



# Let's present the course works in groups

- max 5 persons/ group
- 5 min per person
- choose one course work to be presented to all

# The chosen presentations

- 5 min per presentation



# Your post-course reflections

## Your pre course personal attitudes survey

### ^ ... please continue

6.

It is important that each participant is able to express his/her individual opinion



It is important that people are able to express their collective viewpoints

7.

A planner should be concerned about the common good



A planner should try to understand the variety of needs of people

8.

Traditional methods like public hearings and focus group meetings are best methods for participatory planning



New technology methods like online tools and social media are best methods for participatory planning

9.

Planners should be responsible for organizing public participation



Participants should be encouraged to self-organize participation

10.

Participatory planning should focus on detailed planning level



Participatory planning should focus on all levels of planning, also general and regional planning

11.

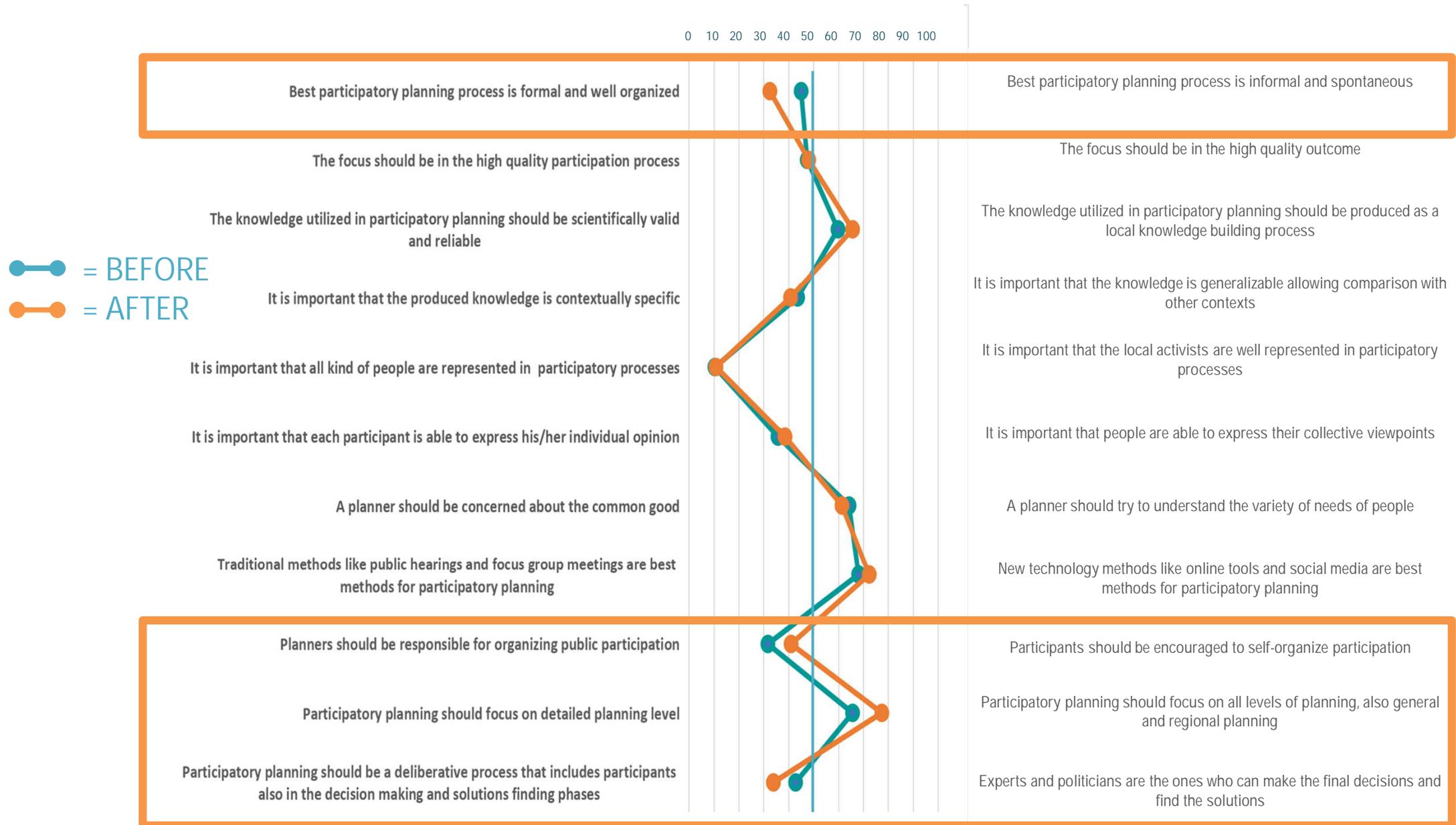
Participatory planning should be a deliberative process that includes participants also in the decision making and solutions finding phases



Experts and politicians are the ones who can make the final decisions and find the solutions



# Your personal attitudes towards public participation – SURVEY RESULTS



# Reflections: what I realized during the course

*At the start I was quite sure that my views are set and I know enough of participatory process that this course would not change my views that much. I am nevertheless pleasantly surprised at this change - it means that I have learned new things and my thinking has been questioned resulting in some alternating views.*

*It is clear from listening to practitioners on working at the forefront of participatory planning that much is changing and actively being encouraged in pursuit of increasing the levels of public involvement in the process, closing the gap between 'decisionmakers' at the top and stakeholders on the ground. It is also clear however, that much work remains to be done.*

*... it seems that now I can distinguish the role of participatory planning from general planning. Participatory planning process is more about "soft-information" and so understanding, informing and consensus seeking should be more important than "being right".*

*After this course I have realised, that to make planning everywhere more like Lahti (or even better), the culture around planning and public participation needs to change. After all, planning (and life) is about doing things and experiencing moments together. I really liked what was said in the last lecture: "Planning is not a procedure. It is an illusion of control". So rather than trying to control what happens around us I think it truly is about engaging with different people.*

*In some ways, the public participation now seems even more difficult than I thought of it before the course. There are so many aspects to consider and so many examples when participation has been done badly. Luckily, there were also many good examples and I especially enjoyed the examples from the city of Lahti. I think their example of the "database" they developed is inspiring and something that the city of Helsinki should also consider.*

# Reflections: how my views changed?

*Before the course I did not understand how much effort participation process itself needs. For example, while organizing a participation event or survey, planners need to understand beforehand what is the goal of the participation. What data should be collected and how to use it afterwards? It is not even fair in answers point of view to just ask something and a little bit everything. For people who participate, it is more motivating to answer questions and give the information when they know how it is used. Planners can not waste people's time by asking too many questions or questions which are not useful.*

*Before taking this course I knew that participation is important and I was wondering about how to include the people. Now I still think that it is very important to include the public into planning processes and the course has shown me some possibilities and challenges. There is not the participatory planning but many ways of doing so and it needs to be adjusted to each situation.*

*After getting acquainted with various forms of participation in planning, I've realized that there are numerous ways to incorporate trust building participative practices into urban governance, not sliding to the extremities of groups of activists with own agenda nor conventional top-down planning, but ensuring the legitimacy of a participatory component and gaining the most from the local knowledge and willingness of residents to devote their time and efforts in order to improve their living environment.*

# Reflections concerning various methods and approaches

*There are of course cons when using technology in public participation, but in the end I think it gives more opportunities for better public participation, and at the same time I think this is the way our society is moving. It is good that new ways to practice public participation are under development, and I think the process is sped up by the restrictions Covid-19 has set to us.*

*Based on my personal negative experience of one traditional participation event I attended, I was thinking that new technology PP outperforms traditional methods in many ways. After listening to many examples from practice and guidance from experts, I am now the opinion that both kind of methods have their weaknesses and strengths. There is no best method for participatory planning, but instead different methods should be used to complement each other in their strengths.*

*In the course, I have also learned to use new tools, which can be helpful in participatory processes. I have learned to use Maptionnaire, I find it really useful. Creating my own survey forced me think of the "user experience", even if the survey was not actually released to any specific audience.*

*I had also explained that taking part in public participation surveys also gives a kind of a feeling of being able to help the planners and influence the actual decisions. After the course I still agree with this, however in my opinion what is even more important is to make sure that the participants' answers are adding some valuable information, suggestions or solutions for the planners.*

*One interesting insight for me from the course, however, was the self-organization of the public. For whatever reason I had thought that the public participation needs the top-down approach, meaning there needs to be someone facilitating the public participation (planner, consult, official).*

# Reflections: learning from the guest lecturers

*For me, one of the most important things in the course was the guest lecturers' opinion that the skill of the planners is important in participating. This raised confidence that our education is important and required in urban planning. In the past, I have paid very much attention to the opinions of individuals and locals. Same time I have underestimated the skills of professionals in planning.*

*I initially approached public participation as a one-way-communication opportunity where citizens can raise their concerns to the planners. I learnt now that public participation should serve as a two-way-communication that also allows planners to communicate and elaborate their viewpoints to the citizens*

*During the course I also got ideas on how to deal with the conflicts and NIMBYism and what kind of events would be the ones that prevent conflicts and encourage the participants to work on a common goal instead of blaming each other. Before the course I was worried about the opinion of few people overriding the opinion of the majority, which is something I am still worried about.*

*Especially the presentations by Mikko Rask and Maarit-Kahila-Tani made me really think more deeply on the positive effects that participatory planning offers.*

*Overall I am very stratified with guest talks and learnt a lot about theories, front-line experience, methods and tools of Finland based public participation. Firstly, I am very surprise to see how those advanced digital methods, e.g. PPGIS, affecting and improving the urban planning practices.*

# Reflections: final lessons

*Equity is an increasingly popular value in society, but what does it mean in practice? If favor is always given to disadvantaged interests, then any interest group is encouraged to say that they are, in fact, the disadvantaged ones (some might call this a "pity party"). In this scenario, the institution who wants to uplift disadvantaged groups is left with the unlucky task of determining who, among competing disadvantaged groups, deserves to "win".*

*I have also learned during the course that designing effective participation –meaning a good utilization of collected viewpoints –is not an easy task. Therefore, it should be granted more attention in planning organizations. For example, a general participation strategy outlining goals of participatory processes and best practices for effective utilization of participation data would be a good step towards a more strategic approach to designing public participation and its outcomes in planning organizations.*

*The final lesson I've gained after this course is that participatory planning can have very different forms, and it cannot remain static or universal, but its complexity should be embraced and benefited depending on the context.*

*I think that we could definitely have more participation on all levels of planning, but it might be sometimes difficult. I also think that the participants could be involved in finding solutions and making decisions, but I also feel that there needs to be the experts and politicians who make the final decisions. If all the different voices and opinions were involved in the final decisions, they would be impossible to make.*

# Reflections: critical notions & future development of PP

*I also got some inspiration for further research from the course. First of all, what is a perfect planner and how can s/he be a facilitator for participation and at the same time contribute with expertise? Then, how can language barriers be overcome between lay-people and planners? And what could be a designer's role in this? Also, how does culture influence the success of participation? Last but not least, who else could be participants? Can politicians, decision-makers, and the planners themselves be seen as participants and equally integrated in the process? During the course we got insights about all these questions, but I got inspired to find out more about it.*

*In my opinion the best methods are the ones that are highly accessible and produce information in a form that is very useful to the planners, but still give enough flexibility to the users not to be manipulative. I will keep following the development of participatory methods to see what the future holds for participatory methods.*

*Digital participation has received considerable attention during the last years, particularly social media and online questionnaires. However, I think this course lacked information about the latest developments in the digital participation field. For example, games in addition to other applications of augmented and virtual reality for participatory planning has been already tested in numerous cases around the world.*

# Kurssilla nousseita ajatuksia

*Kurssin alussa käsitykseni osallistavasta kaupunkisuunnittelusta oli hieman skeptinen, ja tämä onkin muuttunut kurssin aikana. Skeptisyydellä tarkoitan sitä, että mielessäni osallistumisen toteuttaminen nähdään ikään kuin pakollisena pahana, joka on pakko suorittaa, mutta suunnittelijat eivät siitä välttämättä ole kovin innoissaan. Tämän lisäksi asukkaat ja suunnittelijat ovat asettuneet vastakkain, eivätkä kummatkaan ymmärrä toisiaan. Tämä siis hyvin kärjistetysti sanottuna. Kuitenkin nyt uskon, että tällekin asetelmalle on mahdollista tehdä jotain, eikä asetelma aina edes ole sellainen, kuin olin kuvitellut.*

*Kaiken kaikkiaan voisi sanoa, että vuorovaikutteiselle suunnittelulle ja itse vuorovaikutukselle on paikkansa suunnittelussa ja tämän avulla saadaan vietyä suunnittelua oikeaan suuntaan, mutta päätöksen tekoa ei voi jättää asukkaille. Vuorovaikutuksen avulla saadaan esimerkiksi päätettyä joitain pieniä asioita, mistä kohtaa radan huolto tie kulkee ja tehdäänkö johonkin pellolle risteys.*

# Kurssilla nousseita ajatuksia

*Kurssi auttoi huomaamaan erilaisia osallistamisen ongelmakohtia ja asioita, joita olisi hyvä pohtia lisää. Esimerkiksi sitä miten osallistaminen voi entuudestaan ruokkia epätasa-arvoa, jos se tehdään huonosti. Hankaluuksia tuottaa hiljaiset ihmisryhmät, joita on vaikea saada asukastilaisuuksiin, vastaamaan kyselyyn tai muutenkaan osallistumaan. Vaikka he eivät saa ääntänsä kuuluviin suunnittelulla voi olla heidän kannaltansa erittäin suuri merkitys. Sen lisäksi miten saataisiin aliedustettuja ihmisiä aktivoitua eri osallistamisprosesseissa, olen miettinyt, olisiko jossain tilanteissa perusteltua sulkea joitain ihmisryhmittymiä täysin ulkopuolelle osasta prosessia.*

*Kurssi on vahvistanut käsitystäni osallisista tärkeänä osana aluesuunnittelua, ja siksi on ollut hienoa nähdä käytännön esimerkkejä kehittyvästä osallistamisesta. Merkittävänä haasteena näen edelleen määrittää, pitäisikö osallisilla olla valtaa vain edustuksellisen demokratian kautta vai sekä edustuksellisen että suoran demokratian kautta. Antamalla enemmän valtaa yhdelle (osallinen/kansalainen), vähenee se toiselta (asiantuntija/suunnittelija). Kyseessä on poliittinen päätös, jonka pohtiminen ja tekeminen vaatii keskustelua osallistavan suunnittelun asemasta aluesuunnittelussa eri mittakaavan suunnitteluprojekteissa.*

*Kurssin aluksi olin todella skeptinen osallistavan suunnittelun osalta. Suurin ongelmakohta oli mielestäni se, että on vaikea saada eri ihmisryhmien äänet kuuluviin suunnittelussa. Kurssin jälkeen en voi väittää, että asenteeni olisi muuttuneet kovin radikaalisista, mutta sanoisin kuitenkin, että olen vähemmän skeptinen ja hieman enemmän toiveikas asian suhteen. Kurssilla varmistui, että aihe todella on haasteellinen. Kuitenkin kurssi esitteli osallistavaa suunnittelua ja kaupunkisuunnittelua koskevia "uusia tuulia" siitä, että jonkilainen mullistuminen on tapahtumassa tulevaisuudessa.*

# A comparison of the attitudes of teachers vs. those of the students

Best participatory planning process is formal and well organized

The focus should be in the high quality participation process

The knowledge utilized in participatory planning should be scientifically valid and reliable

It is important that the produced knowledge is contextually specific

It is important that all kind of people are represented in participatory processes

It is important that each participant is able to express his/her individual opinion

A planner should be concerned about the common good

Traditional methods like public hearings and focus group meetings are best methods for participatory planning

Planners should be responsible for organizing public participation

Participatory planning should focus on detailed planning level

Participatory planning should be a deliberative process that includes participants also in the decision making and solutions finding phases

Best participatory planning process is informal and spontaneous

The focus should be in the high quality outcome

The knowledge utilized in participatory planning should be produced as a local knowledge building process

It is important that the knowledge is generalizable allowing comparison with other contexts

It is important that the local activists are well represented in participatory processes

It is important that people are able to express their collective viewpoints

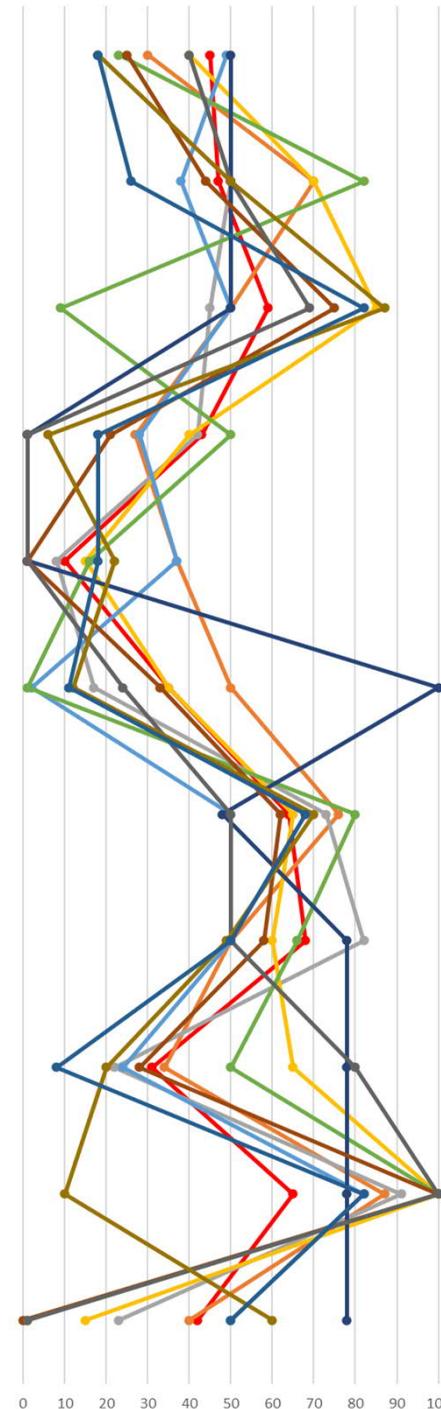
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# Final course work

Deadline for submission:

After two weeks

29.4 (midnight)

# Course evaluation

- 80 % course work
- 10 % active participation in classes
- 10 % individual reflections

## Course work evaluation criteria

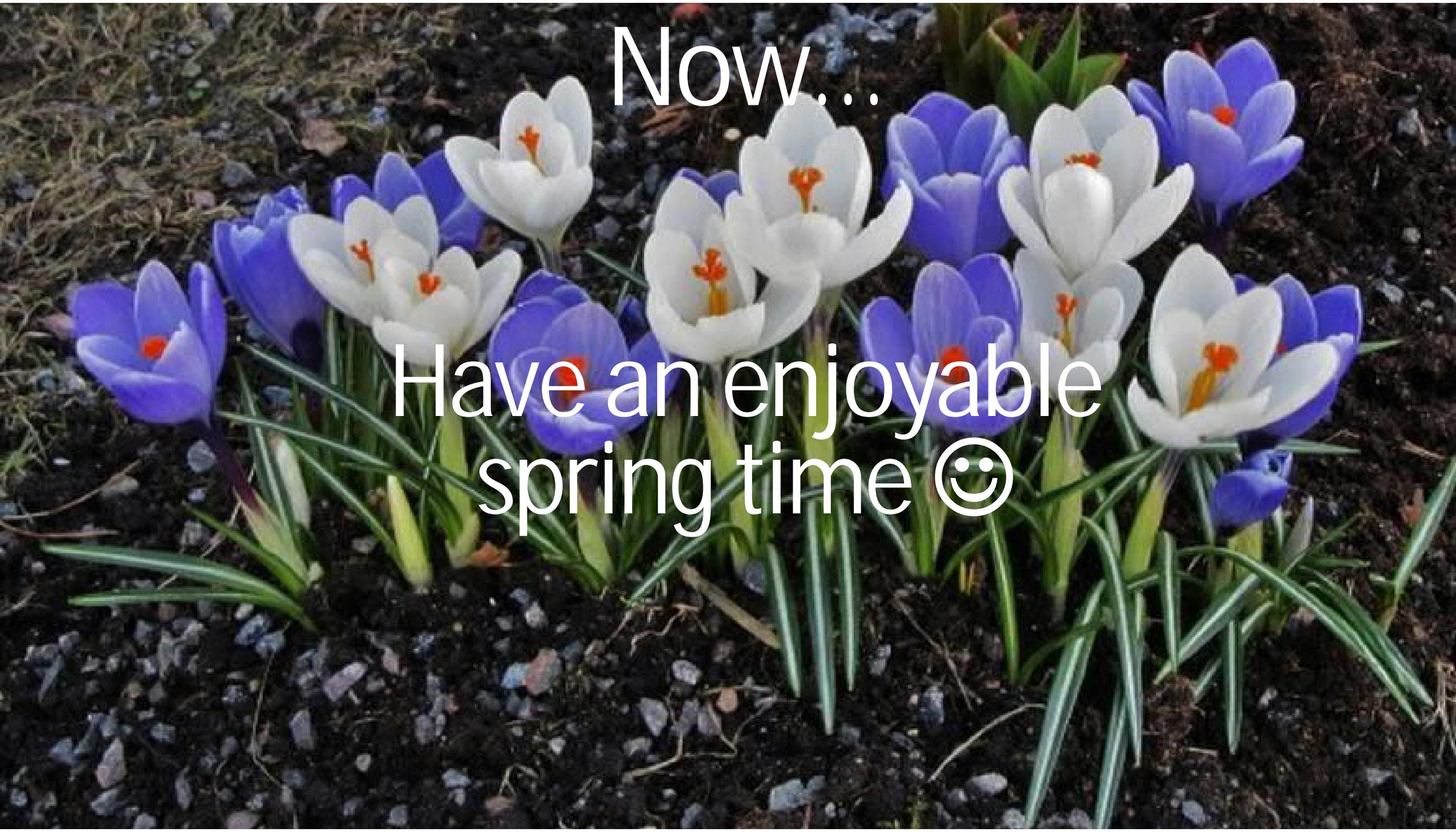
- How your approach improves public participation
- Creativity/ novelty
- Integration to theoretical literature

# Finally

- PLEASE REMEMBER to fill the feedback survey
- Go to <https://link.webropolsurveys.com/S/225925741643D97E>

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!





Now...

Have an enjoyable  
spring time 😊