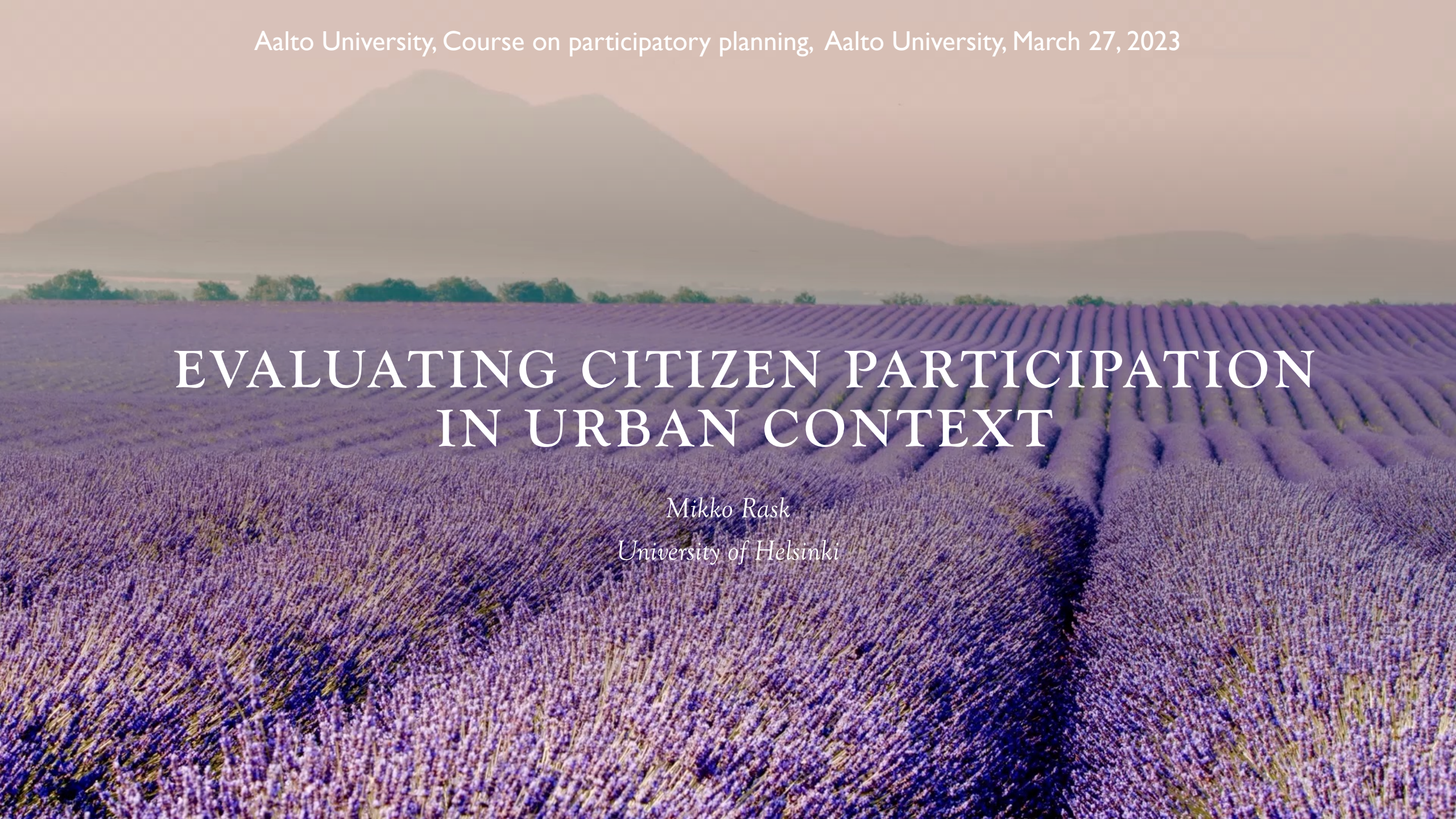
Aalto University, Course on participatory planning, Aalto University, March 27, 2023



EVALUATING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN URBAN CONTEXT

Mikko Rask

University of Helsinki

OBJECTIVE OF THE LECTURE

Learn about the Co-creation Radar method for evaluating citizen participation

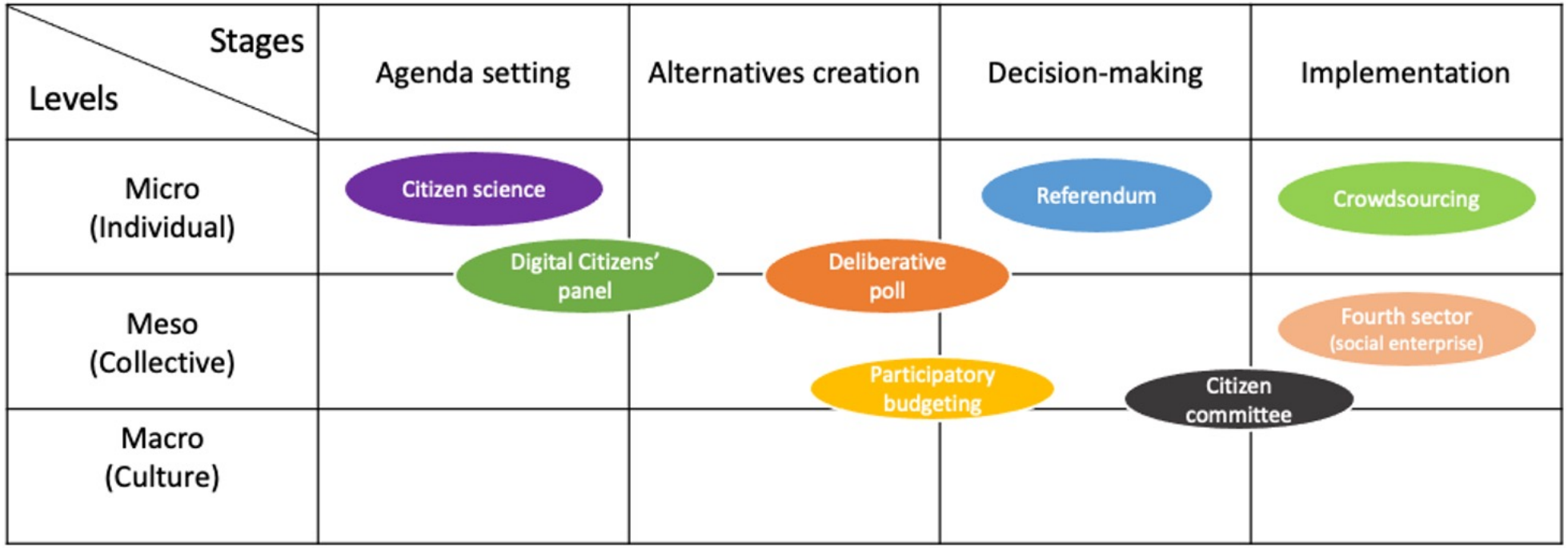
Review and discuss the case of OmaStadi

CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY

- Failure of democratic institutions to address the needs and interests of urban communities.
- Many people feel excluded from the planning process, which leads to a lack of trust and legitimacy in the decisions made by authorities.

DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS

- Democratic innovations empower citizens and ensure their voices are heard in planning, creating more legitimate and sustainable decisions.
- Innovations include participatory budgeting, citizen juries, and collaborative planning.
- To implement, planners must foster a culture of participation, provide accessible and inclusive platforms, and cede some control to citizens.
- These innovations build trust and create opportunities for social learning.
- A powerful remedy to the crisis of democracy, leading to more equitable and sustainable cities.

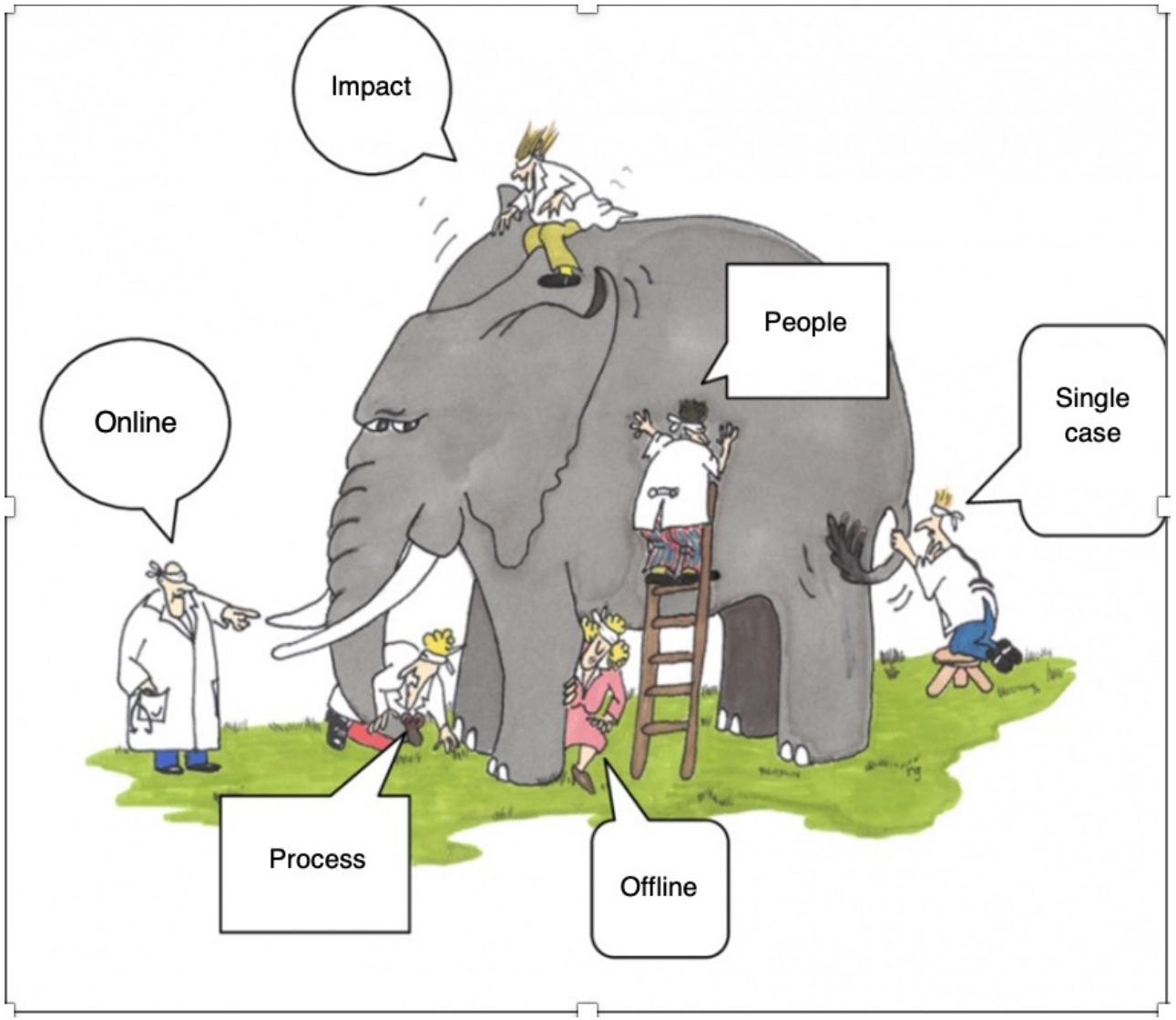


CONCEPTUAL MAP OF DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS

EVALUATING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROCESSES IN URBAN

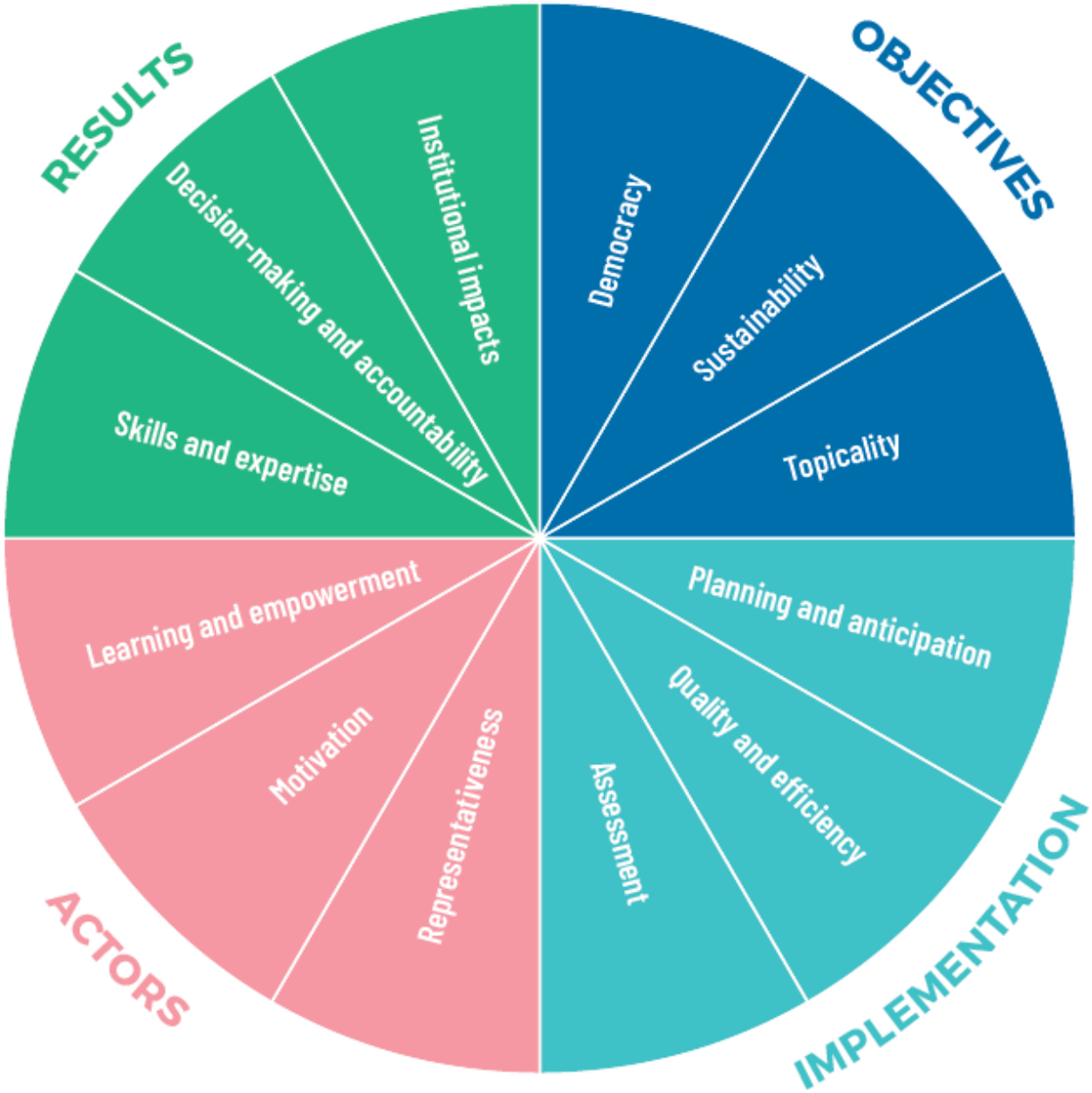
- Evaluation crucial for effective, inclusive, and sustainable citizen participation.
- Identifies strengths and weaknesses, leading to improvements and increased satisfaction.
- Builds trust by demonstrating transparency and accountability.
- Improves decision-making by understanding citizen preferences and priorities.
- Ongoing evaluation necessary for continued relevance and effectiveness.
- To evaluate, establish clear criteria, collect data, involve citizens.
- Essential for creating democratic and equitable cities.

TYPICAL APPROACH TO EVALUATION: UNSYSTEMATIC



"big footprint in society"

"right goals"



"right people"

"right methods"

Helsinki

OmaStadi 2020-2021

Suomi | English | Svenska

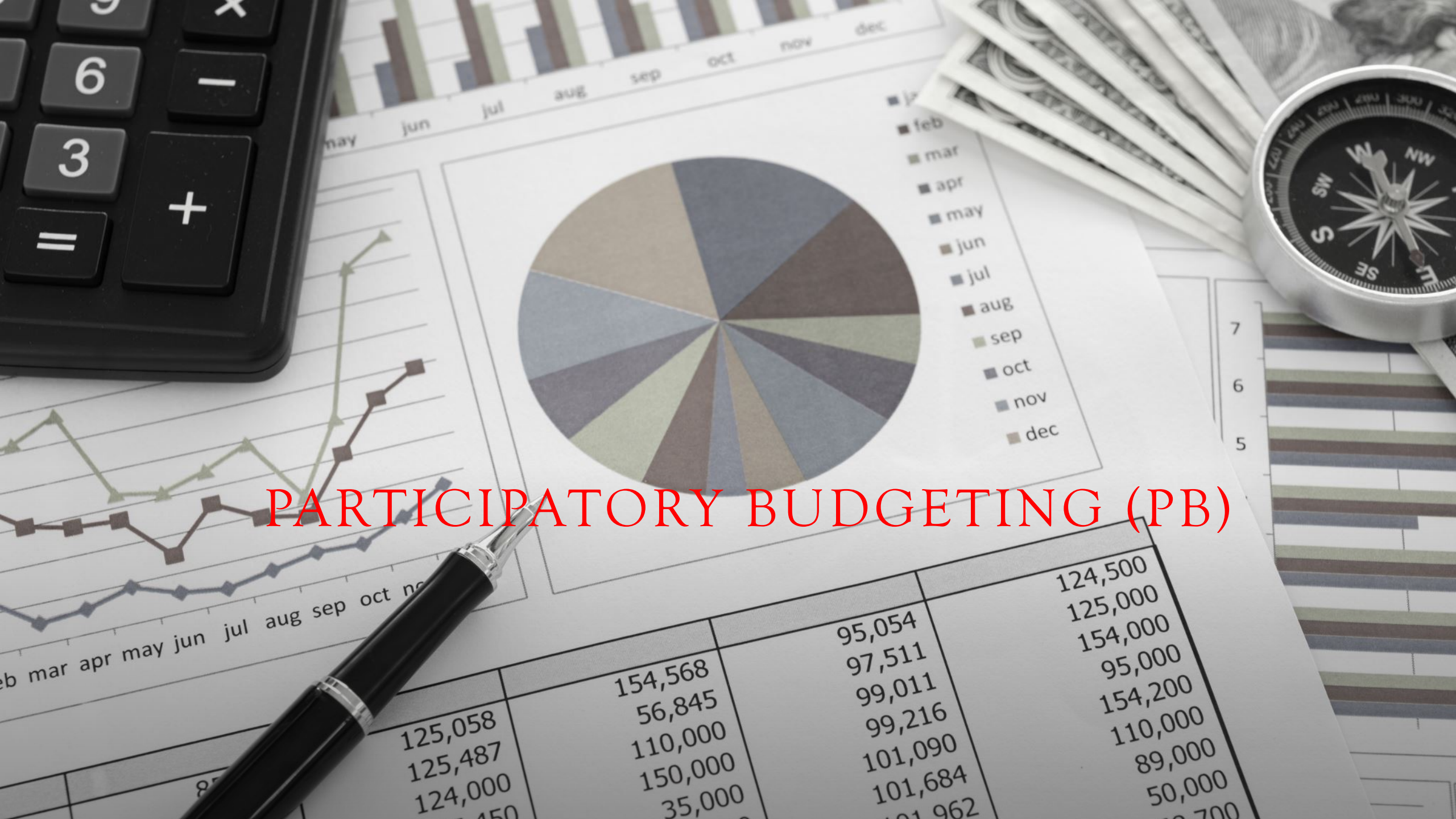
Help Sign in

1 **Brainstorming** 2020-10-05 - 2020-10-25

2 **Co-creation** January-April 2021

3 **Voting** Autumn 2021

4 **Implementation** 2022


PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING (PB)

Participatory budgeting – a democratic innovation for urban development, whereby citizens propose projects and vote on their implementation.

PB WORLDWIDE

11690-11825

1 EUROPE

4577-4676

39,07 - 39,53%

2 SOUTH AMERICA

3061-3081

26,30 - 26,50%

3 ASIA

2773-2775

23,67 - 23,46%

4 AFRICA

995-958

8,13 - 8,19%

4 NORTH AMERICA

178

1,50 - 1,52%

5 CENTRAL AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

132-142

1,14 - 1,20%

6 OCEANIA

12-15

0,10 - 0,13%

https://www.pbatlas.net/world.html

Omastadi 2018-2020

PARTICIPANTS **69,668**	ASSEMBLIES **1**
PROPOSALS **1,273**	ACCEPTED PROPOSALS **839**
RESULTS **44**	PLANS **351**
ACCEPTED PLANS **296**	

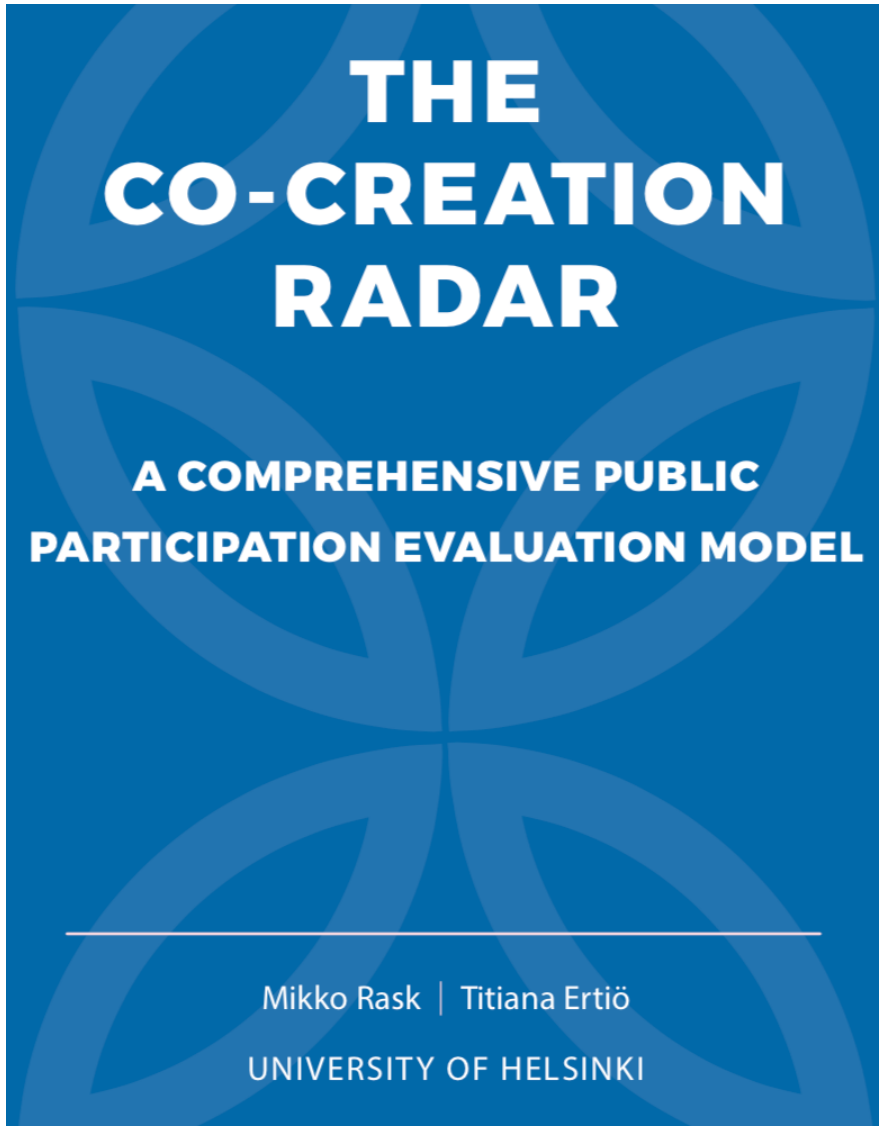
COMMENTS **3,722** MEETINGS **108** ENDORSEMENTS **4,965**

Source: omastadi.hel.fi/

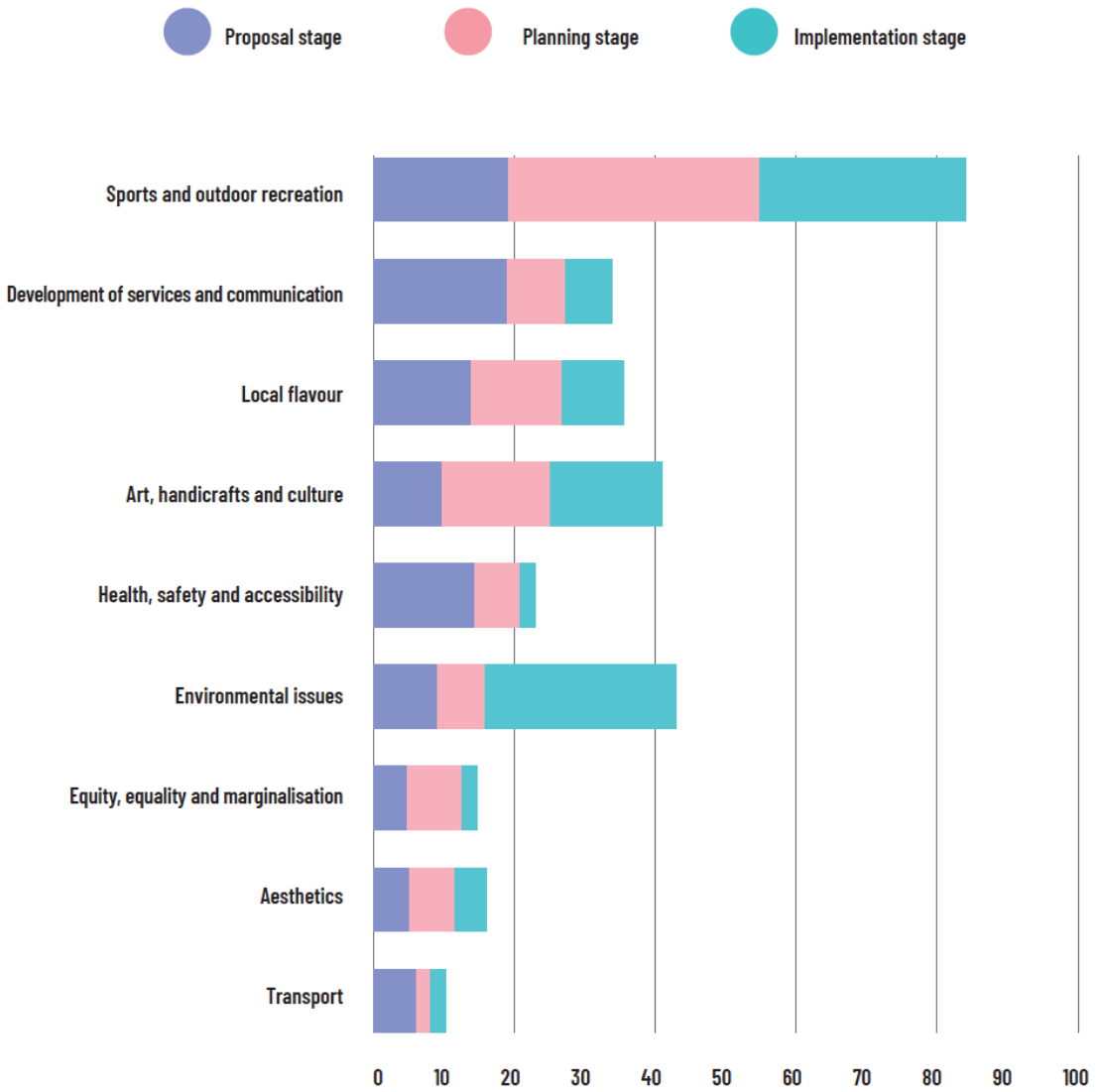

Final evaluation of the City of Helsinki's participatory budgeting
OmaStadi 2018–2020
Mikko Rask | Titiana Ertiö | Pekka Tuominen
Veronica Ahonen


COLDIGIT


BIBU


THE CO-CREATION RADAR
A COMPREHENSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION EVALUATION MODEL
Mikko Rask | Titiana Ertiö
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

What kinds of ideas?



Osallistuva budjetointi 2018-2019

Lisää siisteyttä Itä-Helsinkiin

Hankitaan lisää roska-astioita, penkkejä rantakadulle sekä kampanjoidaan siisteydestä päiväkodeissa,...

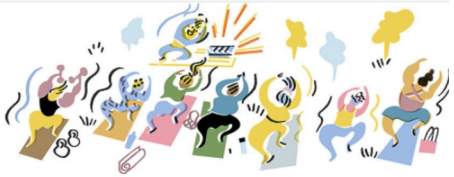
Hankkeen edistyminen

100%

Rakennettu ympäristö | Itäinen

Näytä hanke

1



Osallistuva budjetointi 2018-2019

Liikuntaa ja hyvinvointia tukevia palveluita ikäihmisille Koillis-Helsinkiin - Lähelle kotia

Edistetään ikäihmisten kokonaisvaltaista hyvinvointia tuomalla lähelle kotia mielekästä yhdessä teke...

Hankkeen edistyminen

25%

Terveys ja hyvinvointi | Koillinen

Näytä hanke

0

Osallistuva budjetointi 2018-2019

Tekonurmikenttä arabian peruskoulun viereiselle hiekkakentälle

Rakennetaan tekonurmikenttä Arabianranna liikuntapuiston hiekkakentälle. Tekonurmikenttä palvelee Ar...

Hankkeen edistyminen

100%

Liikunta ja ulkoilu | Keskinen

Osallistuva budjetointi 2018-2019

Trampoliineja yleisiin puistoihin

Oulunkylän liikuntapuistoon ja Maunulan leikkipuistoon asennetaan yhteensä kuusi maahan upotettavaa ...

Hankkeen edistyminen

50%

Liikunta ja ulkoilu | Pohjoinen

The interviews relate people being somewhat let down by most proposals being very mundane: “benches, dog refuse bags, trees and flowers”.

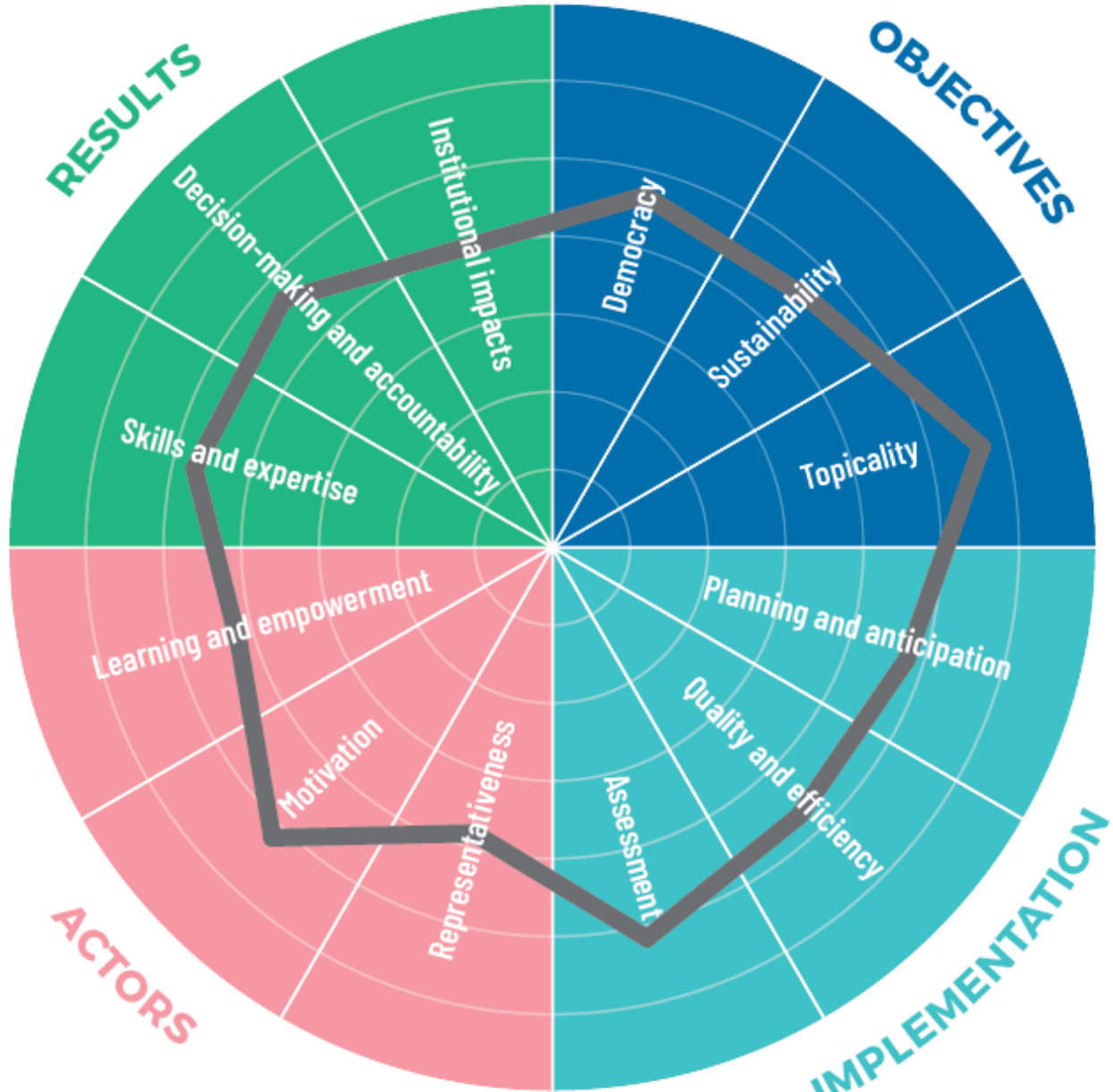
https://www.instagram.com/p/CHAMGOvBB4p/

INNOVATIVENESS

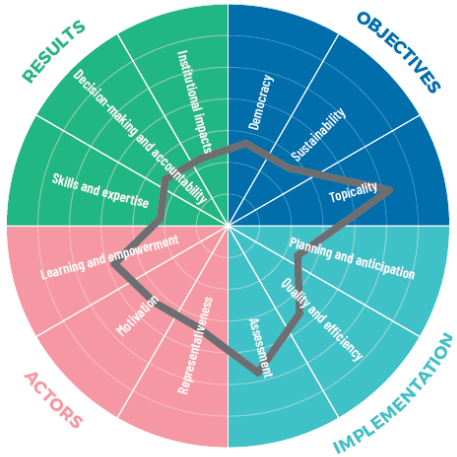
- 2-6% of the proposals in the 7+1 disctricts were classified as innovative (cf, Rogers, 1962).
- 4/44 (9%) of the funded projects were classified as innovative (e.g., “Vartiosaaren aurinkosähkölautta Reposalmeen”)

Rogers, E. (1962). *Diffusion of innovations*. New York, Free Press of Glencoe.

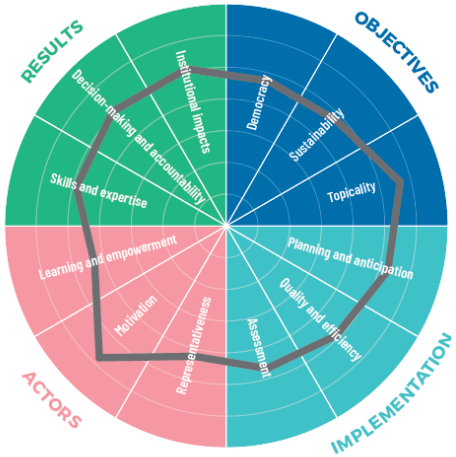
Findings from the evaluation


RESULTS
OBJECTIVES
ACTORS
IMPLEMENTATION
Institutional impacts
Decision-making and accountability
Skills and expertise
Democracy
Sustainability
Topicality
Learning and empowerment
Motivation
Representativeness
Planning and anticipation
Quality and efficiency
Assessment

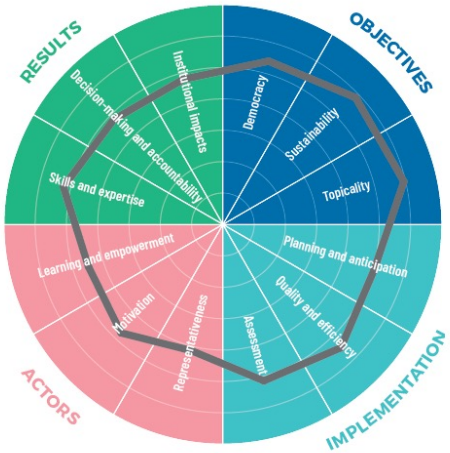
Association and NGO actors



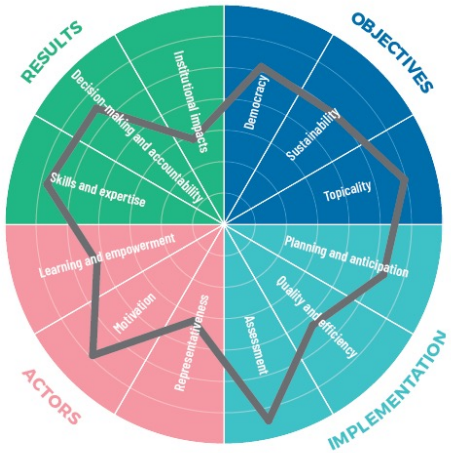
OmaStadi working group



City experts



Political decision-makers



STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES

Participant feedback survey N390

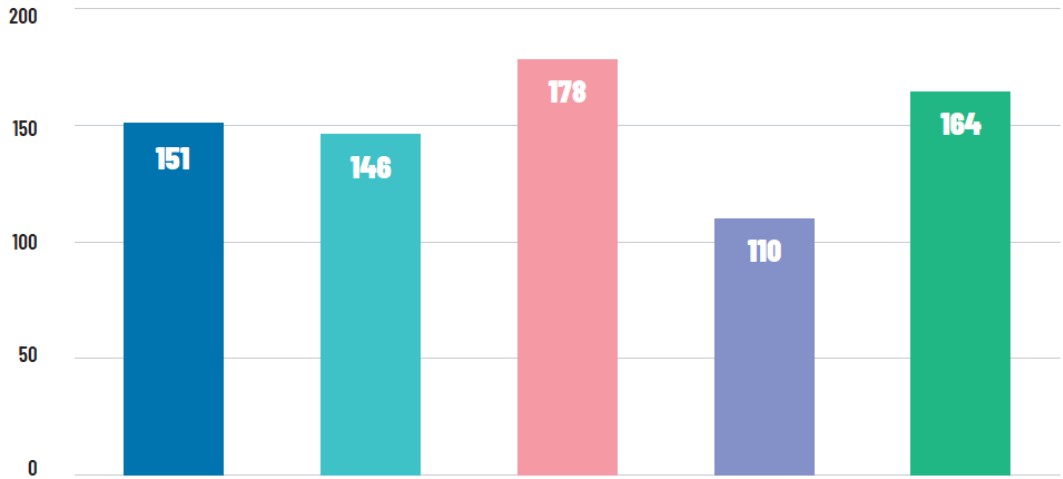


FIGURE 4.3 **Distribution of open-ended feedback (N=749) into classes**

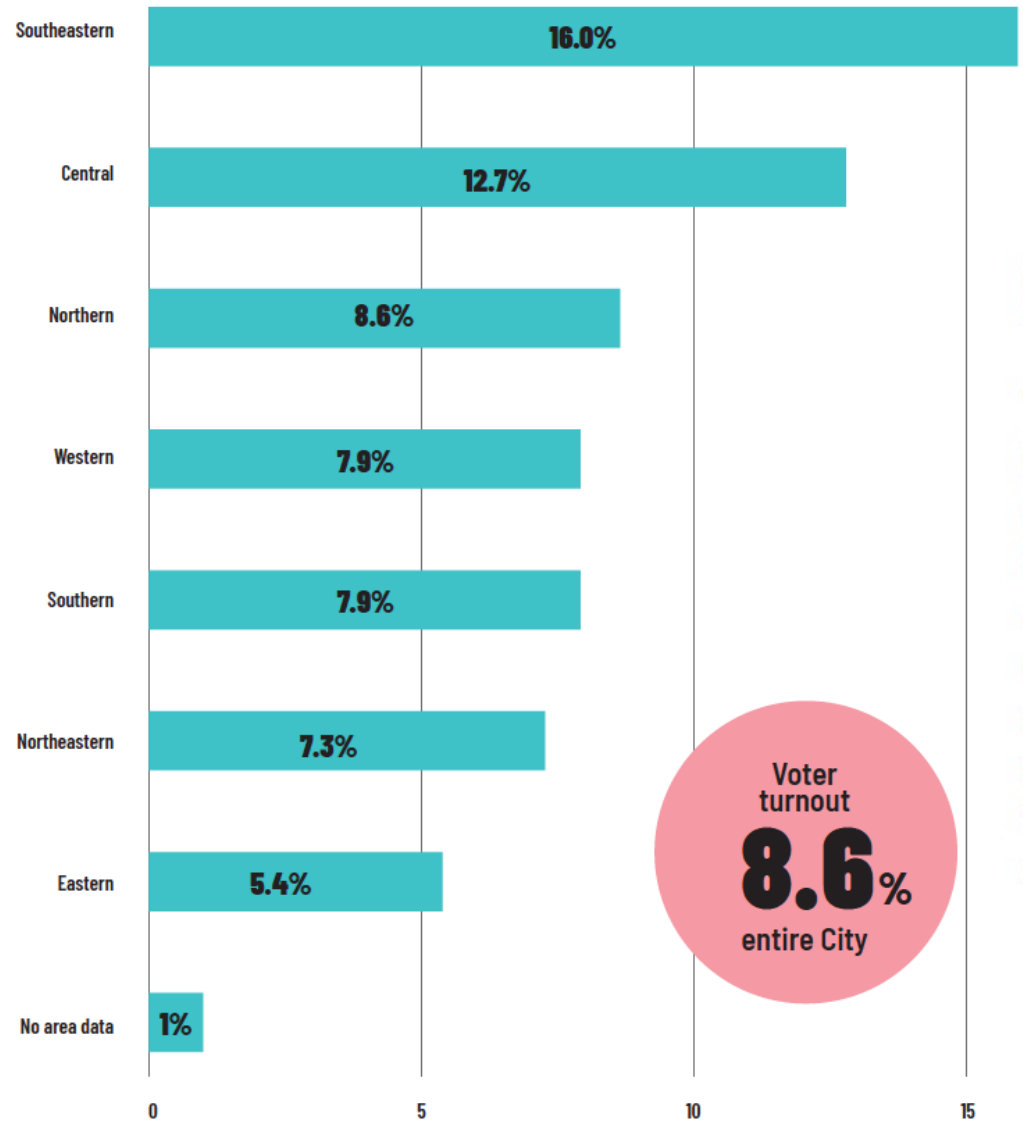
Other feedback regarding intelligibility of voting
Other feedback regarding plan selection
Other feedback regarding equity
Other feedback regarding the omastadi.hel.fi website
Other messages and feedback

I think this showed exactly how we normal people CANNOT influence things. The rich fill social media with bought advertising and get even large sports teams and other organisations to lobby for their projects. Poor taste.

– CITIZEN FEEDBACK

This has been my opinion since the beginning: making the decisions by voting causes the greatest benefit to be reaped by areas with active residents and a lot of social capital. The winners here are those who know how to campaign, advocate and who have the knowledge, skills and networks to get people all over the City to vote for their project.

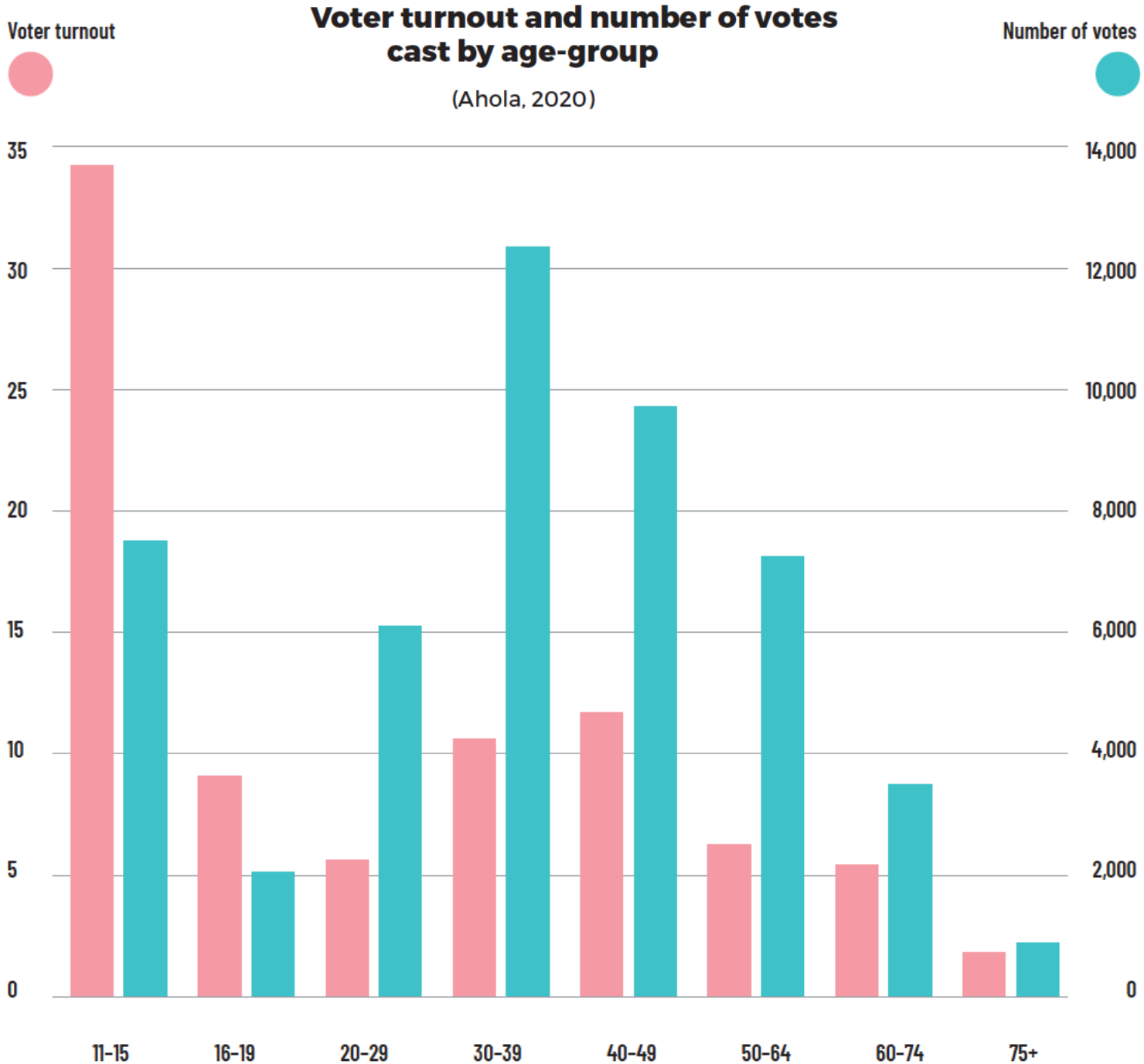
– CITIZEN FEEDBACK



The most active postal code areas were Kaitalahti (23.4%) and Suomenlinna (21.1%) whereas in Kontula and Vesala 2.6% of those eligible to vote did so. The differences between major districts are great but the picture is somewhat distorted.

OmaStadi voter turnout per major district

(source: Ahola, 2020)


Voter turnout and number of votes cast by age-group
(Ahola, 2020)
Voter turnout
Number of votes
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
14,000
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
11-15
16-19
20-29
30-39
40-49
50-64
60-74
75+

OmaStadi managed to persuade residents who had previously not participated in any such projects, to get involved in the City's decision-making.

How many resources are needed for allocating EUR 4.4 million?

I don't think any of our other activities have such good resources, the events had an exceptional amount of personnel. Overall, we had an enormous number of personnel at our disposal for this work.

– PIA PAKARINEN, DEPUTY MAYOR, EDUCATION

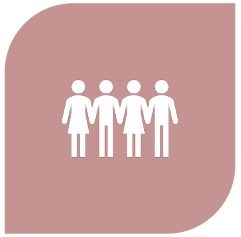
Many felt that the estimates drawn up by the experts and the residents did not match. That is why one of the key ways of strengthening the legitimacy of the entire Oma-Stadi process is to make the cost estimate stage be even more transparent than before.

Real-time voting tracking

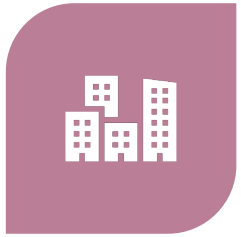
"Competition was the closest in the Southeastern and Central major districts, lasting until the very last moments before voting closed. In the Southeastern major district, the opposing proposals involved the renovation of Villa Aino Ackté and, on the other hand, plans related to a new artificial turf for the Herttoniemi sports park. A total of 2,727 residents voted for renovating the villa and 2,710 wanted to get the artificial turf making for an incredibly close competition. In the Central major district, a proposal for an artificial turf for Arabianranta won by 2,870 votes while the proposal for invigorating the Konepaja cultural centre in Vallila received a total of 2,784 votes."

CAUTIOSLY POSITIVE EVALUATION

HIGHLY TOPICAL AND BROADLY SUPPORTED PROJECT



HIGH VOTING PERCENTAGE, PREVIOUSLY PASSIVE RESIDENTS REACHED



ABUNDANT IDEAS FOR DEVELOPING THE CITY

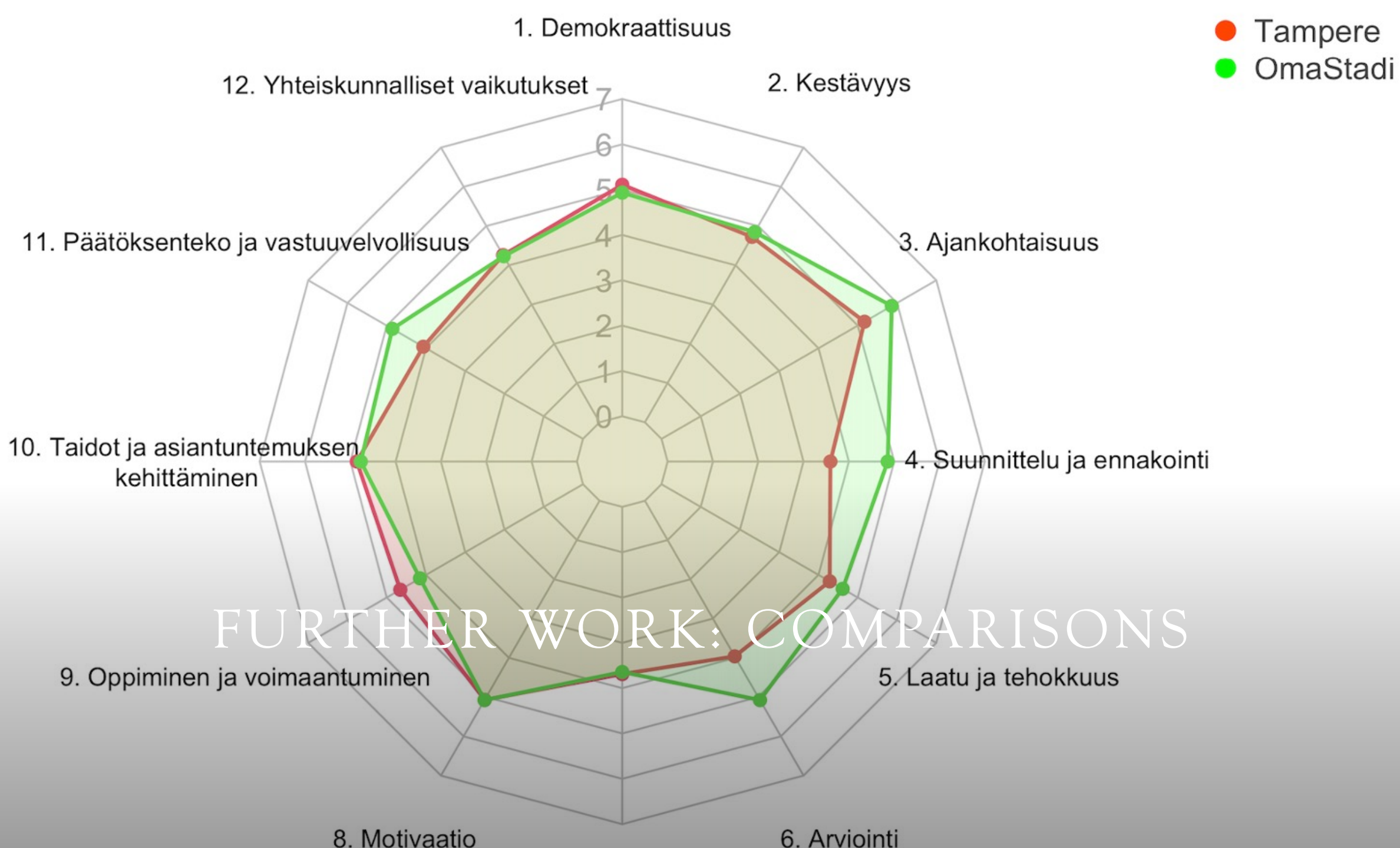
RAKSA CO-CREATION EVENTS BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND CITY EXPERTS WORKED WELL

BOROUGH LIAISONS WERE POSITIVELY ESTEEMED

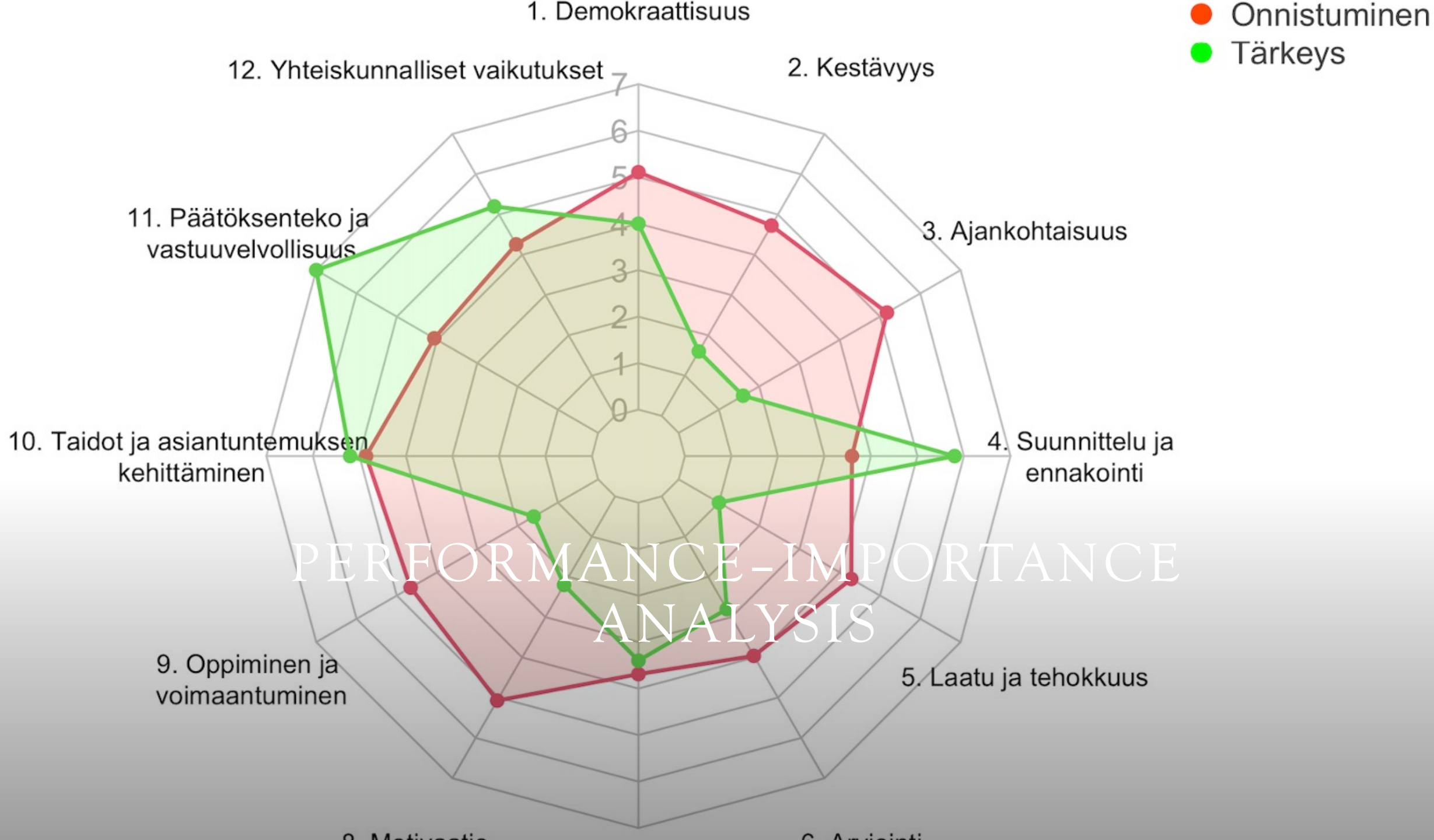
BRAVE LARGE-SCALE EXPERIMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

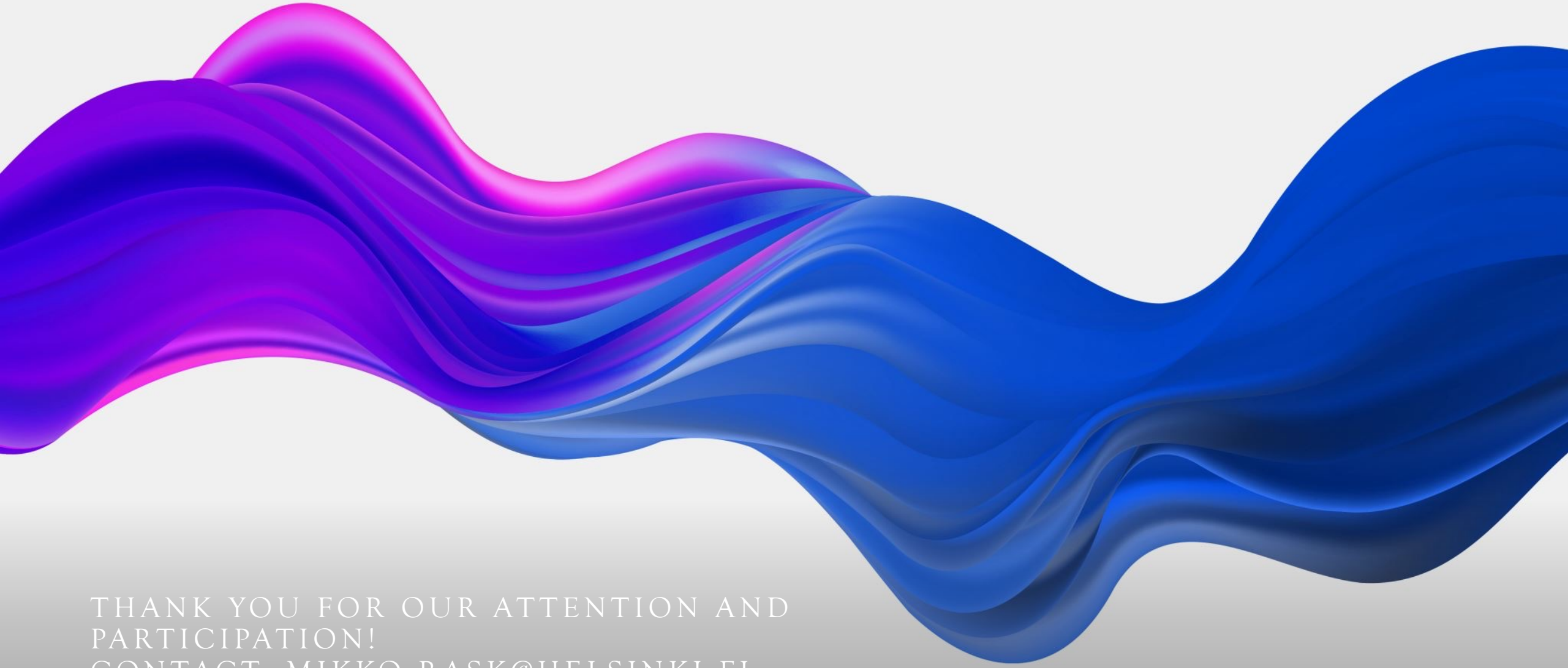
Develop	Maintain	Shift	Delineate	Support	Make	Expand
Develop OmaStadi in coherence with the concept of proximity democracy	Maintain equity as a central tenet	Shift attention from voting to deliberation	Delineate OmaStadi objectives	Support OmaStadi's future development through research and evaluation	Make the results and impact of OmaStadi more visible.	Expand co-creation



FURTHER WORK: COMPARISONS



PERFORMANCE-IMPORTANCE ANALYSIS



THANK YOU FOR OUR ATTENTION AND PARTICIPATION!

CONTACT: MIKKO.RASK@HELSINKI.FI