

# "A Sustainable Future for Mazovia: Participatory Budgeting, and Stakeholder Engagement in Energy and Climate Planning"

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CEESEU-DIGIT CONFERENCE „Pathways to Successful Energy and Climate Planning: Regional Leadership and  
Innovation in Central and Eastern Europe

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# Think Tank City Foundation

Our mission is to improve the quality of life by fostering civic participation - designing places and solutions with the involvement of citizens.



## **Spatial research and analysis**

research and analyses on the use of physical spaces, supporting data-driven planning



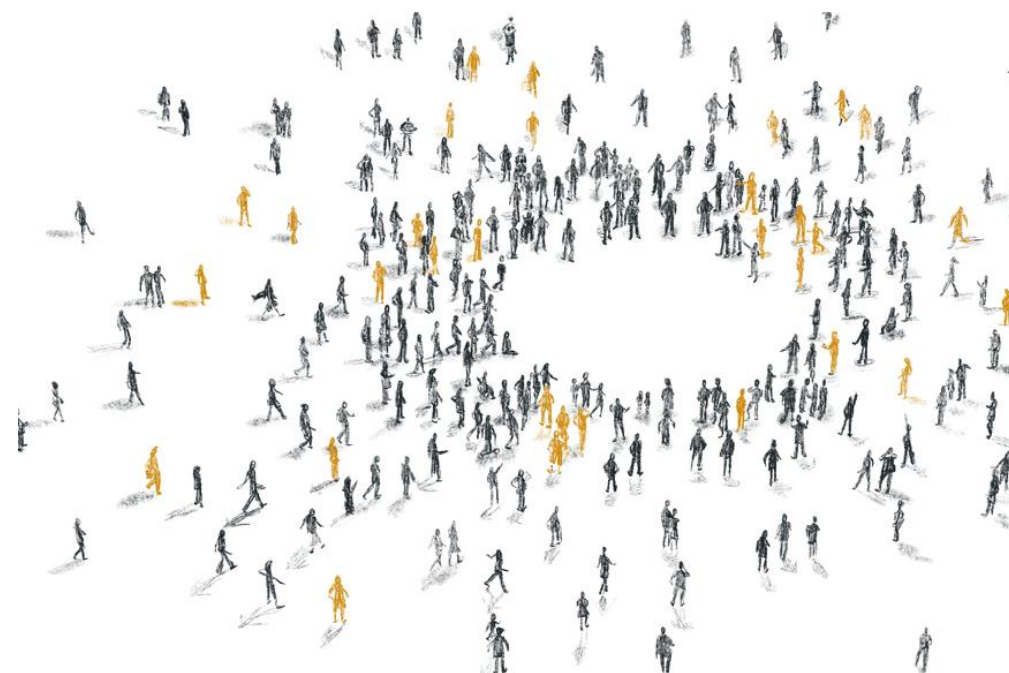
## **Design and implementation of participatory processes**

partners with local authorities to support the development and improvement of participation processes

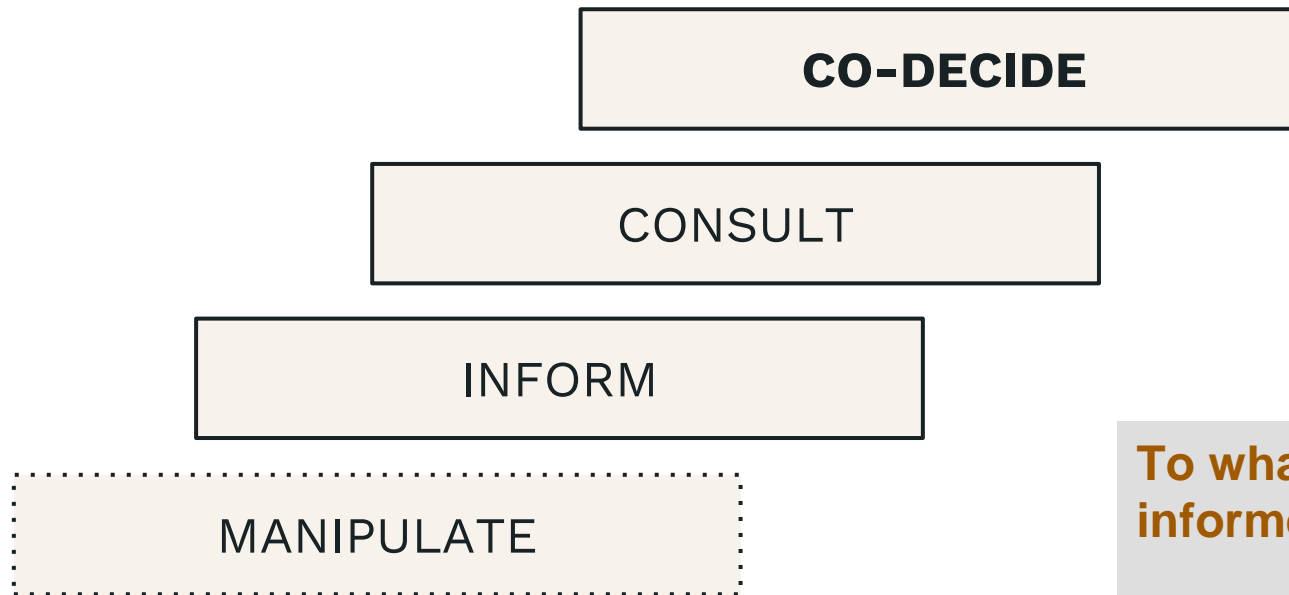


## **Education and training**

workshops and training sessions for public officials and residents, aiming to build capacity in public dialogue



# Forms of participation



**To what extent does participation support informed governance?**

- Decision-makers observe trends and needs
- Citizens express their individual perspective, and gain insight into complex mechanisms

# The challenge

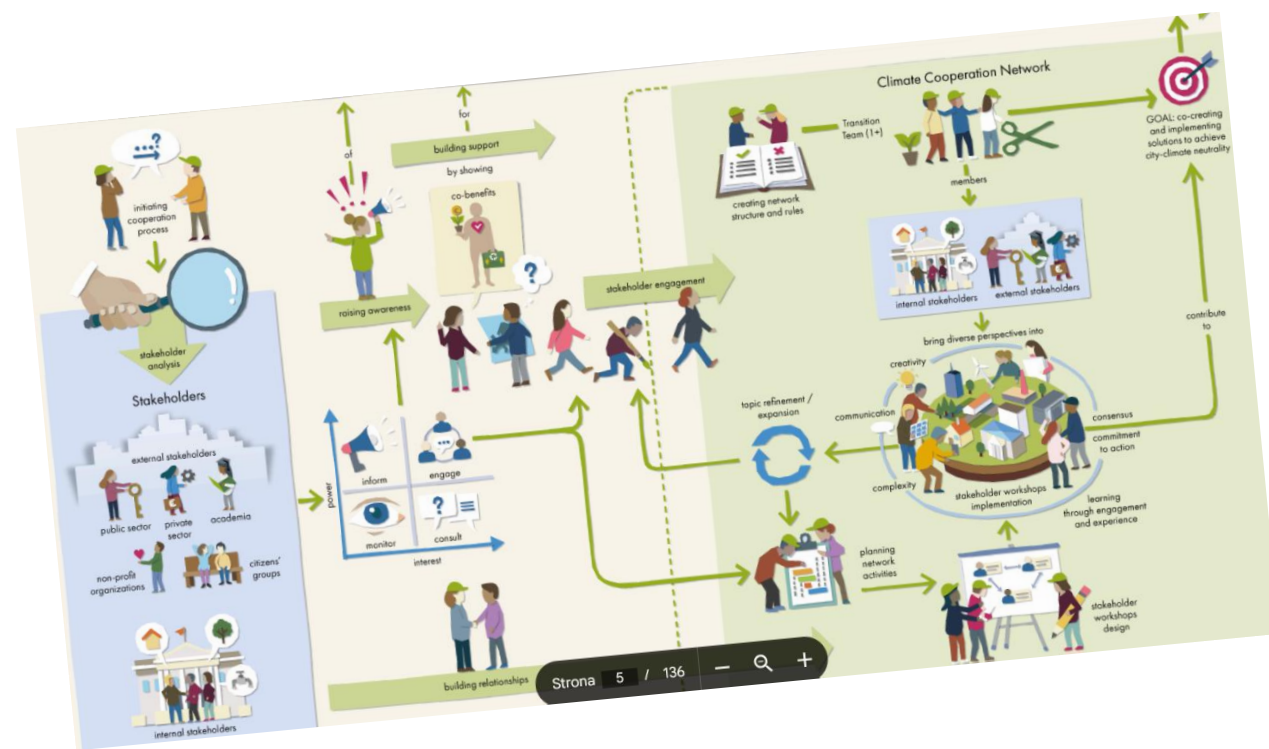
**COMPLEXITY + SCALE**

# Co-deciding- two practices from Mazovia

## Participatory Budgeting



## Stakeholder Engagement



# **Participatory budgeting in Poland**

2014

39,11%

<sup>1</sup> POLAND



1666

32,58%

<sup>2</sup> PORTUGAL



334

6,53%

<sup>3</sup> SPAIN



238

4,65%

<sup>4</sup> UKRAINE



195

3,81%

<sup>5</sup> FRANCE



163

3,19%

<sup>6</sup> CZECH REPUBLIC



140

2,74%

<sup>7</sup> GERMANY



116

2,27%

<sup>8</sup> ITALY



54

1,06%

<sup>9</sup> ALBANIA



33

0,65%

<sup>10</sup> SCOTLAND



31

0,61%

<sup>11</sup> FINLAND



26

0,51%

<sup>12</sup> ROMANIA



21

0,39%

<sup>13</sup> ESTONIA

18

0,35%

<sup>14</sup> SLOVENIA

15

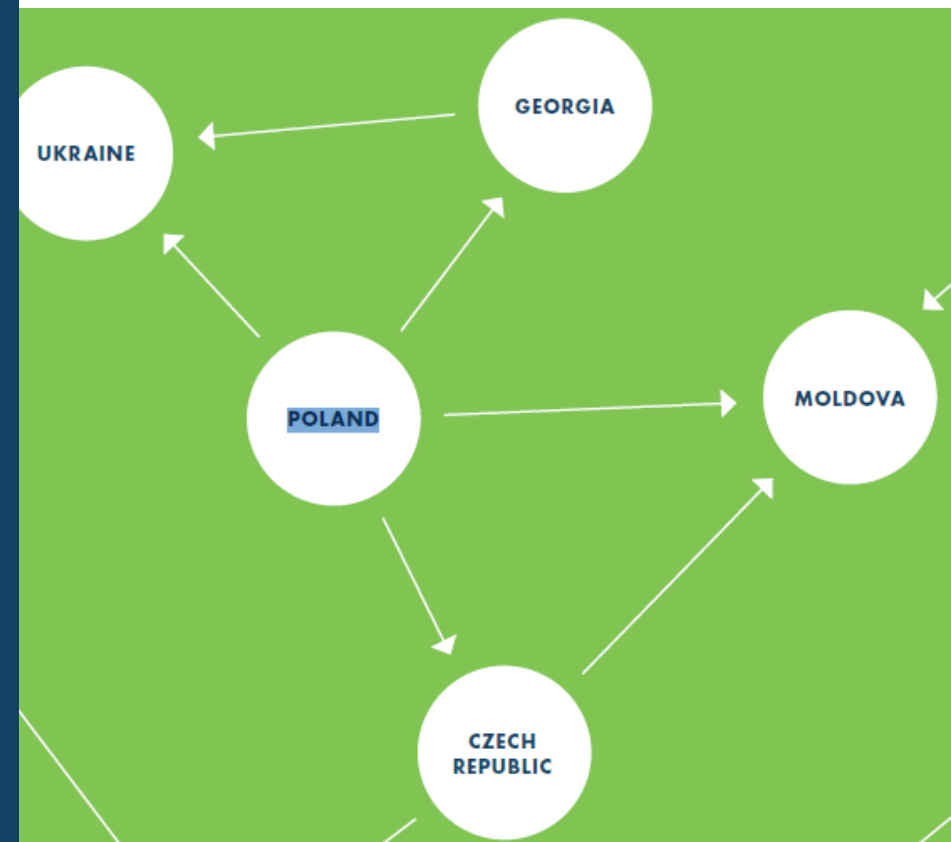
0,29%

<sup>15</sup> ENGLAND AND WALES

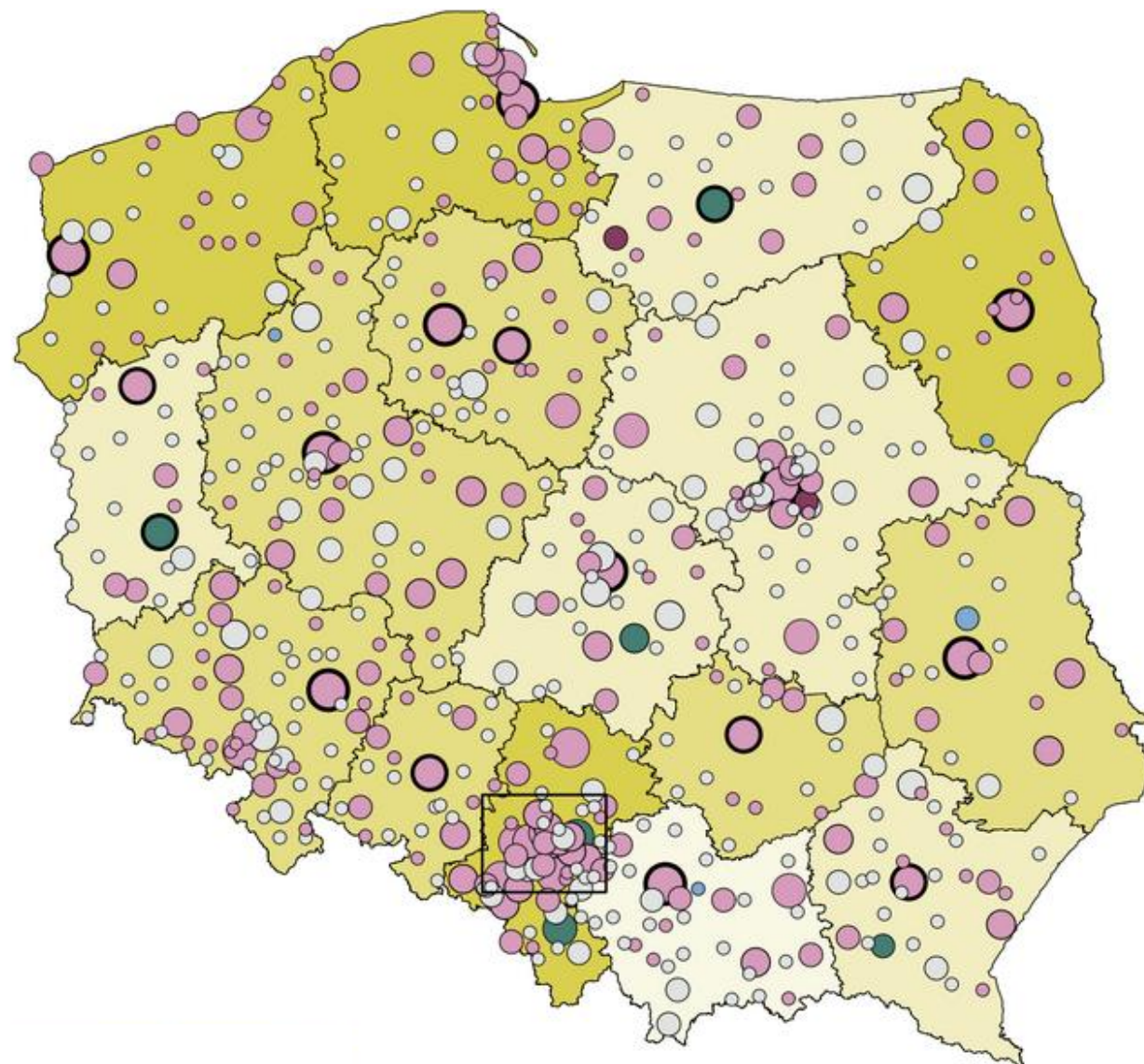
12

0,23%

<sup>16</sup> SLOVAKIA







1:4 500 000



# Participatory Budgeting – what is it?

## Description of Participatory Budgeting in the Act

“As part of the participatory budget, **residents decide annually**—through direct voting—on a portion of the municipality’s expenditures. The tasks selected through the participatory budget are included in the municipality’s budget resolution. During the process of, **the municipal council may not remove or significantly alter the tasks** chosen through the participatory budget.”

Source: Act on Municipal Self-Government, Article 5a, Paragraph 4

# Participatory Budgeting

In municipalities that hold the status of cities with county rights, the establishment of a participatory budget is mandatory.

The amount allocated to the participatory budget must be at least 0.5% of the municipality's expenditures, as reported in the most recently submitted budget execution report.

At the regional level, civic budget rules are shaped by the Regional Assembly, which defines the framework through a resolution.

Regional civic budgets are not mandatory by law, regional governments can introduce them voluntarily, setting detailed procedures in their own regulations.

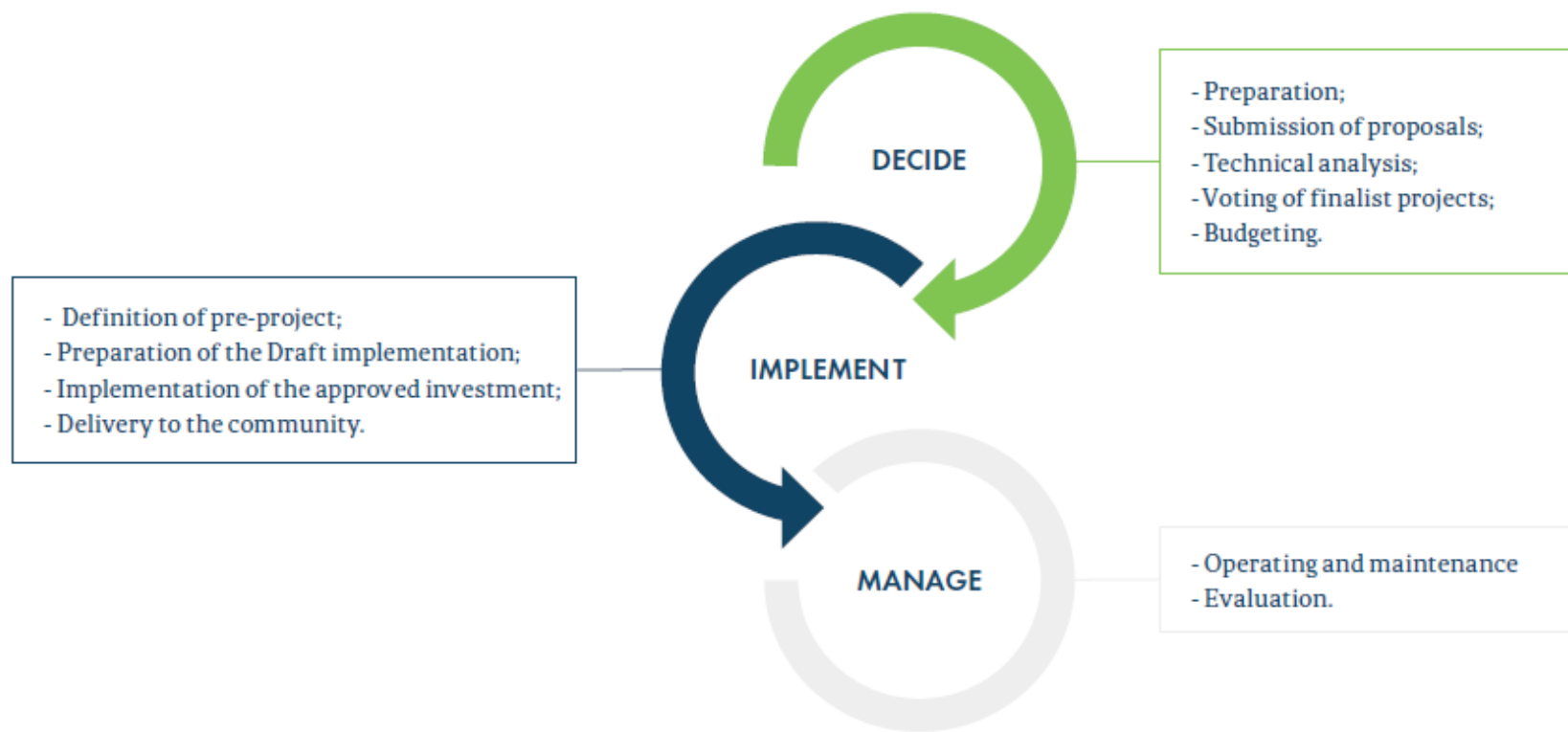
# Ground rules for participatory budgeting

- Transparency and openness of the procedure
- Openness and inclusiveness of the process
- Binding outcome of the procedure (project must be implemented)
- Space for deliberation (debate) with residents
- Support for residents' engagement
- Long-term thinking

# Participatory budgeting cycle- citizens perspective



# Participatory budgeting cycle- authorities perspective



# Regional participatory budget

# Engaging residents in regional matters

- Participation is easiest at the very local level
- At the regional level, there are few projects that directly affect residents
- Residents' awareness of the Voivodeship's own tasks is very limited
- Understanding residents' needs at the regional level is difficult and complex



# Mazovian Participatory Budget

## The procedure:

- introduced since 2020, procedure modelled on city-level participatory budgets
- involves the Voivodeship's residents in the governance of the Voivodeship;
- strengthens the bonds between the Voivodeship's residents;
- enables residents to co-decide on the allocation of funds from the Voivodeship's budget;
- increases residents' awareness of the Voivodeship's own tasks and budgetary principles
- these are not additional funds, but specific amounts that are part of the Mazovian Voivodeship's budget (not less than 0,75%)
- allocation is decided by the residents.

# Mazovian Participatory Budget

- Residents can submit or support any number of projects
- Any resident of the Mazovian Voivodeship, regardless of age can submit a project

## Project types and limits

- **Investment projects** (carried out on properties to which legal title is held by the Voivodeship, voivodeship legal entities, or companies in which the Voivodeship is a shareholder) : **up to 1,200,000 PLN**
- **Non-investment projects**(activities of an educational, preventive, or social nature): **up to 240,000 PLN**
- Residents can get an overview of a scope of tasks at the voivodeship level
- Residents can explore a map of the voivodeship while locating their project
- Residents submit and vote on a larger and more local territorial scale - regional pool or subregional pools

# **Best practices from Mazovian Participatory Budget**

# Stay closer to local problems

- **Regional pool:** 6 million PLN
- **Subregional pools:** 30 million PLN total
- Investment and **non-investment** projects (240,000 PLN)



# Make it predictable

## HARMONOGRAM



ZGŁASZANIE PROJEKTÓW  
DO BUDŻETU OBYWATELSKIEGO

od 31.01.2025 r.  
do 02.03.2025 r.

**Submitting  
projects**



OCENA  
PROJEKTÓW

od 03.03.2025 r.  
do 18.06.2025 r.

**Verifying  
projects**



ODWOŁANIE OD NEGATYWNEJ  
OCENY PROJEKTU

14 dni od wyników  
oceny projektów

**Appeal against  
negative  
evaluation of a  
project**



OGŁOSZENIE LISTY PROJEKTÓW  
PODDANYCH POD GŁOSOWANIE

Do 23.07.2025

**Announcement  
of projects  
submitted for  
voting**



GŁOSOWANIE  
NA PROJEKTY

od 25.07.2025 r.  
do 07.09.2025 r.

**Voting**



OFICJALNE  
OGŁOSZENIE WYNIKÓW

do 19.09.2025 r.

**Announcement  
of results**

# Stay in contact

- From ideas to projects
- Consulting (online, easy to access)
- Verification procedure (formal, financial)
- Appeal against a negative evaluation of a project

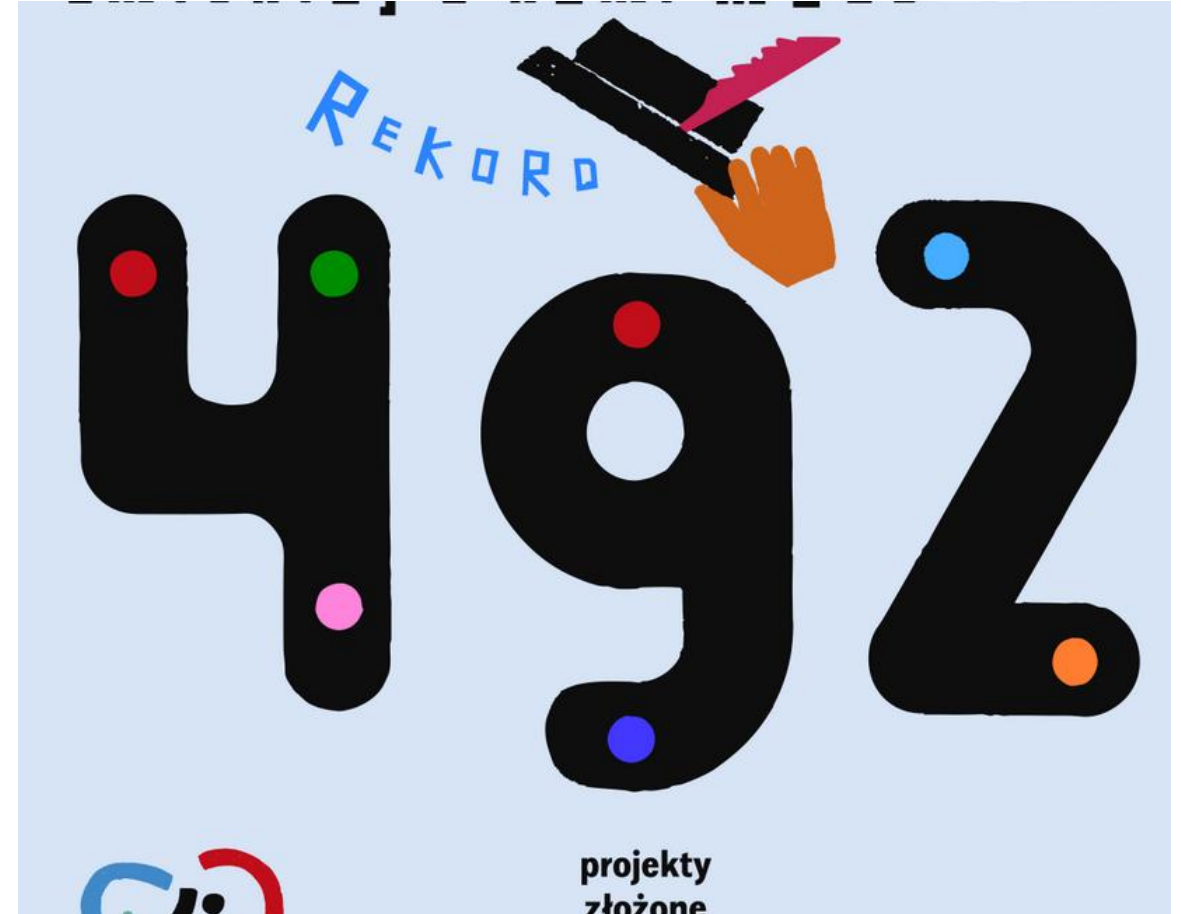




# Make it recurrent

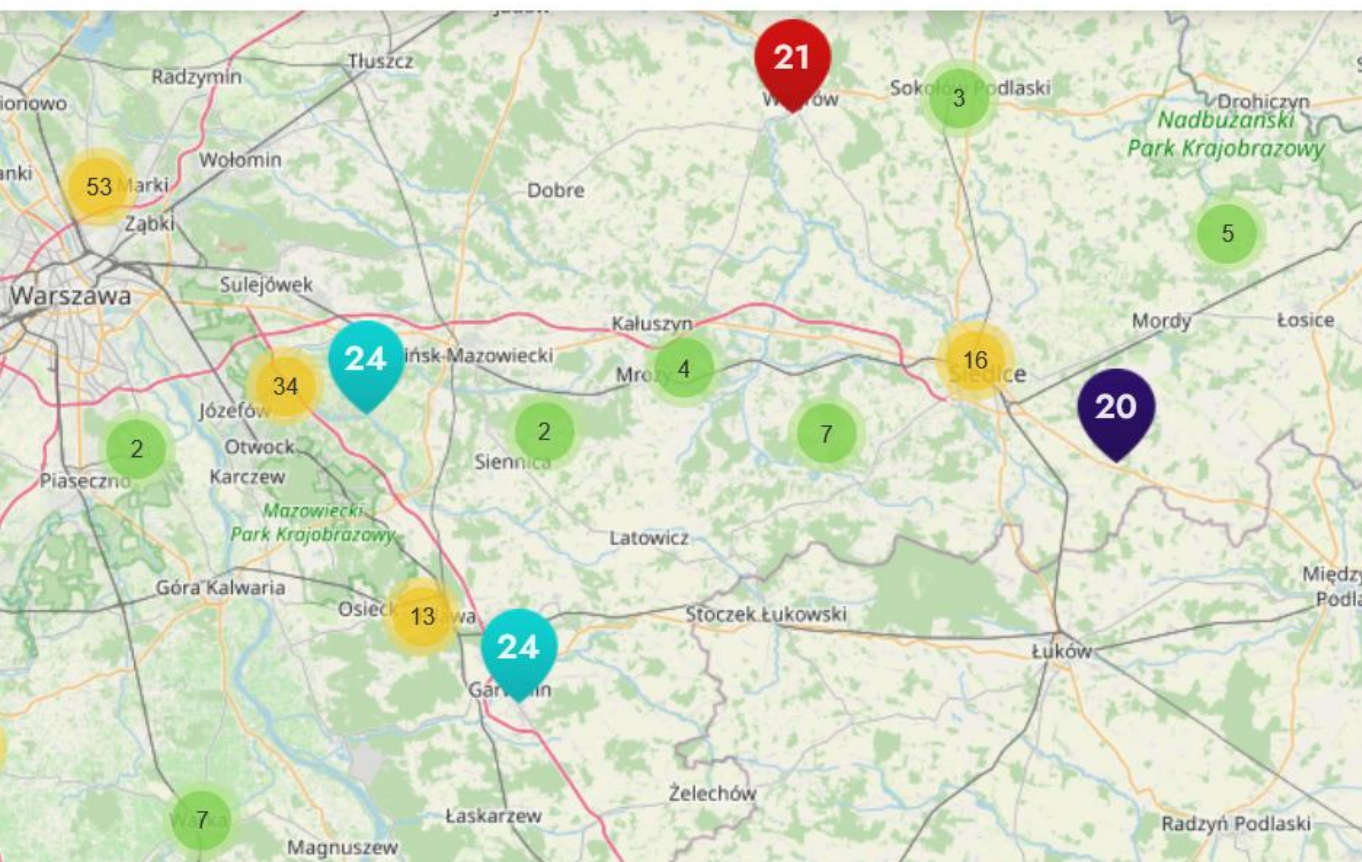
It is **fifth edition** of the Mazovian Civic Budget, it is learning Process for Residents and Local Governments:



- A record number - 492 projects was successfully submitted
- Local governments encourage their residents to submit project
- A growing number of voters 113,104 votes (last year 103,665 votes.)
- Some subregions are better (Radom region recorded the highest turnout 12,272 votes.)





# Keep citizens informed



 Dla niesłyszących  A- A A+

Wybierz edycję

Wybierz stan realizacji

Wpisz numer projektu

Wpisz nazwę projektu

Wybierz obszar tematyczny

**24** Projekty wybrane do realizacji Edycja 24

**24** 1. Kino plenerowe w parkach podregionu Ciechanowskiego.

# Learning about the voivodeship



Ciechanowskiego.

w parkach. Wynajęty zostanie ekran, projektor, sta składane przeznaczone dla dorosłych, uczowym elementem jest posiadanie licencji g zorganizowane seanse edukacyjne, filmowe y w szkołach w ramach zajęć edukacyjnych.

Młodość Chopina, Polska Chopina, Paryż kże obejmował takie projekcje dla dzieci: np, cia.

nu, wsi, ale nie tylko. Młodsza grupa odbiorców any do miejsca, oraz grupy odbiorców. wiązane z Fryderykiem Chopinem, który orze w Rościszewie oraz parku który istnieje się w Muzeum Wsi Mazowieckiej w Sierpcu za m utworzy wydarzenie podczas którego można eanse w parkach w Lutocinie, Żurominie, wć będą polskiej tradycyjnej mazowieckiej wsi,

Status
Wybrany do realizacji
Postęp realizacji
W trakcie wyboru wykonawcy / w
Planowany koszt
56 000 zł
Obszar tematyczny
Edukacja publiczna
Pula projektu
Podregionalna
Podregion
Ciechanowski

# Observing trends

## A Second Life for Mazovian Rainwater

Project aimed at installing a series of rainwater harvesting systems on public utility buildings owned by the Mazovian Voivodeship Government. The collected rainwater can be used by the institutions for watering greenery during dry periods or provided free of charge to nearby residents.

## Educational and Nature Center

The project involves the creation of an Educational and Nature Center, where educational workshops will be organized for children, youth, and adults. The center will be accessible to people with disabilities. Our goal is to foster sensitivity to the beauty of nature and to share knowledge in a natural setting.

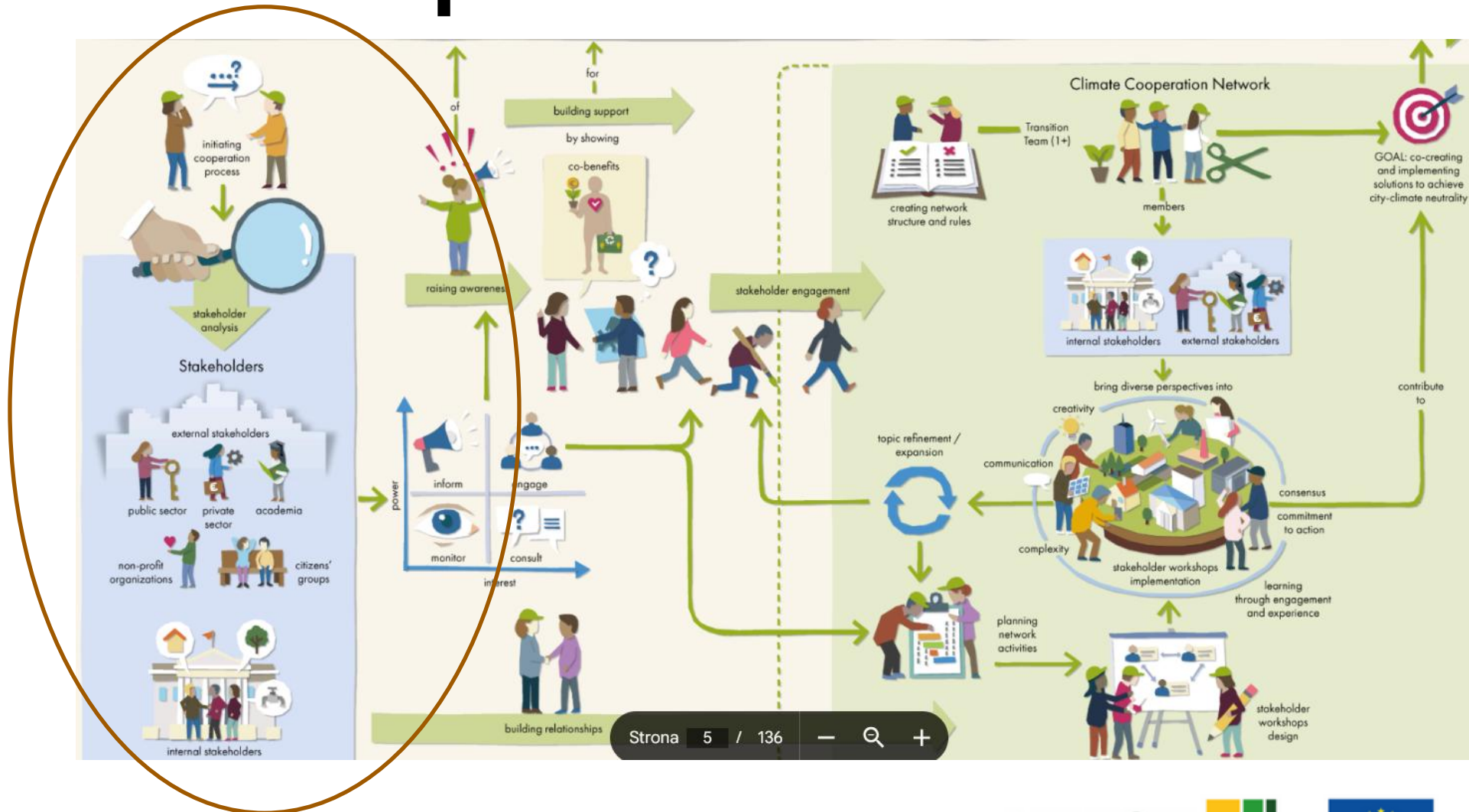
## Green Mazovia

As part of the project, the area surrounding the headquarters of the Mazowsze State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble will be developed with greenery and small-scale infrastructure. The project includes the creation of an interactive musical playground for children and an electric vehicle charging station.

# Stakeholder cooperation and capability-building model for the city climate transition



# Stakeholder cooperation model



# Initiating cooperation process

*My local government already has a solid network of stakeholders; I probably don't need to start from scratch, right?*

*How am I supposed to decide on the scope of cooperation in such a complex issue on my own? We do not even have a team – I am a one-person department, so I cannot possibly grasp the needs in areas like spatial planning, waste management, industrial emissions, legislation, and social dialogue all at once...*

*How can we find the time and resources to build broad cooperation, nurture relationships, and launch new initiatives? I work in a peripheral city, and we are constantly underfunded.*

*We have implemented several great pro-environmental projects in our city over the past few years. Isn't that sufficient climate cooperation?*



# Stakeholder analysis

**Stakeholders with significant influence on and highly interested in the process**

- prime candidates for intensive cooperation
- most likely to commit to activities that demand time and effort
- they will actively communicate on project-related issues

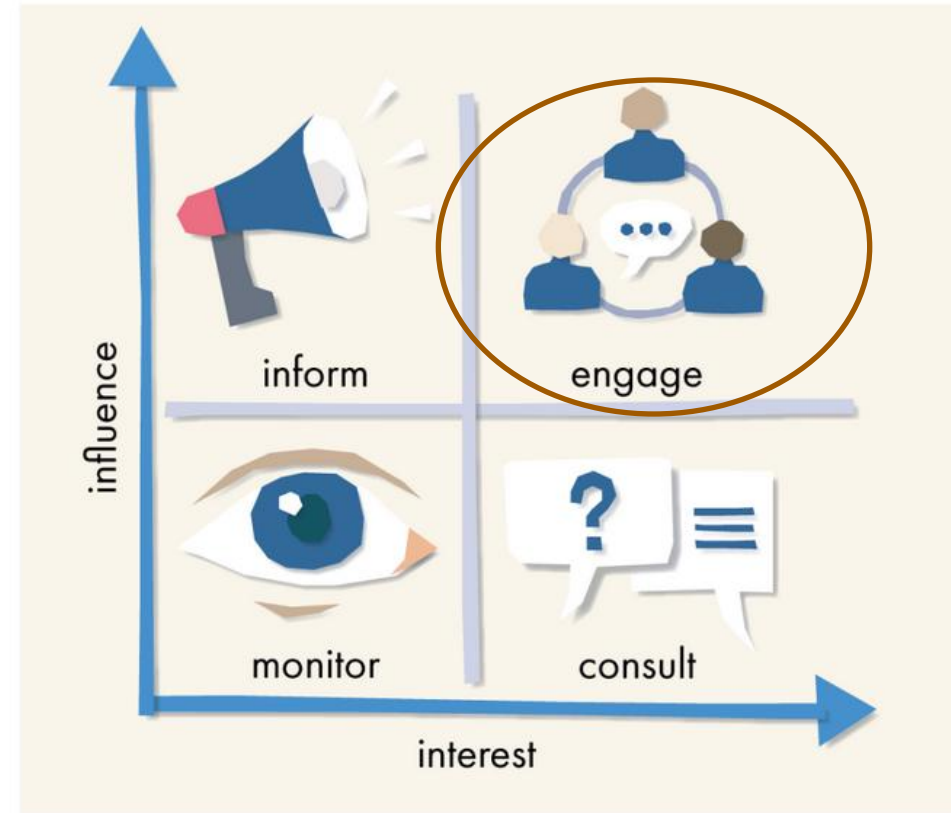


Figure 3.4. Stakeholder interest and influence matrix – categories of stakeholder engagement.



# Engage in co-creation

- A collaborative process in which stakeholders **work together to develop** services, innovative solutions, or action recommendations.
- It entails **active involvement of all parties** in designing, refining, and enhancing the solution.
- **Multiparties approach** rather than a one-sided approach, where the municipal office delivers a solution independently.
- Co-creation **fosters dialogue**, openness, and cooperation among diverse stakeholders resulting in more effective and rewarding

## How to work with them?

## CHALLENGE



## DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES



## COMMUNICATION



## COMPLEXITY



CREATIVITY



CONSENSUS



COMMITMENT TO ACTION





# Net Zero city- stakeholder workshop

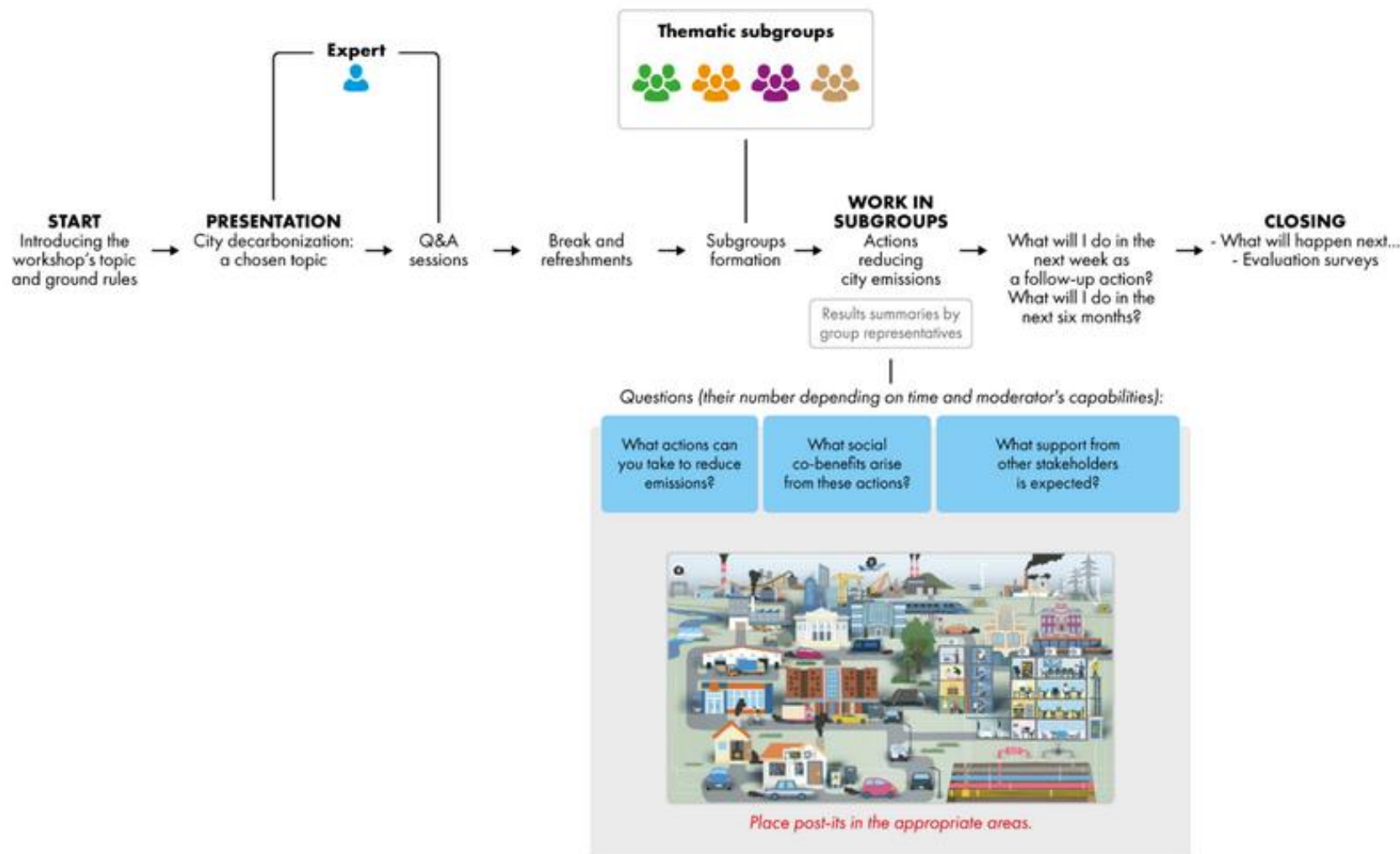
- internal stakeholders (city hall)
- vulnerable groups
- non-governmental organizations (NGOs),
- neighborhood councils
- universities
- housing cooperatives
- energy suppliers

## **Commitment to Action:**

What will I do, as a follow-up action?



# Net Zero city- stakeholder workshop



# Engaging stakeholders– ground rules

## **Respect stakeholders' time and resources**

- Define clear objectives and scope
- Choose relevant, focused topics
- Keep participation voluntary

## **Adapt the type of engagement to different stakeholder groups,**

- Use in-depth sessions with experts
- Broader consultations for diverse input

## **More stakeholders do not always lead to better results**

- Focus on quality over quantity
- Stay inclusive, but manageable

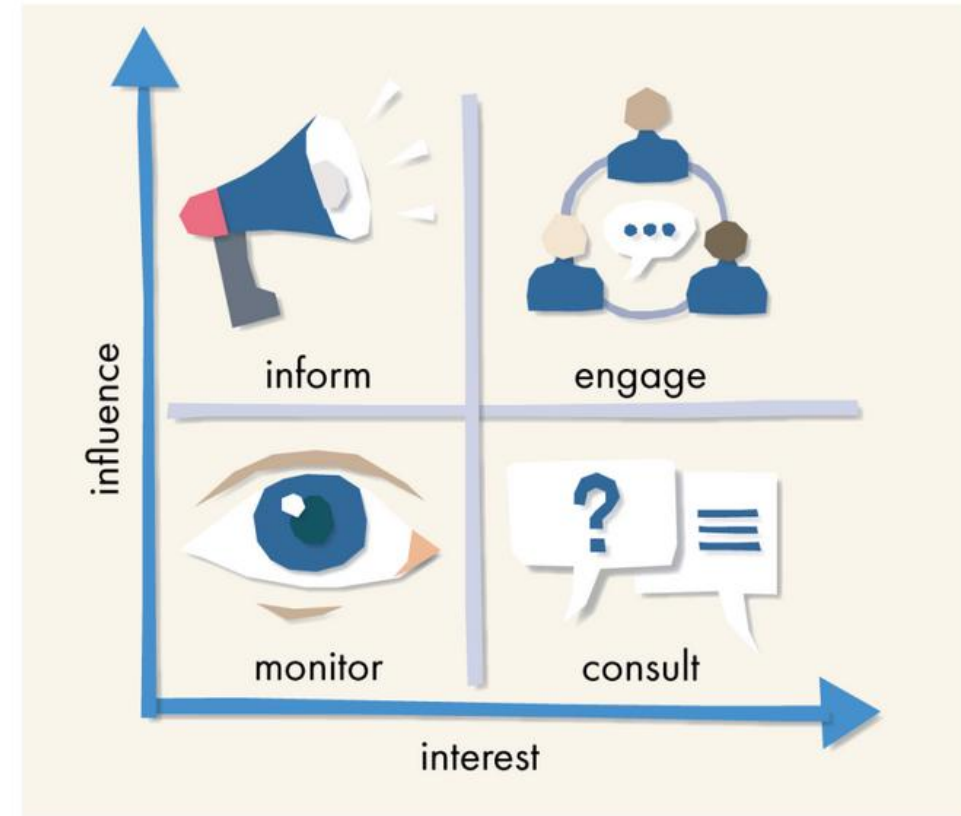


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**Thank you!**