

* Through reflective practice

How can we identify and increase the impact of participation?

Participatory planning 20.3.2023

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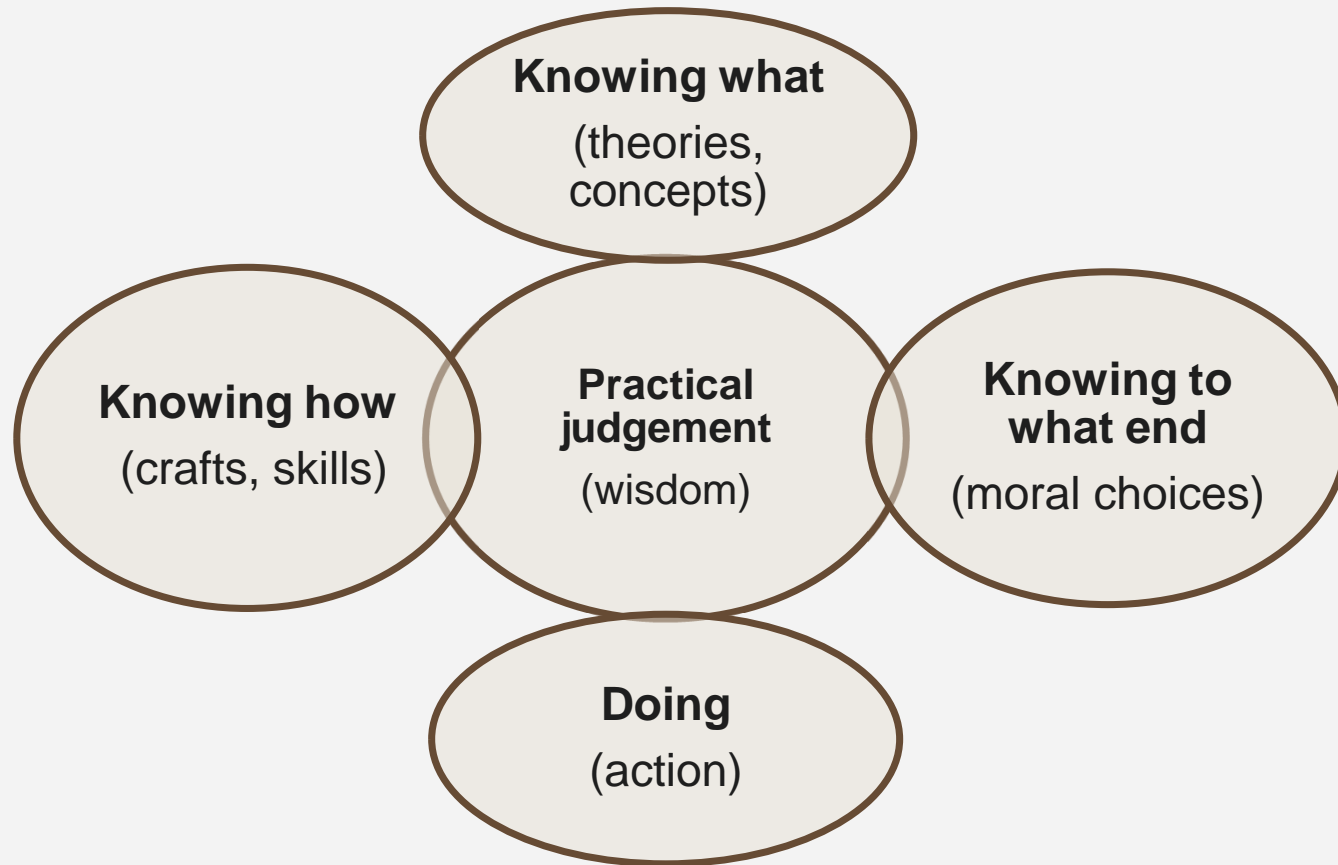
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Planning is the practice of knowing.

* Simin Davoudi, 2015



Planning as a practice of knowing



- Information is formed, validated and transmitted collectively in networks
- People you collaborate with impact what information is available and what is considered relevant
- This holds true for planners and (planning) researchers

Different forms of participatory knowledge

Tacit
knowledge,
planners' local
knowledge

Information that is difficult to put into words, accumulated over time via conversations with residents

Qualitative, experiential
knowledge and
feedback collected via
participation

Generally project-related, formally compiled information, which is publicly commented on

Knowledge
collected via
surveys

Quantitative or qualitative information collected on a large scale, supplementing participation

How does citizen knowledge impact planning?

The citizens have participated – what now?

An action research study of the factors impacting use of participatory citizen knowledge in planning processes in Finland

PROCESSES DRIVE IMPACT

TIMING

The collection of participatory knowledge should be timed carefully. Broad, strategic information at the beginning, in-depth information at later stages

* Kahila 2016



ACCESSIBILITY

Participation should be accessible and attractive for everyone affected by the plan

* Rossi 2019



METHODS

The methods and questions should be able to collect information that can be easily used as such

* Kahila 2016



WHAT MAKES PARTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE USEFUL & USABLE?

SUITABILITY

The information is suitable for the current planning phase and the right planning level

* Kahila & al 2019



ACCESSIBILITY

The data available is known in the organization, information can be utilized with familiar platforms and tools

* Staffans & al 2020



CONTENTS

The data contains local / experiential information which is novel and not otherwise available

* Staffans & al 2020



BARRIERS TO UTILIZING PARTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE

1. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION



3. TIME & RESOURCES

2. REPRESENTATIVENESS & RELIABILITY



4. ATTITUDES, FEELINGS, ORGANIZATION CULTURE



1. AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION

KNOWLEDGE SHARING

How is participatory knowledge stored? Is it communicated, is it kept up to date?

TRAINING

Do planners receive training for participation, analysis & communication?

INTEGRATION

Is the knowledge available via channels planners already use and are familiar with?

FORMAT OF KNOWLEDGE

Does the knowledge require processing or specific skills? Is it digital, is it text-based, is it GIS?



2. REPRESENTATIVENESS AND RELIABILITY

DEMOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

Are people from different backgrounds and in different roles represented?

UNDERREPRESENTED GROUPS

If “everyone” is the target group, those who already participate are reached. Targeted strategies are required

GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION

Where are the respondents' homes compared to mappings or comments?
What is their relation to the space?

MISTAKES IN DATA

If the reliability of the data set comes under question, valid results might not be used. How is data cleaned?



3. TIME AND RESOURCES

TIME PRESSURE

Is there time to plan & gather knowledge, and analyze the results? Is the participation process iterative?

SUPPORT RESOURCES

Are there experts available?
Do structures support using knowledge?
Are there existing processes, do they meet planners' needs?

VALUE OF PARTICIPATION

Is it acceptable to use time and funding to carry out and develop participation?

KEY PERSONS

Do leaders promote or stall participation & use of participatory knowledge? Do planners have agency to develop practices? Are there personnel changes?



4. PLANNER'S ATTITUDES & FEELINGS

VALUES BEHIND PLANNING

Grand vision of the expert
vs. community-based
approaches

MOTIVATION FOR PARTICIPATING

Previous negative experiences
make some planners suspicious
towards citizens' motivations

PRESSURE IN ORGANIZATION

Do planners feel they can influence
the process? Are they confident in
their suggestions? Does leadership
value participation?

SKILLS & PERSONALITY

Different reactions to citizen
knowledge, different access to
expert support

CONFLICTING GOALS AND PRIORITIES

LAND OWNERS

Real estate (value) development, flexibility for future development

POLITICIANS

A balance between personal values, the needs of the citizens and party goals in order to create attractive, prospering cities

AUTHORITIES

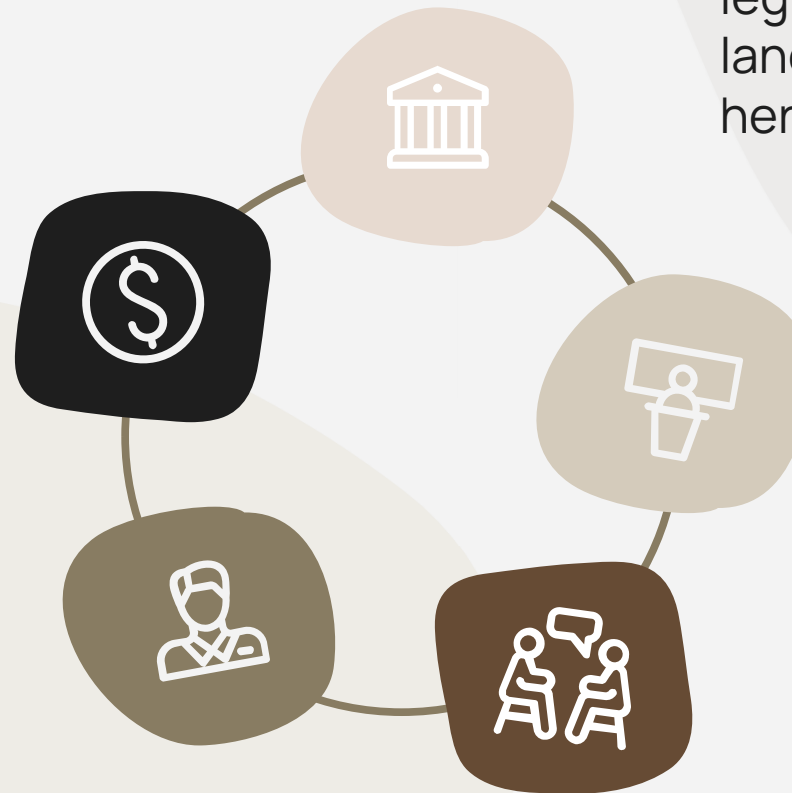
Monitoring and implementation of legislation and regional and national land use goals (ELY-centers, building heritage concervation)

PLANNERS

Creating and maintaining pleasant and functional environments, meeting different groups' needs and priorities based on city goals and strategies

CITIZENS

Ensuring the quality of the living environment or an area otherwise considered important



No one feels like they have great power over planning. Not a planner, not a landowner, citizen or politician.

Cities are too vast and complex systems for a single person to wield significant power over their development.



HOW DOES PARTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE TYPICALLY INFLUENCE THE PLANNING PROCESS?

BACKGROUND

The designers' preconceptions about the needs of the participants influence the plan drafts

* Puustinen 2006



PARTICIPATION

Reaches active residents, produces limited new information. Opinions can guide or change the planning proposals.

* Eranti 2017

PRIORITIZATION

It is unclear to the public on which basis planning decisions are made

* Kahila 2016

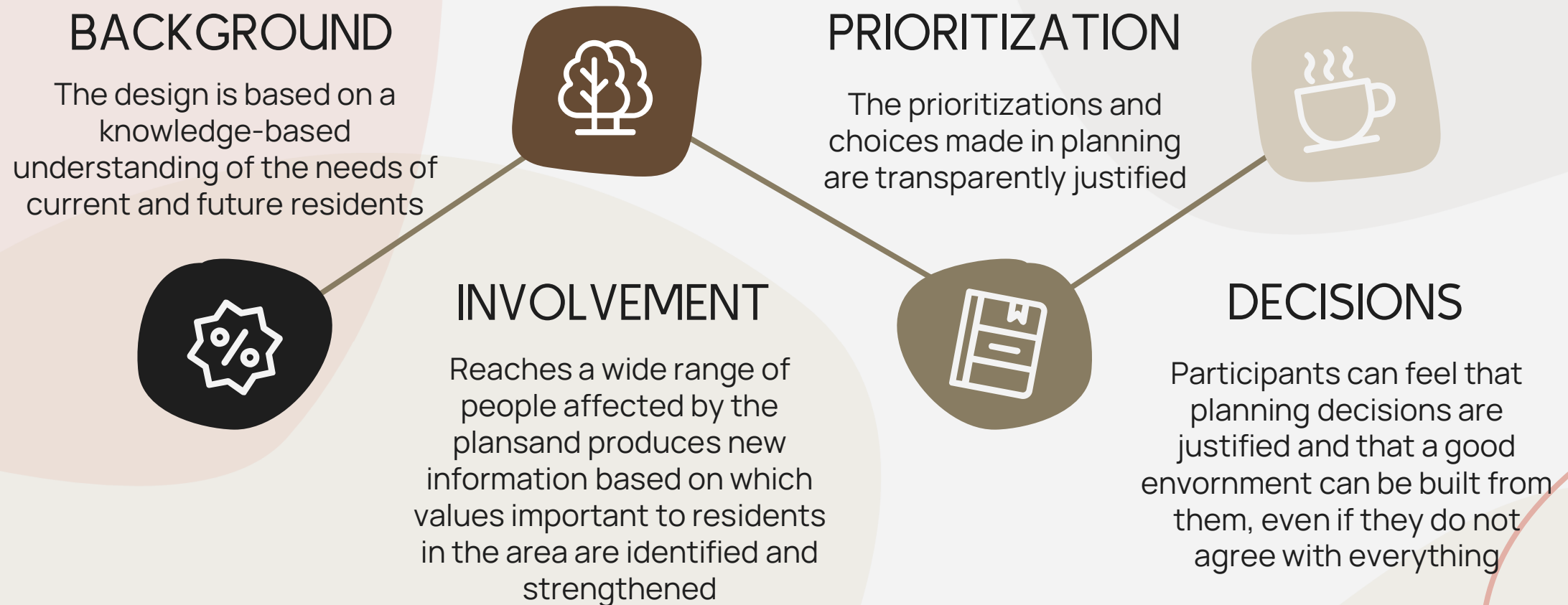


PLANNING OUTCOMES

Participants may feel that their views or wishes were not taken into account in planning decisions

* Eranti 2017

HOW WOULD PARTICIPATORY KNOWLEDGE IDEALLY INFLUENCE THE PLANNING PROCESS?





THANK YOU!

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