

Updating collaborative planning for self- organising cities



Participatory planning
Aalto University, 8 April, 2021



S Y K E

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The civil society has changed



The ways of thinking about citizens' roles and potentials in urban development must be updated



Application of the revised thinking in planning practices

The civil society has changed

- **Digitalization** has brought people multiple opportunities to start developing their societies directly by themselves
Internet + social media → actor networks
- Collaborative consumption, sharing
- Ecological turn: recycling, circular economy, climate action
- Changing work: Start-up spirit, social and ethical entrepreneurship
- Disappointment with politics → direct action

Activism on the rise

- From resident and consumer to **multiple roles**: service provider, community manager, platform manager, mediator, funder, co-creator, developer, civic designer/planner, hacktivist...
- Self-organised **peer networks**, usually avoiding hierarchies (at least in principle)



Civic activism on urban planning

- Social media YIMBY groups – suggestions, discussion, argumentation
- Alternative planning studies and plans – including engagement of peers
- Hacktivism – creative use of data for apps, visualizations



FB group 'Lisää kaupunkia Helsinkiin' – making Helsinki more urban, 19 600 members



Based on our research the group has:

- Changed the planning context by making urbanism a phenomenon
- Helped the city planning department in implementing densification
- Enriched the planning discussion and widened the knowledge base
- Presented a new model for political action

Urban Helsinki: proposals for Hernesaari

Suggestion by
the City of
Helsinki:
6000 residents



Plan B: 10 000 residents

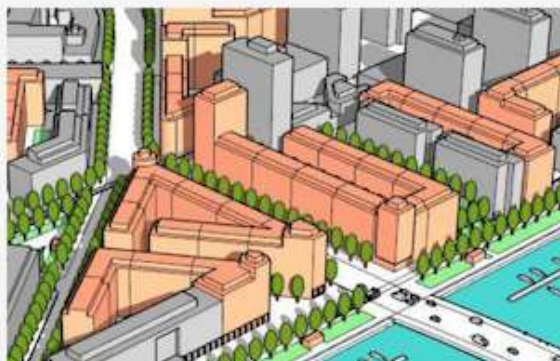


Plan C: 15 000 residents

URBAN HELSINKI



**LAAKSON
SAIRAALA-ALUE**



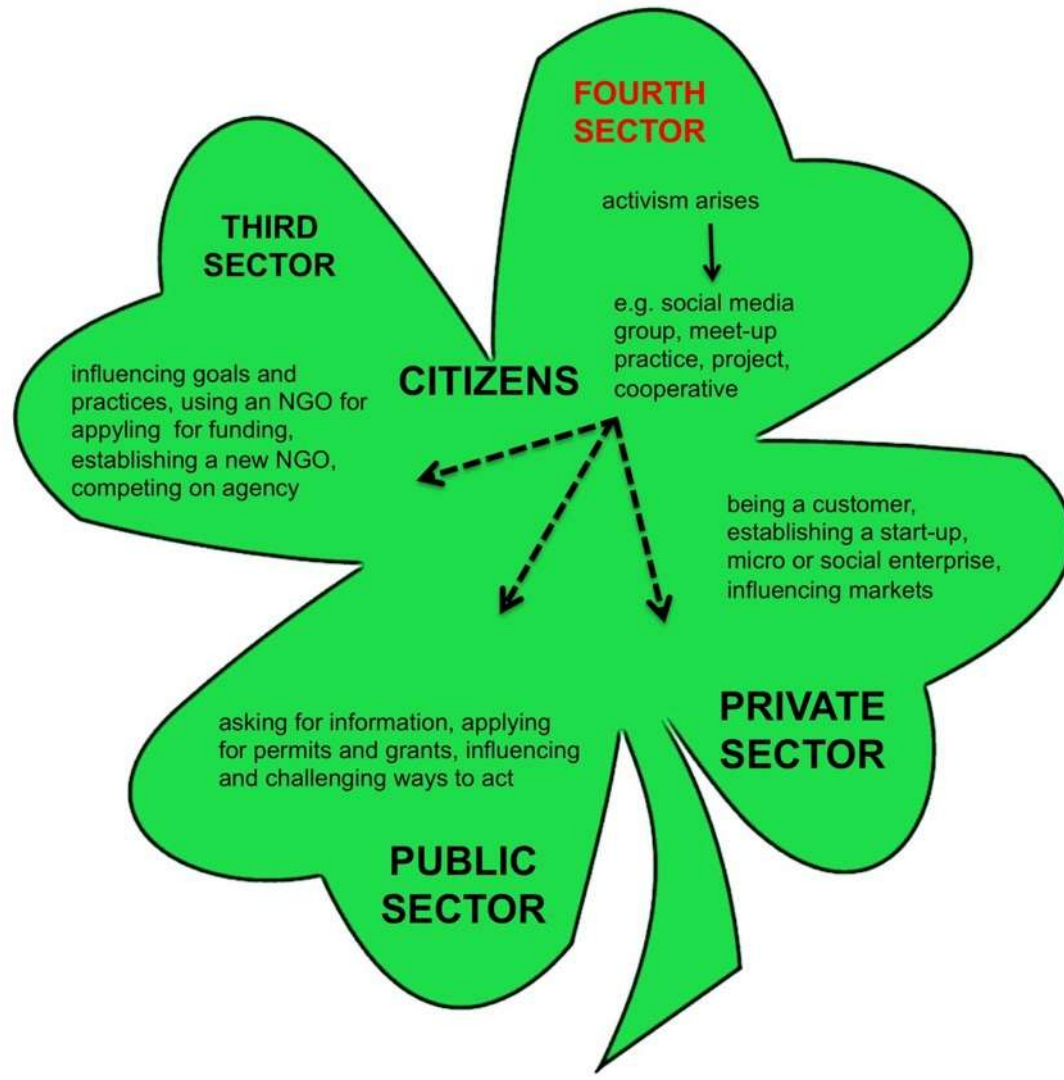
(Urban) Civic activism

- Self-organized, proactive and constructive **co-action**, typically outside of formal NGOs
- Primarily **DIY-action** instead of orienting towards decision making system or political engagement
 - 'Let's just do it!' attitude (Pulkkinen 2014)
- Based on networking in social media and **internet** solutions
- People-driven bottom-up urbanism; takes place in urban space or is related to cities and urban life



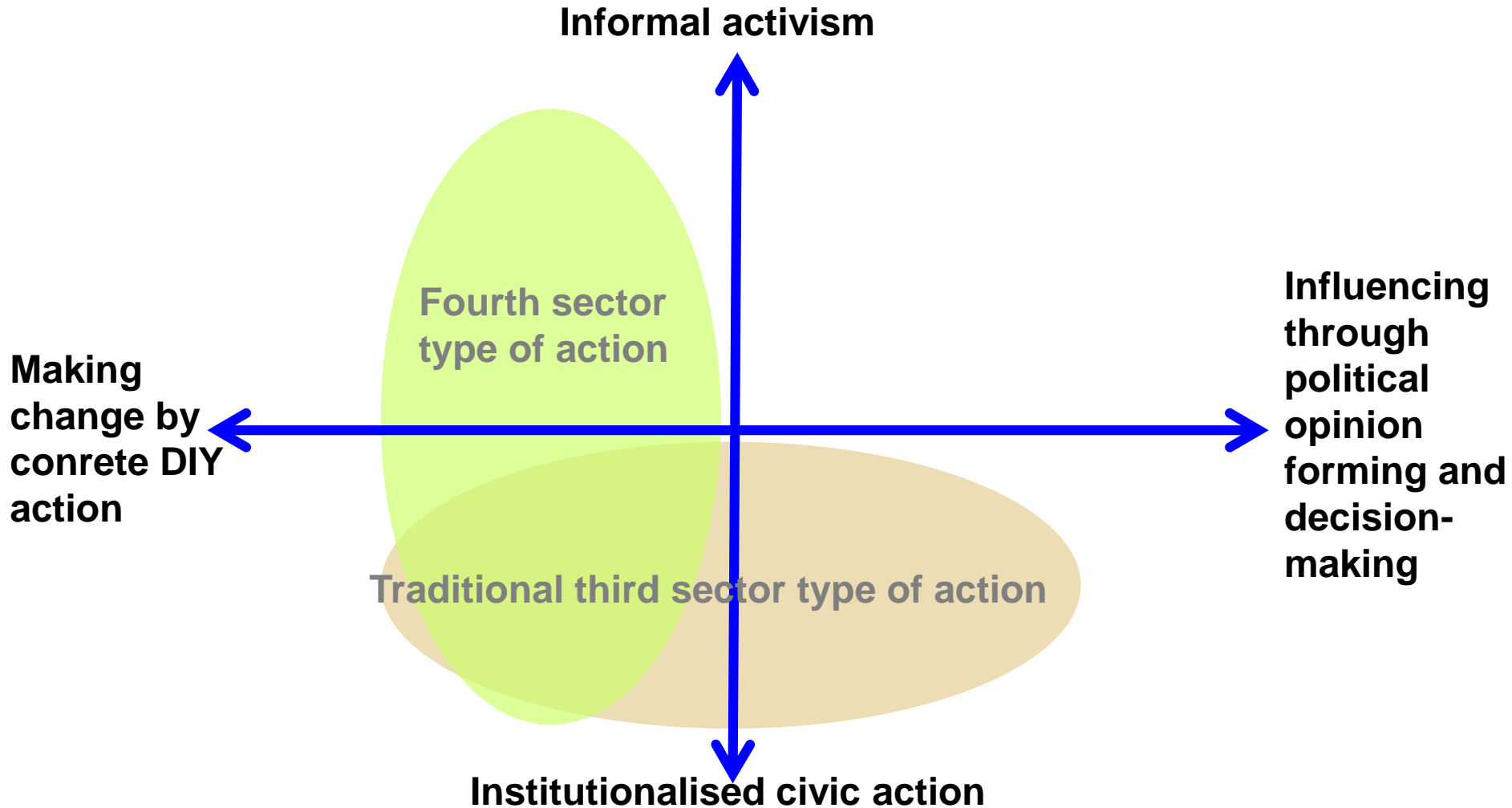
A system level view: rise of the 4th sector

- NGOs (the third sector) still important, but nowadays much of all civic action organized in other ways
- The non-NGO-based civic actors worth recognizing as the fourth sector
- But **any actor** can have **fourth sector type of action**
- Fourth sector type of action can take place between public, private and NGO sector, and blur their borders



Types of civic action - characteristics

Fourth sector type of action	Traditional NGO action
Organisation: for example a social media group only	Organisation: NGO
Social media essential	Social media as extra
Influencing: hacker attitude	Influencing through official planning and decision-making
Events, action, DIY	Meetings, statements
Sense of community	Power to influence
Networking, enterprises etc.	Partnership with municipality
Openness, sharing	Representativeness
Visibility	Continuity
Momentariness	Controlled development
Avoiding hierarchies	Hierarchy
Drive to act, creation of new	Doing because that's what's done in the past
Proactivity, YIMBY	Also counter-action, NIMBY



Civic engagement

Traditional thinking

To get engaged with the society, citizens must above all have opportunities to influence the official planning and political decision-making by the government.

Civic engagement rethought

Engagement can be created in **multiple processes, through multiple roles**. Opportunities to influence the official planning and decision-making are still important for many, but engagement can also arise when people help each other, provide services, contribute to their community, even fund local projects, and so on. Activisms create preconditions for the less active to get engaged as well.

Supporting alternative planning

- **Timing**: make the planning task and the basic data open immediately and announce it in social media
- **Guidance**: design the process of **handling** and **using** alternative plans and give guidance for the officials concerned
- **Fairness**: develop fairness practices, for example 'support packages' for co-planning, ways to balance different voices
- **Give reward**: show appreciation for citizen planners e.g. in city media. Tell how their activism made sense!
- Notice alternative plans as **worth more** than 'one of the many individual views' – take them to the planning board

Hybrid governing

- Earlier research
 - Hybrid organisation (Billis 2010)
 - Hybrid government (Heinonen & Ruotsalainen 2017)
- In hybrid governing, attention
 - from the system, decision-making power and contracts also to **interaction processes**
 - to **aligning and bringing together** actors, ways of action and processes that are **different** and operate by different action logics

Hybrid governing

The government

- identifies fourth sector as specific group of actors
- seeks ways to align and match governmental activities with actions of the fourth sector, by experimenting and learning

Relationship between activisms and administration

Sustainable utilisation of activisms is an established, dynamic part of administrative activities (including the top levels of the 1–8 scale)

Relationship of activisms and administration developed on a determined and long-term basis

Activisms recognised and utilised in a routine manner

Activisms recognised in goal-setting; administration aims for active use of resources

Activisms and resources occasionally recognised and utilised

No attention to activisms

Levels of collaboration

8 Activism and administration form an integrated system

7 Continuous collaboration

6 Project-based cooperation

5 Administration's support to activism

4 Dialogue between activism and administration

3 Active communication especially to activists

2 Activism as a source of information

1 Activism on its own

FIGURE 3.

Development of the relationship between activisms and city administration, and the levels of co-operation in hybrid governance.

City planning

- 
- 1** No preparation for alternative plans
 - 2** Monitoring of city planning activists' social media groups
 - 3** Communication about the source materials used by planners
 - 4** Officeholders take part in the discussion in activists' social media groups
 - 5** Support services for alternative planning
 - 6** Co-production of planning materials
 - 7** Alternative plans presented to the city planning committee
 - 8** Open co-planning projects are organised

City and a local movement combine their resources:

Myyrmäki neighborhood movement had some equipment for events. The city of Vantaa invested in additional equipment with 30 000 €. The movement established a lending service where this equipment is available for citizens to lend for free for organising their own open events

Haluatko perustaa oman festarin? Myyrmäestä saa ilmaiseksi lainaan kaiken tarvittavan kaluston pandemian hiipuesssa

Myyrmäki-liike on perustanut kaikille vantaalaisille avoimen tapahtumakalustoa välittävän lainaamon.



Vuonna 2014 Myyrmäki-liike valmisti elokuvan ulkoilmanäytöstä Myyrmäen asemalla.
KUVA: VILLE MÄNNIKÖ

Kauppi-Niihama area, Tampere: Civic planners invited to create plans as material for the official planning processes



<https://www.tampere.fi/asuminen-ja-ymparisto/kaavoitus/yleiskaavoitus/hankkeet/kauppi-niihama.html>

<https://kartat.tampere.fi/suunnitelmakoonti/strateginenkartta.php>

SPECTRUM OF PROCESSES FOR COLLABORATION AND CONSENSUS-BUILDING IN PUBLIC DECISIONS¹

	EXPLORE/INFORM	CONSULT	ADVISE	DECIDE	IMPLEMENT
Outcomes ²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of issues, process, etc. Lists of concerns Information needs identified Explore differing perspectives Build relationships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments on draft policies Suggestions for approaches Priority concerns/issues Discussion of options Call for action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consensus or majority recommendations, on options, proposals or actions, often directed to public entities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consensus-based agreements among agencies and constituent groups on policies, lawsuits or rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-party agreements to implement collaborative action and strategic plans
Sample Processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus Groups Conferences Open houses Dialogues Roundtable Discussions Forums Summits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public meetings Workshops Charettes Town Hall Meetings (w & w/o deliberative polls) Community Visioning Scoping meetings Public Hearings Dialogues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advisory Committees Task Forces Citizen Advisory Boards Work Groups Policy Dialogues Visioning Processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory Negotiation Negotiated settlement of lawsuits, permits, cleanup plans, etc. Consensus meetings Mediated negotiations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborative Planning processes Partnerships for Action Strategic Planning Committees Implementation Committees

Source: USIECR

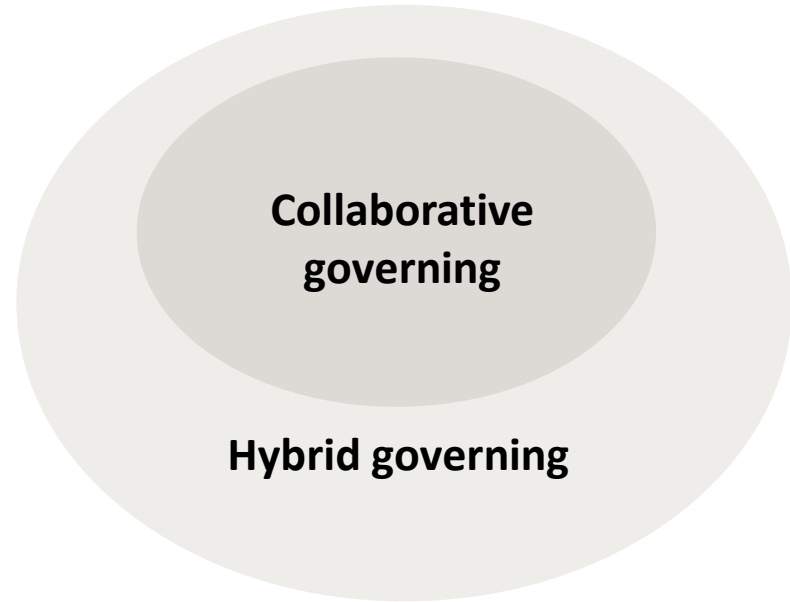


**CORE project: Facilitating the collaborative turn in Finland,
beyond participation-as-consultation** collaboration.fi

Collaborative governing enacted as part of the wider frame of hybrid governing

Collaborative governance: “the processes and structures of public policy decision making and management that **engage people constructively across the boundaries** of public agencies, levels of government, and/or the public, private and civic spheres in order to carry out **a public purpose that could not otherwise be accomplished**”

Emerson et al. 2012



Planning cities with self-organising citizens

– key points

- Respect and use citizens as **resource**.
- Make civic activists feel welcome. Remember **openness**!
- Think about interaction and collaborative activities **long term**. How does a planning process influence the **collaboration capacity** in the future?
- Notice the **multiple roles** of people and the related resources, in all stages of planning
- Inform citizens about the planning task **immediately** when possible
- Understand other people. Be **human**!

Civicactivism.fi – information bank

- Helps find ways to act so that the resources of citizens can benefit the community in a fair and sustainable way
- Knowledge, tools, ideas, visions to support above all public authorities, and also civic actors in their actions for urban development



A publication aiming to inspire and provide practical tips especially for municipalities in enhancing civic engagement, as part of the Sustainable City programme by the Ministry of Environment

kestavakaupunki.fi/osallisuus



Saa kuulua!

Oivalluksia osallisuuden
edistämiseen
kaupungeissa ja kunnissa

SUOMEN YMPÄRISTÖKESKUS (SYKE) / YMPÄRISTÖMINISTERIÖ / ET MAY OY

Project: Civic activism as resource for the metropolis

University of Helsinki, Department of Social Research 2015–2017

Pasi Mäenpää & Maija Faehnle

- How does civic activism **contribute** to the development of cities? How could cities and state organizations **utilise and support** it?
- Focus on **ecological sustainability, local innovations, local communities** and **civic engagement**
- **Advocative action research**: working together with activists and authorities by identifying and solving their problems

Partners: Cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, and Lahti; Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Justice; The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute

Funding: Helsinki Metropolitan Region Urban Research Program, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, The Finnish Cultural Foundation/Uusimaa Regional fund, The Fund of Heikki von Hertzen, The Finnish Association of Non-fiction Writers, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, SITRA

Yhteistoiminnallisia ratkaisuja sirpaloituvien yhteiskuntien ongelmiin – käänne yhteishallintaan
ympäristöpäätöksenteossa – CORE



How to get actors from all four sectors to solve complex problems together?



@core_STN

#corestn



@collaborationfi

#yhteishallinta

#collaborativegovernance



strateginenTUTKIMUS

Publications in English

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More: <http://www.kaupunkiaktivismi.fi/en/node/99/publications>

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Further reading

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Thank you!

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