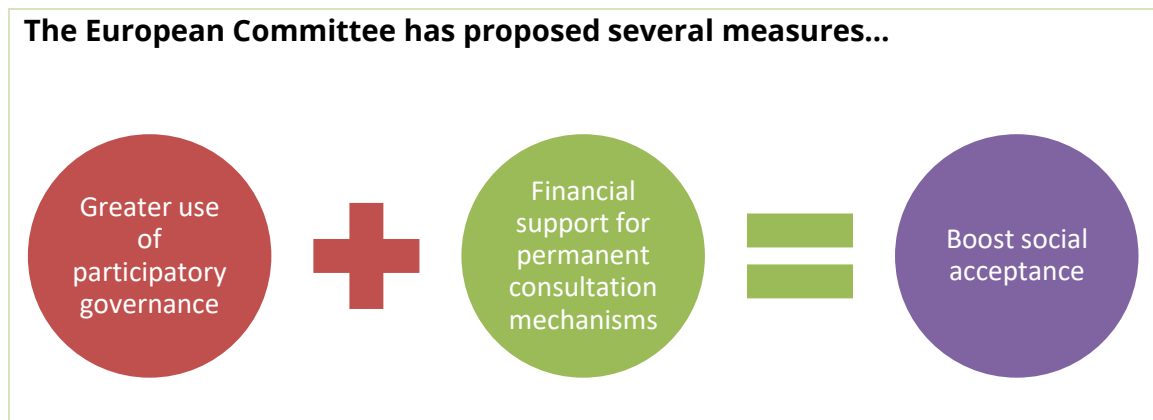
In June 2022, at the request of the Council of the European Union, the EU's assembly of cities and regions has adopted an opinion<sup>3</sup> on the environmental imperatives and social acceptability of the ecological transition.

To boost social acceptance, the Committee suggests several measures, including greater use of participatory governance – for example through participatory budgets and local dialogues – and financial support for permanent consultation mechanisms such as local climate summits. The Committee also proposes stepping up the activities of existing networks such as the Ambassadors of the Covenant of Mayors

<sup>3</sup> <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/Pages/OpinionTimeline.aspx?opId=CDR-104-2022>

and of the Climate Pact and calls on the European Commission and Member States to finance public awareness campaigns to boost energy savings.

*Figure 9-Ways to boost social acceptance*



As well, a survey (Eurobarometer<sup>4</sup>) conducted by the EU Commission in 2021 made clear that Europeans remain very concerned about climate change and support action across the EU to tackle it.

*Table 1-The main findings of the survey (Eurobarometer<sup>5</sup>) conducted by the EU Commission in 2021*

The main findings were the following ones:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European citizens now identify climate change as the single most serious problem facing the world.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over a quarter of Europeans (29%) chose climate change (18%), deterioration of nature (7%) or health problems due to pollution (4%) as the single most serious problem we face.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 93% of EU citizens see climate change as a serious problem and 78% see it as a very serious problem. 90% of respondents – and at least three quarters in each Member State – agree that greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced to a minimum while offsetting the remaining emissions, in order to make the EU economy climate-neutral by 2050.</li> </ul>

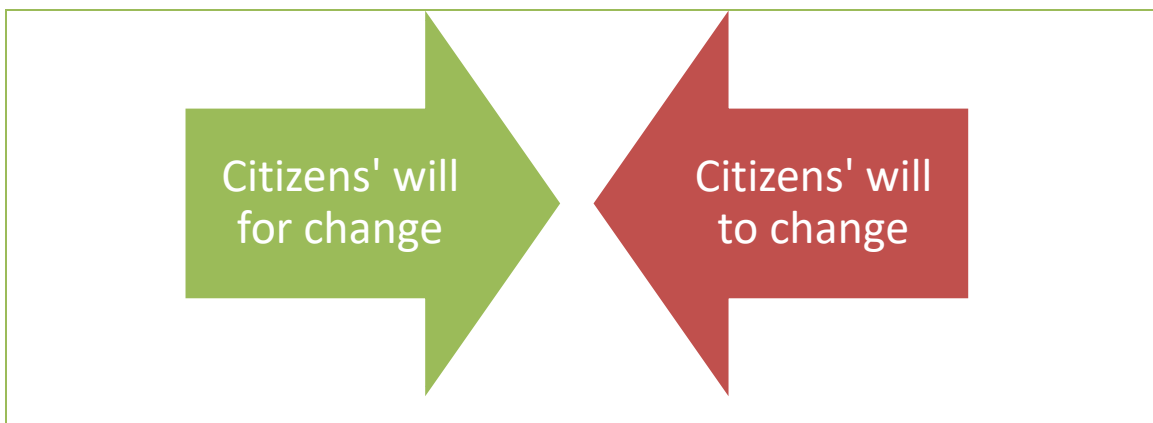
<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/citizen-support-climate-action\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/citizen-support-climate-action_en)

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/citizen-support-climate-action\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/citizen-support-climate-action_en)

- 87% think the EU should set ambitious targets to increase renewable energy and support energy efficiency.
- 87% of Europeans agree that tackling climate change should be a priority to improve public health.
- 92% of respondents think it is important their national government sets ambitious targets to increase the amount of renewable energy used and 87% believe governments should provide support for improving energy efficiency by 2030. At the same time, 75% think their national governments are not doing enough to tackle climate change.
- 81% believe that more public financial support should be given to the transition to clean energies, even if it means reducing subsidies to fossil fuels.

Nevertheless, it is not easy to engage with citizens, and often we find barriers that we didn't expect in the very first moment. There is a high resistance of citizens to changes, and even if they usually argue about the public authorities not doing enough for the environment, the society is the first one that argues against some of the measures are placed in action.

*Figure 10-Citizen's resilience to change*





This is the experience that we have gained in GREENVOLVE<sup>6</sup> project and other projects such as POCITYF<sup>7</sup>, ESMARTCITY<sup>8</sup>, or OPTITRANS<sup>9</sup> projects. Similar examples include the Spanish National Assembly for Climate<sup>10</sup>, composed by 100 people of all social layers, with very impressive conclusions, but with lots of contestation against those conclusions.

*Table 2- The main barriers when promoting participation*

<b>The main barriers a citizen should bear into account while promoting participation<sup>11</sup> have been the following ones:</b>
× When local politicians speak about participation at local level, usually they refer to publication in official bulletins (which a regular citizen does not check frequently).
× There is yet low culture about participation in our public administrations, and few technicians really prepared.
× Citizenship really wants to be taken into account, but in some EU countries with less democratic history there is a low culture of participation, and in general, they do not demand it in a proper way or do not dedicate time for it.
× In a regular basis at local level, citizens go to the administration only to ask for things for themselves, but do not want to take time to make an in-depth analysis on certain topics and participate in a responsible way.
× There is a need to promote RESPONSIBLE participatory schemes, in which citizenship is first informed about the general situation and then can suggest realistic solutions and do not feel unheard.
× There are many pilots about citizen participation at local level based in some meetings with few citizens and/or a group of stakeholders, which are better than nothing, but just give a partial view of the opinion of the general public.

<sup>6</sup> <https://greenvolve-project.eu/>

<sup>7</sup> [www.pocityf.eu](http://www.pocityf.eu)

<sup>8</sup> <https://esmartcity.interreg-med.eu/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/optitrans/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://asambleaciudadanadelcambioclimatico.es/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://granadaenergia.es/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/participacion-ciudadana.jpg>



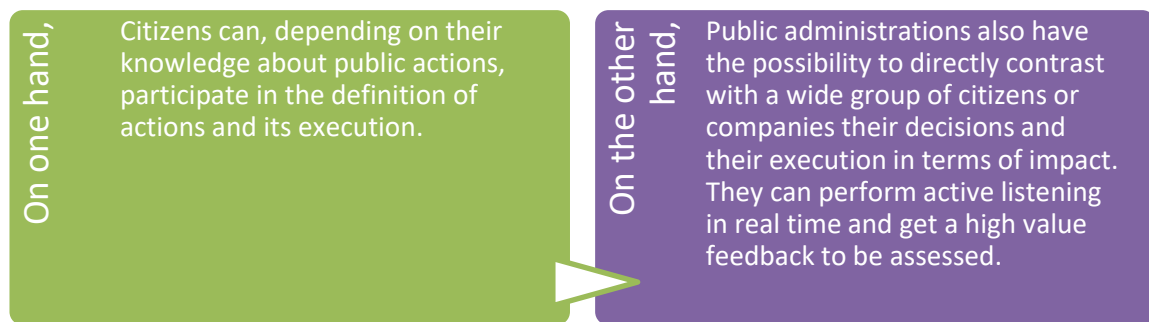
- × There are some really successful participatory schemes as for example neighbour local associations gathering the general opinion of their associates, and attending regular monthly meetings in which they meet city council technicians and see all current issues to be considered.
- × Nevertheless, even those nice participatory approaches do not reach the standard citizen public. The introduction of participatory applications could be one possible solution to reach general public as its being done in some municipalities. Still, those application schemes are not well advertised and under trial, and can happen that not much participation is achieved. We all need better best practices in order to promote these schemes among a wider public.
- × Usually, many current projects are achieved with raised funding from third parties as EU calls, which include specific resources for the implementation of each project. However, often these funds do not include specific resources for citizen participation in the project. It seems that everything must be previously defined, and afterwards the funding calls don't let the administration change anything or do not allow specific resources for participation. This makes most of the projects very rigid and not flexible for participation.
- × There is a lack of confidence from citizens towards public administrations, and as well in the contrary sense. This complicates a lot any participatory approach and how the public administration takes into account public opinion.
- × Citizen participation is a MUST, having advantages both for the public administrations that know better the needs of the neighbours, and for the citizens that can participate to improve their local public services. Thus, participation have to be promoted and resources for it have to increase in every public administration.

As well, currently in different EU regions there are numerous mobile applications and web portals that the municipalities make available to the citizens and tourists. However, in many cases these technologies do not obtain the expected results and

do not allow reaching the public opinion, so the inputs of the citizens are still low in the formulation and implementation of a participatory Smart City strategy.

The Internet revolution has revealed the high potential offered by an engagement platform, where knowledge from various sources can be published and shared. These new participation tools offer a double advantage:

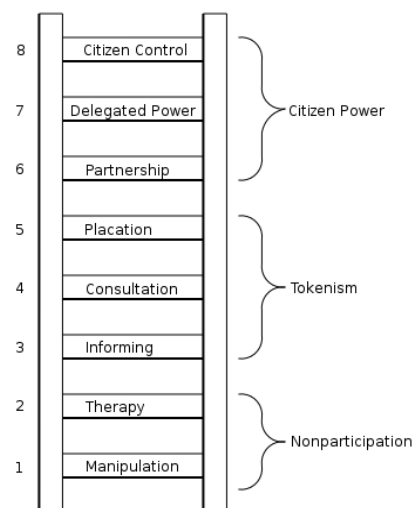
*Figure 11-The double advantage of participation*



## Classification

To be able to evaluate different participation methodologies, first we have to understand its main approaches from the famous Arnstein ladder:

*Figure 12-The Arnstein ladder*



\* Arnstein, S. (1969) 'A ladder of citizen participation', Journal of the American Institute of Planners 35.4: 216-224

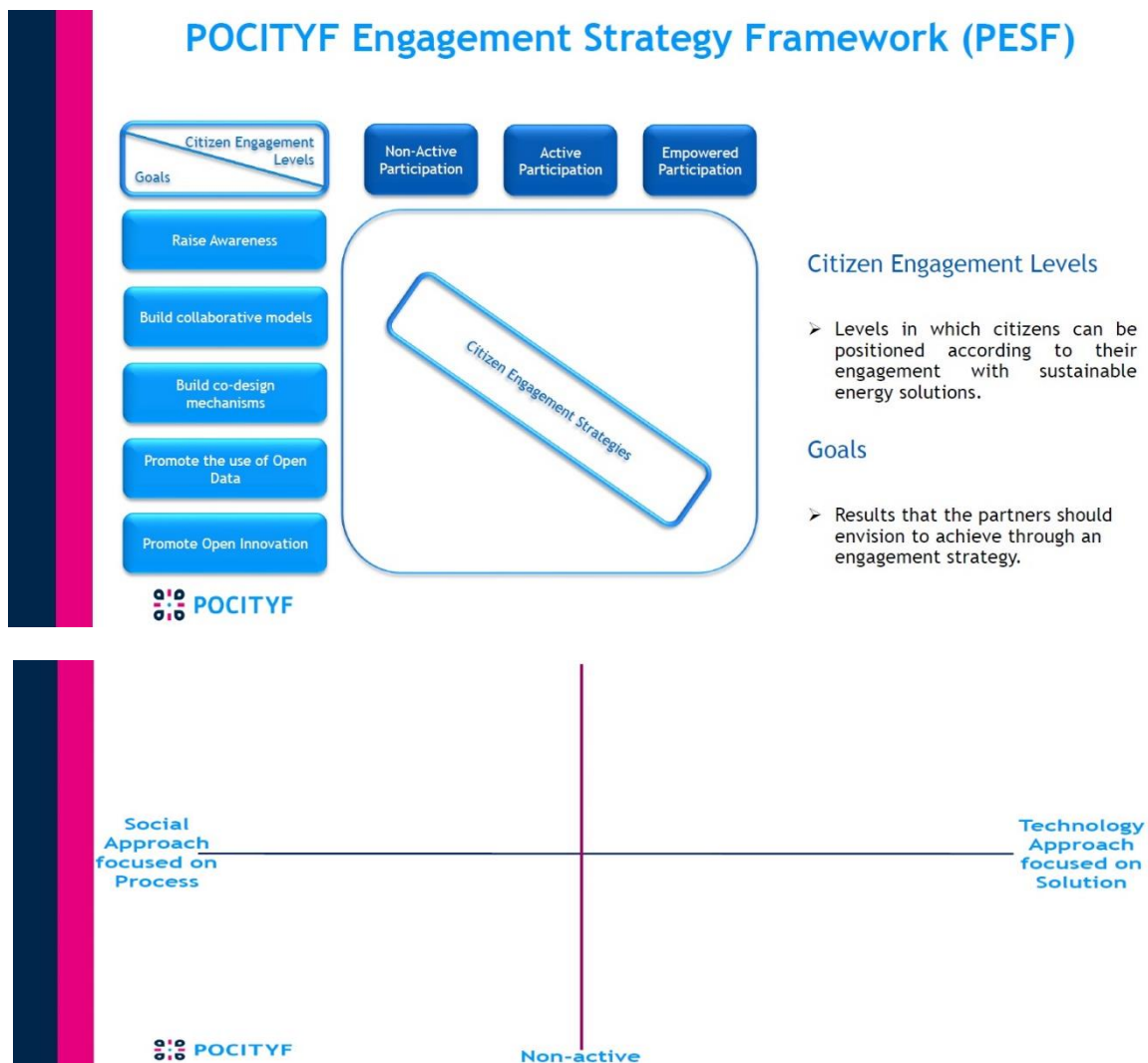
Based on this first approach, POCITYF project defined the following general levels of participation:

*Figure 13-Levels of participation*



In the European project POCITYF, a similar approach to GREENVOLVE has been worked out aiming just at smart city elements that can be used in GREENVOLVE project, defining a table to define different participatory methods on their level of citizen engagement and on the goals achieved. It is interesting that citizens are aware of this classification to better understand the possibilities about their participation.

Figure 14-POCITYF Engagement Strategy Framework



\*Source: POCITYF EU project (<https://pocityf.es/>)

Figure 15-Advantages of public participation

### The advantages of Public Participation:

- Improve the knowledge of public Administrations
- Introduce new themes for public policies with new alternatives
- Make more effective the implementation of public policies
- Ease the early errors detection
- Ease the process of social inclusion and citizen rights
- Give benefits to participants (access to resources, relations collective objectives)
- Promote new social interships
- Increase social innovation processes
- Facilitate citizen empowerment

Figure 16-The advantages of public participation when implemented

**As well, public participation processes have different advantages once implemented, as for example:**

Improve the knowledge of public Administrations

Introduce new themes in the public policies with new alternatives

Make more effective the implementation of public policies

Ease the early errors detection

Ease the processes of social inclusion and citizen rights

Give benefits to participants (access to resources, relations, collective objectives)

Promote new social leaderships

Increase the social network in the city

Ease the social innovation

Make it possible that citizens get empowered

As well, public administrations have to bear into account that to be able to promote a successful public participatory process, citizens have to KNOW HOW TO participate, WANT TO participate, and BE ABLE TO participate.

*Figure 17-The prerequisites for a successful public participation*



To do so our project result document on Citizen Empowerment (PR2-A2 project result) will focus on the main strategies citizens should follow to get prepared better to know about participatory process, ask for it when need it, and prepare themselves to be able to participate. Some public administrations give citizens prizes in contests, small gifts or catering to attract people to participate, but other strategies such as adapting the times of participation to specific times in which target groups can better participate, give better insight and connection benefits to citizens that participate, or other should be explored.

Moreover, to create a confidence participatory approach, public administrations have to promote binding results, follow-up of actions, and feedback to citizens.

## 6. Citizen Participation Typologies

*Table 3-The typologies of citizen participation*

**Once introduced the main principles about public participation, different approaches and methods can be used identified in the work of other EU projects such as OPTITRANS, ESMARTCITY or POCITYF as well as in GREENVOLVE project. We include here in this document the main identified ones:**

### **Basic statutory planning obligation:**

In all EU regions, public bodies are obliged to publish different information about public administration activities, licences, region projects, environmental permits, etc. In some EU regions with very little public participation history, politicians and/or public workers understand this as a participatory process, saying that the general public could see the general information in official bulletins or institutional specific sites. The reality is that general citizens do not check this official bulletin and most of the local stakeholders do not even get informed.



Source: Image by Freepik

### **Raise awareness of existing solutions:**

One of the main first actions to enable public participation is to inform citizens about the projects/activities/problems that the public administration is facing. Without this information it is difficult that citizens could participate. It can be shown in official

bulletins, in awareness campaigns, in dedicated campaigns, podcasts, videos, written information, in social media or in digital platforms for example. GREENVOLVE project aims at giving simple easy information about general possible green city elements to be incorporated to the general public. To do so, the project has created a set of GCEs that are going to be translated and adapted to different information platforms.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Enhance usage of solutions:

A second level of information to citizens to help them participate in these processes is to support the citizens on learning to use the solutions and improving their user experience.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Nudging:

It is not exactly a participation process, but can be embedded in one. Sometimes some technical solutions are already well known by public administrations, and easy to be implemented, but need a behavioural change of citizenship. In those cases, nudging can be applied to provoke directly the behavioural change of citizens. “Nudging” in public policy involves using behavioural, economic, and psychological insights to influence the behaviour of policy targets in order to help achieve policy goals. We speak about improving quality of public spaces in order to make people more comfortable and then use



Source: Image by Freepik



more those public spaces (for example bike lanes, pedestrian zones, lighting, etc.).

### **Provide access to Open Data:**

As the need of information by the citizenship is vital for participation processes, promote initiatives that enable citizens to access data that could not be visualized previously, i.e., city traffic data or district/block energy consumption, will significantly help to co-creation. For example, in ESMARTCITY project we have seen different open data repositories that have different level of data access granted to local companies that create new business models in the city with new private services that were not available before.



Source: Image by Freepik

### **Aimed workshops:**

One of the typical main ways of promoting citizen participation among public institutions that do not have much experience in the field is to promote dedicated workshops in which the project/problem/solution is explained and then feedback from the audience is recollected. This can be done via in-person focus groups, general focus groups with some previously identified stakeholders, webinars, or even stakeholder interviews. One main problem of this methodology is that the public administration could not know some of the most important stakeholders,



Source: Image by Freepik

and as well, that always can participate the same people, not giving access to the whole citizenship.

### Neighbour/stakeholder meetings:

Different EU Municipalities have been working for years with its districts via periodic neighbour meetings in which neighbourhood representatives place their neighbourhood main problems/projects, and the municipality can have their direct feedback to help them in their public policies. These co-designing bodies are very interesting and regulated in most EU countries. If these bodies exist in your city, they should be involved in a participation process among other methodologies, as even if they involve few citizens that are really into public policies, the majority of citizens do not even know about their existence.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Surveys:

Are an instrument to collect data through a questionnaire that can be delivered in a physical way in local workshops or local meetings, or could be used in a wider way in digital platforms, social media, media, or others. This methodology is well used when public bodies are doing different planification. Nevertheless, usually surveys do not reach enough citizens (depending on the communication channels), and are not well designed from a sociological point of



Source: Image by Freepik

view, making it difficult to be answered by general citizens. Simple and concrete questions are required for this methodology.

### **Polls/Referendum:**

A referendum is a direct vote by the electorate on a proposal, law, or political issue. This is in contrast to an issue being voted on by a representative. This may result in the adoption of a new policy or specific law, or the referendum may be only advisory. In some countries, it is synonymous with or commonly known by other names including plebiscite, votation, popular consultation, ballot question, ballot measure, or proposition.



Source: Image by Freepik

### **Applications to report incidents in the city:**

These tools are based on software applications available for free to the citizens, in which they can directly report any incident, improvement, or suggestion related to public spaces in the city. Citizens can take a photo, describe the incident and suggestion and send it to the townhall, that will deliver the message to the appropriate department to get it analysed and solved. With these applications citizens can act as real eyes or sensors in the public space and help the municipality with maintenance issues, at the same time as citizens get quickly heard in



Source: Image by Unsplash

their daily problems and see those solved in a faster way.

Municipalities can develop their own solution, base it on social media interaction (as it is usual in small municipalities), or used predesigned platforms for this. Some examples of software tools that can be adapted to each municipality to manage the reporting of citizens are the following ones:

- <https://www.lineaverdemunicipal.info/>
- <https://gecorweb.com/>
- <https://www.snapsendsolve.com/>
- <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mt.gov.planningMT&hl=en&gl=US>  
(The PlanningMT Mobile App)

### **Advisory committee:**

A committee or commission is a body of one or more persons subordinate to a deliberative assembly. A committee is not itself considered to be a form of assembly. Usually, the assembly sends matters into a committee as a way to explore them more fully than would be possible if the assembly itself were considering them. Committees may have different functions and their types of work differ depending on the type of the organization and its needs.



Source: Image by Freepik

## Citizens' assembly, citizen juries or citizen panels:

A Citizens' assembly is a representative group of citizens (representing the wider population in terms of age, ethnicity, education level, geographic location, and gender) asked to come together, learn about a certain topic and formulate a policy recommendation for the government. In the first phase, these citizens are introduced to the matter at hand through talks with competing interest groups, stakeholders and experts. They gradually move into the deliberation phase, which involves small-group debates or larger, more general discussions. The citizens' assembly is supposed to conclude with a clear policy recommendation to the administration.

- As well, a citizens' assembly (also known as citizens' jury or citizens' panel or people's jury or policy jury or citizens' initiative review or consensus conference or citizens' convention) can be formed from randomly selected citizens to deliberate on important issues. Similar to **Neighbour/stakeholder meetings**, it is a space to inform citizens about issues or queries that they have raised with the Administration. It is not aimed at a specific neighbourhood, but can be aimed at different types of citizens. It has similar good and bad things as a participatory process.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Public hearings:

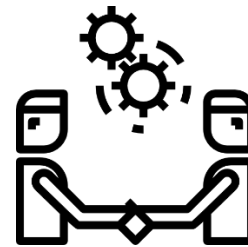
They are an instrument for oral and public consultation that allows people, entities or organizations to be heard on a matter that affects them. If it is done through bulletins, it has same problems as the official bulletins themselves. If the public hearing is done through digital platforms, it can have the advantages of the platforms.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Support choice of solutions:

The public administration presents some types of solutions, and enables the needed resources (either physical or digital) to campaign the citizens in order to help them to choose the best solution according to their needs and requirements.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Participatory design:

Participatory design (often co-design) is an approach to design attempting to actively involve all stakeholders (e.g., employees, partners, customers, citizens, end users) in the design process to help ensure the result meets their needs and is usable. Participatory design is an approach, which is focused on processes and procedures of design and is not a design style. Very powerful methodology that needs a planification, time for the design, and flexibility.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Idea collection:

Also called “ideation process”, this is a way for cities and towns to turn to citizens for new ideas regarding predefined topics. Idea gathering is a more complex process than a simple vote and requires greater involvement from citizens. As a result, participation rates tend to be lower than for votes, but can also lead to qualitative contributions and the emergence of new solutions. Once the ideation phase is complete, cities often go through an analysis phase and a voting phase: after having collected the ideas, the administration processes and submits them to citizen vote. It is important for cities to structure the debate: it is preferable to define the themes on which the city consults its citizens (climate, mobility, education, etc.) and to be clear which criteria will be used to select ideas.



Source: Image by Freepik

### Participation forums:

The municipality can create a space to which people, organizations or institutions are convened to discuss a topic of common interest for a time interval. It depends on the used tools and the period of time, as well as results follow, obligation, and feedback to the persons participating.



Source: Image by Freepik

### **Participatory consultations:**

A participation instrument to find out the opinion of the population. To go further in these consultations, allowing citizens to share own ideas outside of participation projects. Citizen proposals are a continuous form of bottom-up citizen participation that does not fit within the constraints of a specific timeline or policy cycle. Citizens or grassroots movements can write down their plans or suggestions for the government at any time, on any topic, and gather support for their statements, mainly by collecting signatures. If they reach a certain threshold (that was set by the government in advance), they are supposed to receive an official response.



Source: Image by Freepik

This type of participation method allows citizens to address the topics that are close to their hearts and start a structured debate, while still offering governments a way to stay in control. Citizens set the agenda, but governments can easily keep track of the matters that citizens deem important and adjust their strategies accordingly.

### **Public exhibition of projects:**

This is a typical way of consultation public bodies are enforced to use by law in which they must collect the proposals for modifying the regulatory projects in the public exhibition phase as well as other City projects such as strategies, plans, initiatives, etc. If it is used in this way, it allows only for few



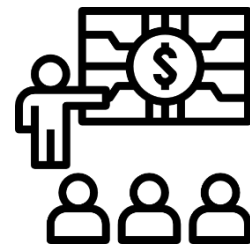
interested feedbacks and little flexibility to modify the project/policy/local law. It should be done not as an obligation, but in a wider range and as some activity to which resources should be assigned to be able to properly modify projects with enough flexibility to really adapt to citizens' needs.



Source: Image by Freepik

## Participatory budget

Including citizens and associations in the allocation of part of the municipal budget. Participatory budgets are a very powerful tool for participation, as they directly involve citizens in the process of allocating municipal budgets. Citizens choose projects they think the city should invest in, using money from a specially allocated fund. Some cities ask citizens to divide the budget between several scenarios, others start with an ideation process that will be followed by an analysis and budgeting phase. This type of consultation is very educational as it allows citizens to project themselves into the budget exercise and to understand its constraints. For instance, if they decide to allocate 60% of their budget to a certain project, they then agree to reduce fundings for other projects. This exercise helps strengthen the legitimacy of decision-making and increase citizens' support for public policies. Budget allocation can of course be a sensitive issue. For cities



Source: Image by Freepik

that wish to restrict participation, there are authentication software for this issue.

Participatory budgeting allows citizens or residents of a locality to identify, discuss, and prioritize public spending projects, and gives them the power to make real decisions about how money is spent.

### **Citizen-Driven Innovation in Co-creating GCEs:**

It focuses primarily on improving citizens' quality of life and increasing city efficiency by involving citizens in the early development, design and evaluation phases of the solutions and related public services co-creating, co-delivering and co-capturing. It creates initiatives involving the project stakeholders that could provide new ideas and improvements for sustainable solutions.



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### **Promote collaboration and sharing:**

Enable citizens to share their experience, get help and help others in the community, engage in gamification etc. Co-creating depends on the local networks that can be built in the city, and the synergies created among local stakeholders and citizens. Thus, this is a very interesting tool to support other participatory approaches. To do so, the city needs other tools as Open Data, Community



Image by Freepik

Engagement Platforms, Local stakeholders matching platforms, etc.

### Community Engagement Platforms:

These are digital platforms with different embedded participation tools that allow the city to reach the public with not so many resources. Even if it is probably the future of wide participation at first sight, it is important to advertise the platform locally, and show citizens that there is a follow procedure of each consultation and result. In any case it is needed a good social media effort and a specialized team to manage it and use it in a transversal way in our cities.

Some of the municipalities have opted to create their own dedicated APP to have their own participation platform, nevertheless, this process of creation costs too much, as well as its operation and maintenance. There is already some dedicated software to create these platforms that we know in Europe are the following ones:

- <https://www.citizenlab.co/>
- <https://www.civocracy.com/>
- <https://decidim.org/>
- <https://consulproject.org/en/index.html>
- <https://dawramadwarna.org/>



Image by Freepik

## Citizen Science:

It is a coined term commonly used to describe the participation of non-scientists in scientific research. Greater inclusion of non-professional scientists in policy research is important. It is academia's responsibility to facilitate the "democratization of policy research". This has several benefits: having citizens involved in not just the contribution of data, but also the framing and development of research itself. The key to success in applying citizen science to policy development is data which are "suitable, robust, and of a known quality for evidence-based policy making". Barriers to applying citizen science to policy development include a lack of suitability between the data collected and the policy in question and scepticism regarding the data collected by non-experts.

Some examples of citizen science are the coordination with a technological partner that delivers low quality cheap meters that can be bought by the municipality and shared among citizens to take measurements in their own places (air quality, energy consumption, meteorology, etc.). With these data, public institutions can have a better city picture on how different variables evolve within the city and then apply better policies.



Source: Image by Freepik

## **Climathon, Gamification, Augmented Reality and 3D, Conference of the Future of Europe, Peer Parliaments:**

These are not exactly participatory methodologies, but innovative tools that can help in participatory processes, in the involvement of citizens with specific advantages for the people involved. In a process like a Climathon it involves prizes/gifts in a competition, others might work through having fun with game approaches, 3D videos to be able to better understand the problems in virtual-visual-easy way, or schemes such as peer parliaments that give the citizen the opportunity to promote the vision of its family-friends. Some examples of these tools can be seen here:

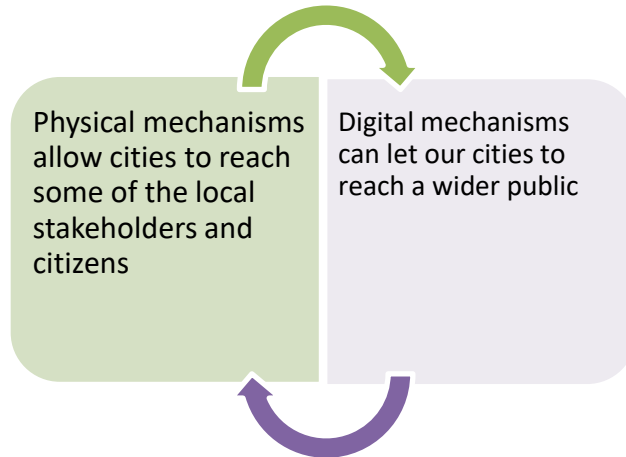
- <https://climathon.climate-kic.org/>
- [https://climate-pact.europa.eu/about/peer-parliaments\\_en](https://climate-pact.europa.eu/about/peer-parliaments_en)
- <https://futureu.europa.eu/?locale=en>
- <https://climatefresk.org/>
- <https://www.enclavedesol.eu/>



[Source: Image by unsplash](#)

After the presentation of the participatory methodologies, we could say as a conclusion that **most of them can be combined to improve citizen participation**. The **first ones are mainly dedicated to inform citizens**, which is very important, but just a first step needed to reach the final participation methodologies that aimed better at real communication channels in which citizens are really empowered and able to get real decisions that affect public policies. As well, we can say that physical mechanisms allow cities to reach some of the local stakeholders and citizens, but that digital mechanisms are the ones that once improved would let our cities to reach a wider public.

Figure 18- The complementarity of different means of public participation



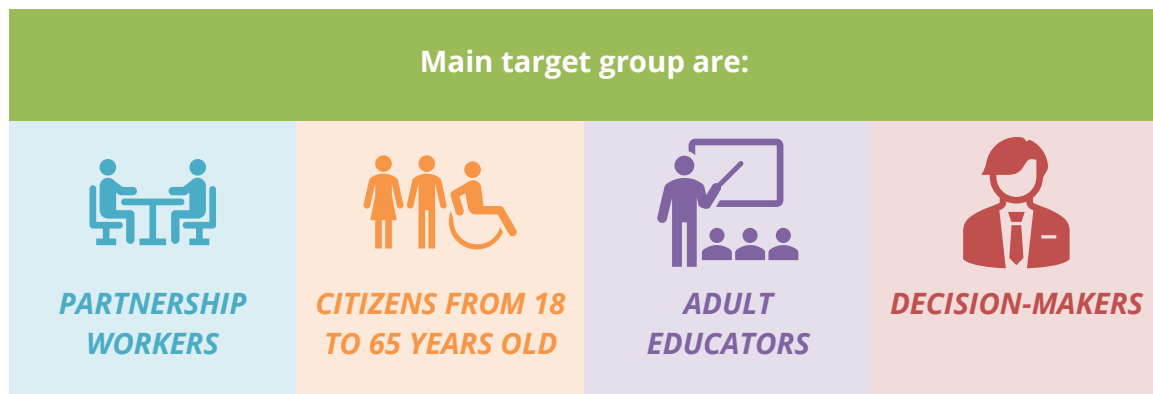
More information can be checked at the following references:

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public\\_participation\\_\(decision\\_making\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Public_participation_(decision_making))
- [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228305536\\_Public\\_Participation\\_Methods\\_A\\_Framework\\_for\\_Evaluation](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228305536_Public_Participation_Methods_A_Framework_for_Evaluation)
- <https://www.citizenlab.co/blog/civic-engagement/choosing-the-right-participation-method/>

## 7. Target audience

The target groups of Greenvolve are **CITIZENS** and **ADULT EDUCATIONAL CENTERS** (as well other possible interested stakeholders such as municipal staff could use it).

Figure 19-Main Target Groups





During the project, learning contents, dissemination materials, management and other plans and manuals will be elaborated with the involvement of municipalities and expert organisations active in adult education.