



# **A TOOL TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL URBAN SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH EFFECTIVE EU POLICY IMPLEMENTATION**

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## **EU Environmental Horizontal Legislation: Methods, Standards and Tools**

- **The EU Cohesion Policy is behind hundreds of thousands of projects all over Europe.**
- **Up-to-date and despite the fact that the EC has set the goals (standards), the objectives and the funding mechanisms...**
- **Policies towards compliance with EU environmental values and sustainability are partially adopted by the Member States.**
- **Although there are some examples of countries moving towards the right direction, most of them still lack behind.**
- **Tools of environmental management are beneficial to enforce compliance to numerous EU standards and legislation, thus highlighting the road-path towards sustainable development.**



## Decision support & Governance

- **An operational Decision Support System (DSS) for decision makers in national, regional and local level is presented.**
- **Aim: to overcome the difficulties and move towards the adaptation of EU policies in the field of sustainability (urban & regional).**
- **Among other methodological components, the DSS mainly combines:**
  - ❑ **a structured dialogue methodological approach that records decision makers' needs and priorities,**
  - ❑ **an operational platform that links the needs and priorities with existing results, developed in the framework of finalized EU projects.**

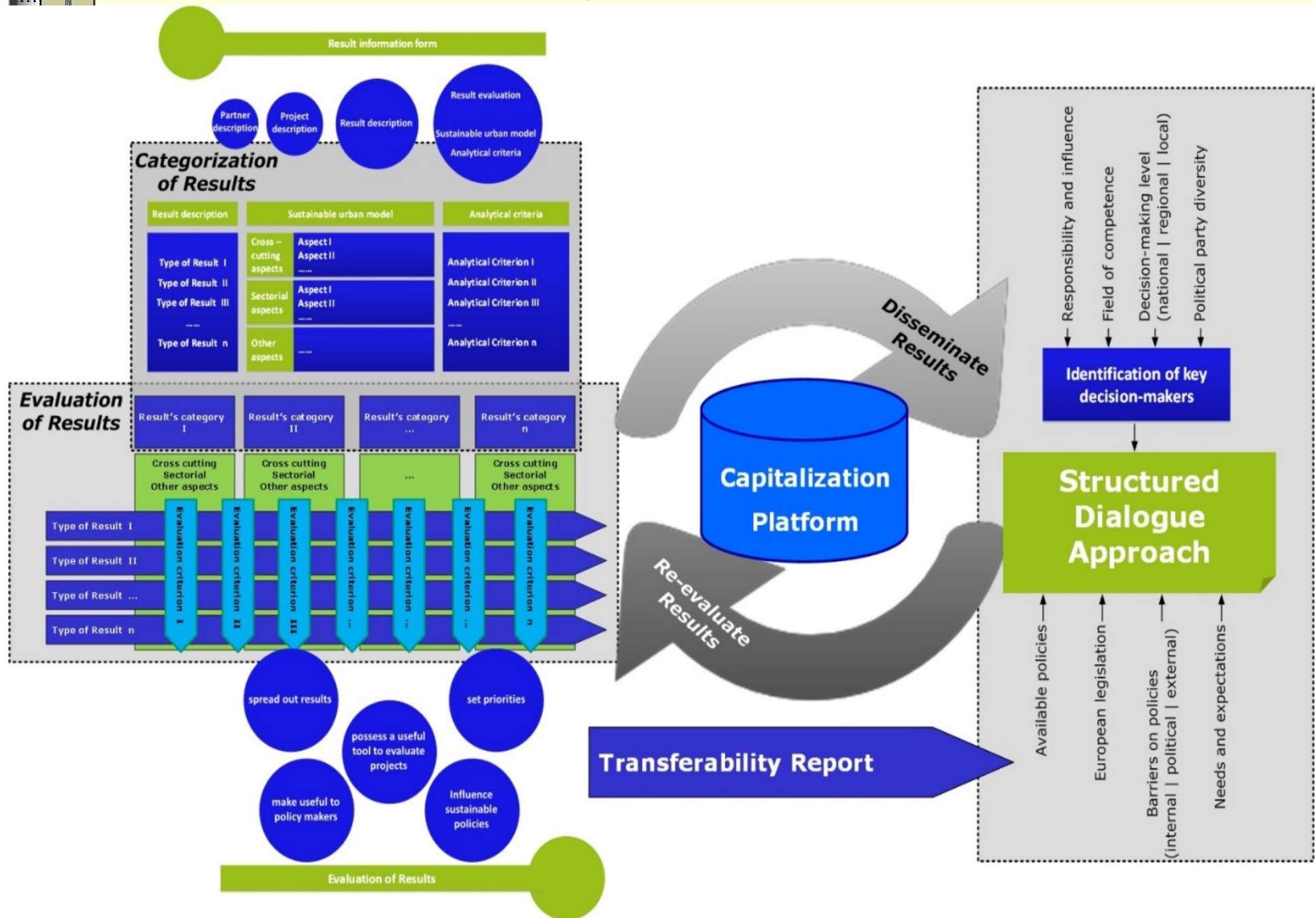


## Strategic goal & Success key

- **Strategic goal:** capitalize and maximize the transferability as well as the usage of results that have been developed through EU projects, in order to reach the implementation of EU policies and compliance with EU environmental values and standards.
- **Success Key:** raise the available results as means that serve the decision-makers' needs and priorities.
- A process implemented with decision-makers to identify strategic problems and key barriers they encounter to implement EU sustainable policies and their national adaptation.



# Basic structure and components of the DSS





## Structural dialogue approach: Identification of decision-makers

- **Decision-makers participating in the structural dialogue approach must be very carefully selected, according to the following criteria:**
  - (i) Responsibility and Influence:**
    - ❑ **Decision-makers is crucial to be politicians (elected representatives, who can draft policies) or high-level public administrators (in charge of projects – people who can put the policies into implementation sector by sector).**
    - ❑ **Both politicians and high-level administrators is important to be selected from the pool of available decision-makers.**



## Structural dialogue approach: Identification of decision-makers

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### (ii) Field of competence:

#### ➤ Two options are offered, as follows:

- ❑ As the interviewer might be interested specifically in some projects results, decision-makers related to the topic of those results can be chosen.
- ❑ Interviewers can also choose decision-makers not in relation to topics, but in relation to the current trends in (urban) sustainability policies.



## Structural dialogue approach: Identification of decision-makers

### (iii) Decision-making level:

- All levels (national, regional, local) must be represented.

### (iv) Political diversity:

- As the approach of sustainable policies is depending also on ideological points of view, the political parties (e.g. present in the European Parliament) should also be represented to provide a politically global approach.
- Questionnaire: necessary to effectively implement the structure dialogue approach, contains both close and open ended questions.





## **Structural dialogue approach: Issues raised**

### **(i) Policies for sustainability in general:**

- ☐ The most important problems in the political or technical agenda will be discussed.
- ☐ The following policy areas for urban sustainability will be ranked: energy efficiency in buildings, sustainable transport, sustainable urban planning, lighting, waste, economic development, architectural heritage, according to the decision maker's view.

### **(ii) Application of EU legislation on urban sustainability:**

- ☐ Problems that hinder the implementation of European legislation affecting urban sustainability aspects will be discussed.



## Structural dialogue approach: Barriers

- ❑ Internal barriers of the administration i.e. technical/lack of competence, financial barriers, regulatory and legislative barriers, lack of governance tools, lack of partnership and organizational instruments to support the involvement of different social actors.
- ❑ Political barriers, such as opposition of some actors and lack of political support, change of political agenda, conflicts between priorities between different decision-makers;
- ❑ External barriers, such as acceptability by citizens (societal consensus) and by the beneficiaries of the actions and different priorities for people involved, economic crisis that can drive to other problems people's expectations, weak instruments and methods to involve citizens.



## Structural dialogue approach: Issues raised

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### (iv) Needs and expectations about policies are discussed:

- ❑ Issues that decision-makers wish to improve or better focus, to enhance the policies they are working on.
- ❑ Needs of decision-makers to develop sustainability policies, e.g. in selecting different typologies of instruments, such as incentives, direct actions, taxes, rules, voluntary instruments, personnel, competences, innovative instruments, funds, etc.
- ❑ Availability of financing sources or tools with long-term effects or to resolve immediate problems and/or emergencies will be exposed.



## Capitalization Platform

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- ❑ The capitalization process is conceptualized as the process of making the results operational, interconnected and transferable.
- ❑ This is achieved through the active involvement of decision-makers in the discussions of results, their practical implications and use.
- ❑ The capitalization platform is an operational instrument that has the ability to enhance the transferability of results developed in the framework of EU projects (current and future) in a comprehensible and practical way and according to decision - makers' needs and priorities.



## Search options of the Platform

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- ❑ The platform offers searching options by description criteria like in a normal library search, by transferability criteria, or by decision maker's priorities.
- ❑ Different searching options for results according to evaluation and transferability criteria are the following:
  - ✓ Capacity to fulfil the sustainable urban model main principles
  - ✓ Utility and use of the result
  - ✓ Suitability for the current capitalization process
  - ✓ Environmental governance
  - ✓ Ease of implementation and transferability.

# Search options of the Platform



The Capitalization Process

The Urban Model

Partners & Results

Deliverables

News

contact



Go to Cat Med

02 Search results by description criteria



03 Search results by evaluation & transferability criteria



04 Search results that link with decision-makers priorities and needs



Search results by decision-makers priorities and needs

- ☒ Cooperation between municipalities and regions
- ☒ Definition of best practices
- ☒ Definition of the priorities of governments
- ☒ Exchange of ideas and best practices with other Mediterranean cities



Search >

# Search options of the Platform



The Capitalization Process

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Go to Cat Med

## 02 Search results by description criteria



### Search results by thematic

- ☒ Energy efficiency
- ☐ Governance and public participation
- ☐ Social and economic cohesion
- ☐ Sustainable mobility



### Search results by keyword

Insert keyword...



### Search results by programme

- ☐ ICT PSP
- ☐ Interreg IV C
- ☒ MED
- ☐ Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)



### Search results by project

- ☐ 2MOVE2
- ☐ CAT-MED
- ☐ CfM
- ☐ CreativeMED

### 03 Search results by evaluation & transferability criteria



#### 01 Capacity to fulfil the sustainable urban model main principles

- ☐ Incidence on Social and economic cohesion
- ☒ Incidence on Energy efficiency
- ☐ Incidence on Sustainable mobility
- ☐ Incidence on other aspects of urban sustainability



#### 02 Utility and use of the result

- ☐ Status of implementation: maturity level of the result
- ☒ Current level of use in Europe/MED area
- ☐ Dialogue with other results/actions in the same field
- ☐ Scientific consistency of the result



#### 03 Suitability for the current capitalisation process

- ☐ Potential benefits that can be produced in the result
- ☒ Potential benefits that the result may generate

#### 04 Environmental governance

- ☐ Capacity to raise awareness
- ☐ Multilevel approach in terms of participation of different actors
- ☐ Importance given to public participation
- ☒ Capacity to be used as DMT (decision-making tool)





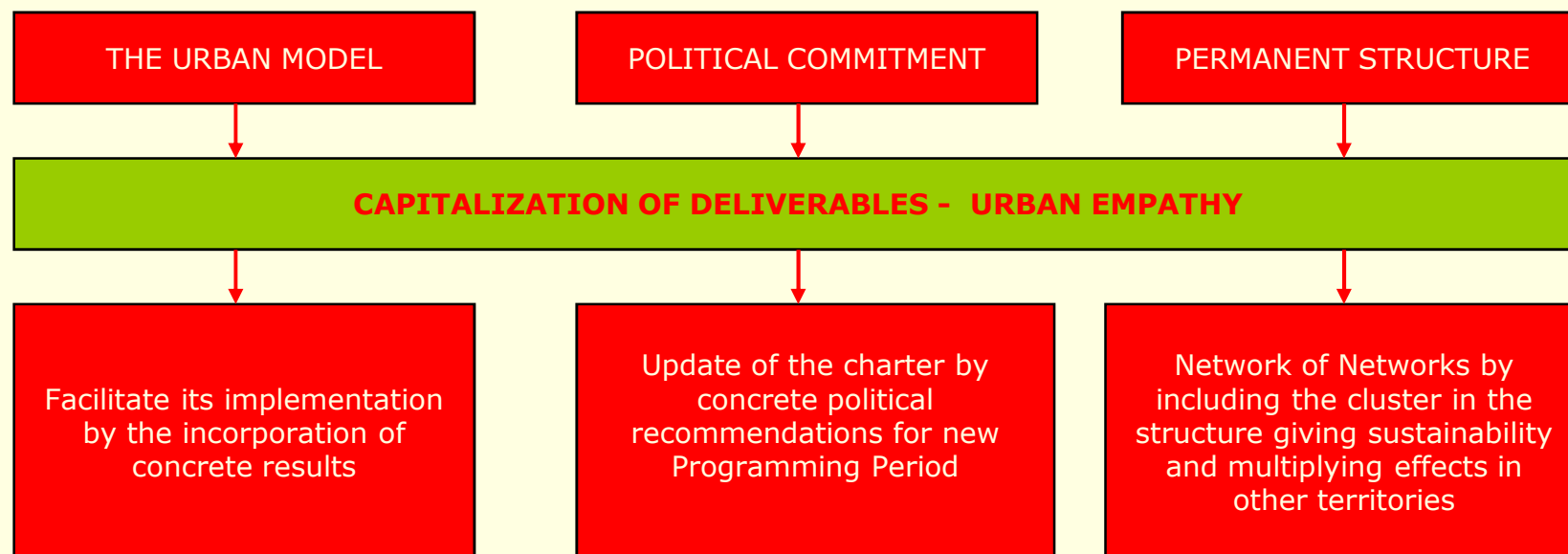


## Structural dialogue approach: Issues raised

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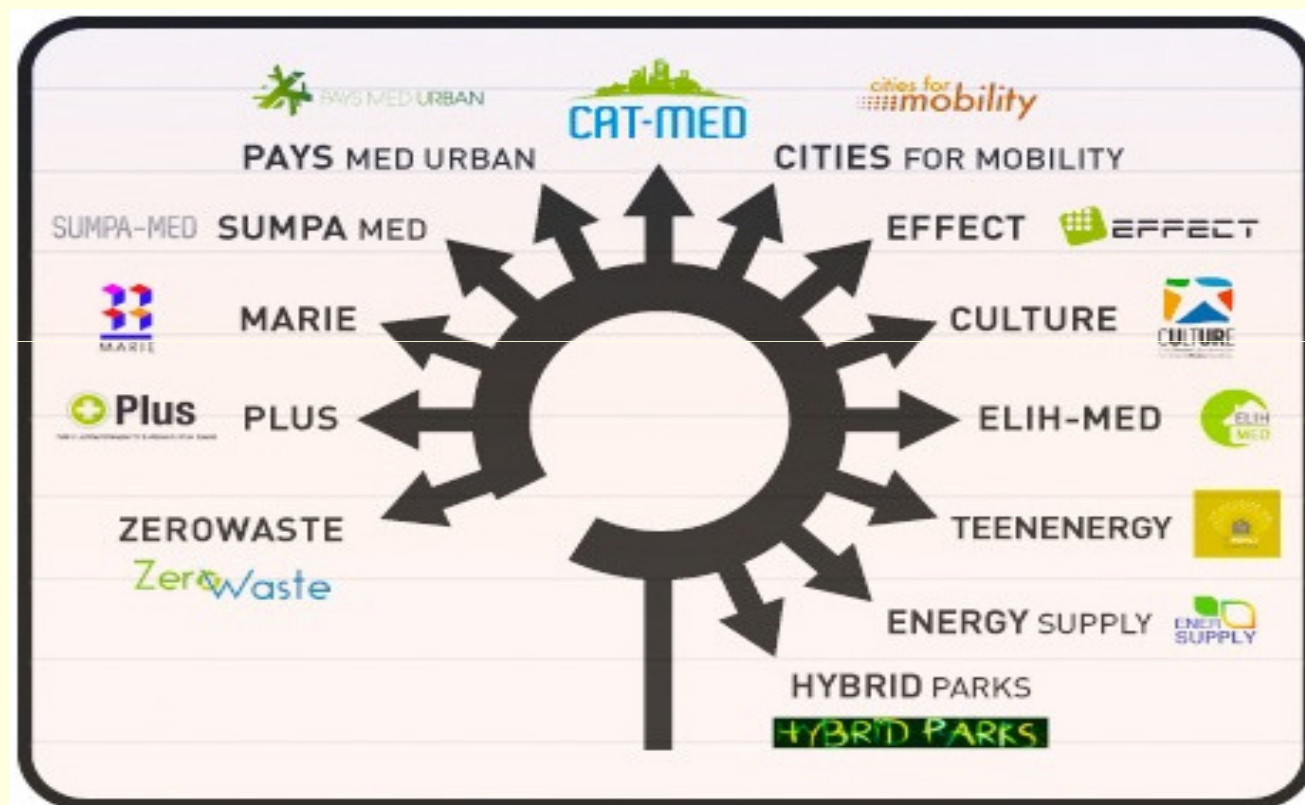
- ❑ The results are categorized by type, being policy papers, or operational tools, or best practices or guidelines, approaches, methodological schemes, etc.
- ❑ Based on the above, the capitalization platform of the DSS includes evaluated results, re-organized and reformulated according to decision-makers' priorities, in order to offer solutions or to improve policies able to mitigate their problems.

## Case study: URBAN EMPATHY A capitalization project



**Capitali ... what?**

## URBAN EMPATHY “A project of projects”



## 15 Results being capitalized

1. (Cat – Med)  
Malaga Charter  
and Platform for  
Sustainable Urban  
Models.

2. (Elih – Med)  
Capitalization  
strategy and policy  
paper.

3. (Marie)  
Associated  
partners platform  
for energy  
efficiency.

4. (Culture)  
Catalogue of best  
practices in urban  
planning in sites of  
Unesco cities.

5. (Zero Waste)  
Decision Support  
Tool for waste  
management.

6. (Teenergy)  
Guidelines for  
energy efficiency  
measures in school  
buildings.

7. (Effect)  
International  
training seminars  
for policy makers.

8. (Cat-Med)  
Set of common  
urban  
sustainability  
indicators.

9. (Cat-Med)  
Metropolitan  
groups & Green  
Apple  
methodology.

10. (Cities for  
Mobility)  
Development of  
the Cities for  
mobility network

11. (Hybrid Parks)  
Hybrid workshop  
methodology.

12. (Pays Med  
Urban)  
Methodology to  
determine best  
practices for  
landscapes.

13. (Plus)  
Deep Dive  
Methodology.

14. (Ener Supply)  
Summer Camp  
methodology.

15. (Ener Supply)  
Web training  
platform.



## Why do problems of compliance still exist?

- Research into the determinants of environmental behavior has shown that an improvement of the individual and collective behavior can be obtained if citizens are more exposed to information, and engaged as part of a community.
- However, the participation of citizens is not sufficient enough to leverage realistic control in numerous stressors.
- In order to encounter sustainability threats, the combination of networks of people, knowledge and sensors is necessary.
- These threats are usually addressed with a top-down approach (from policy-makers & authorities to society) and not in a holistic way.

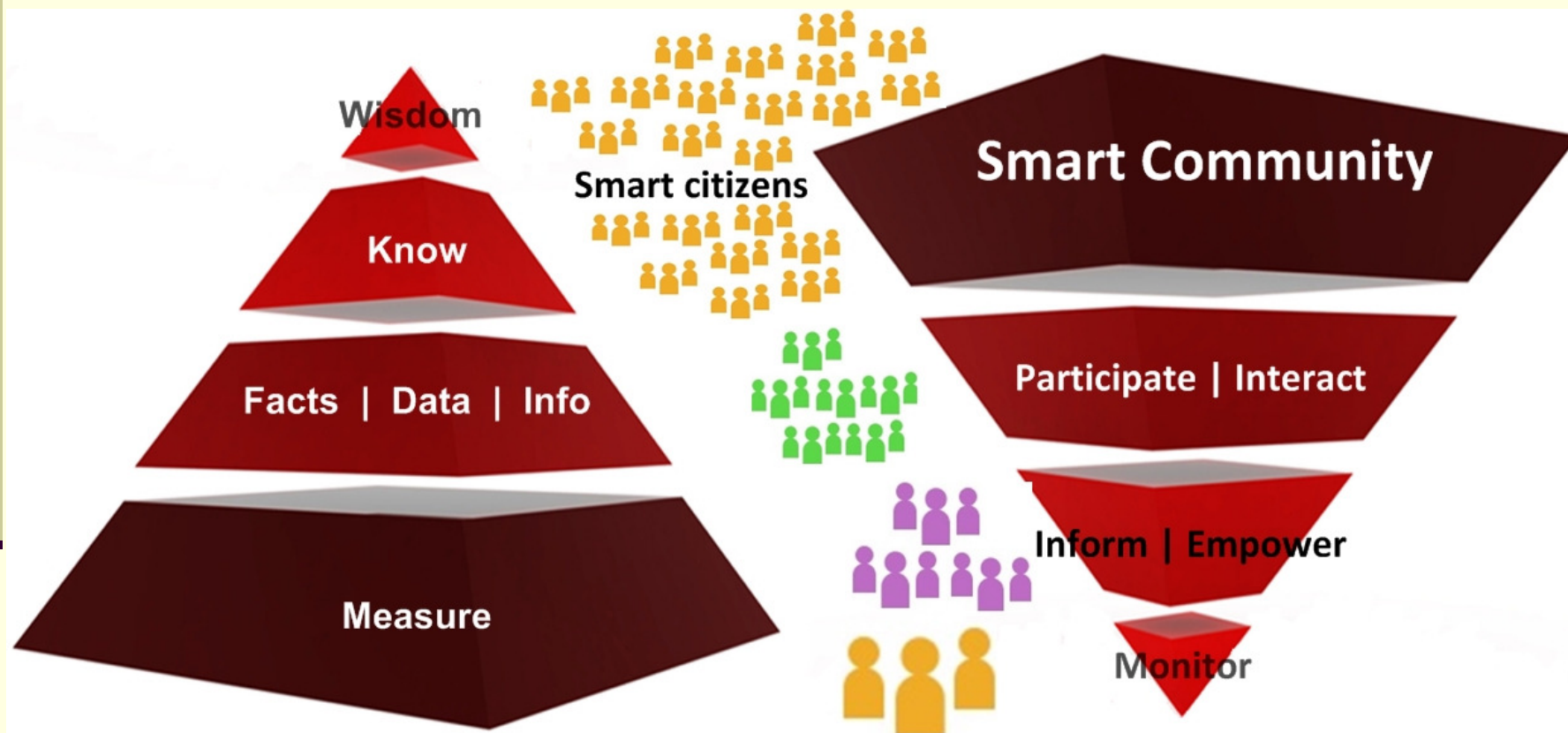


**Thus, we need a hybrid bottom-up and top-down perspective...  
with “smart citizens” ...**

- **“Smart citizens” participate in their city’s governance, are concerned about increasing the quality of life of their fellow-citizens, and about protecting their environment.**
- **Empowerment is all about making citizens stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their lives, encountering societal problems and claiming their rights.**
- **Tools are required to:**
  - **provide methods within communities’ empowerment; “Real Communities” i.e. people with the same interests/behaviors e.g. bicyclist unions, citizen’s unions, mother’s unions etc.**
  - **foster e-democracy for efficient governance, through new creative ways of collaboration between various citizens and stakeholders.**



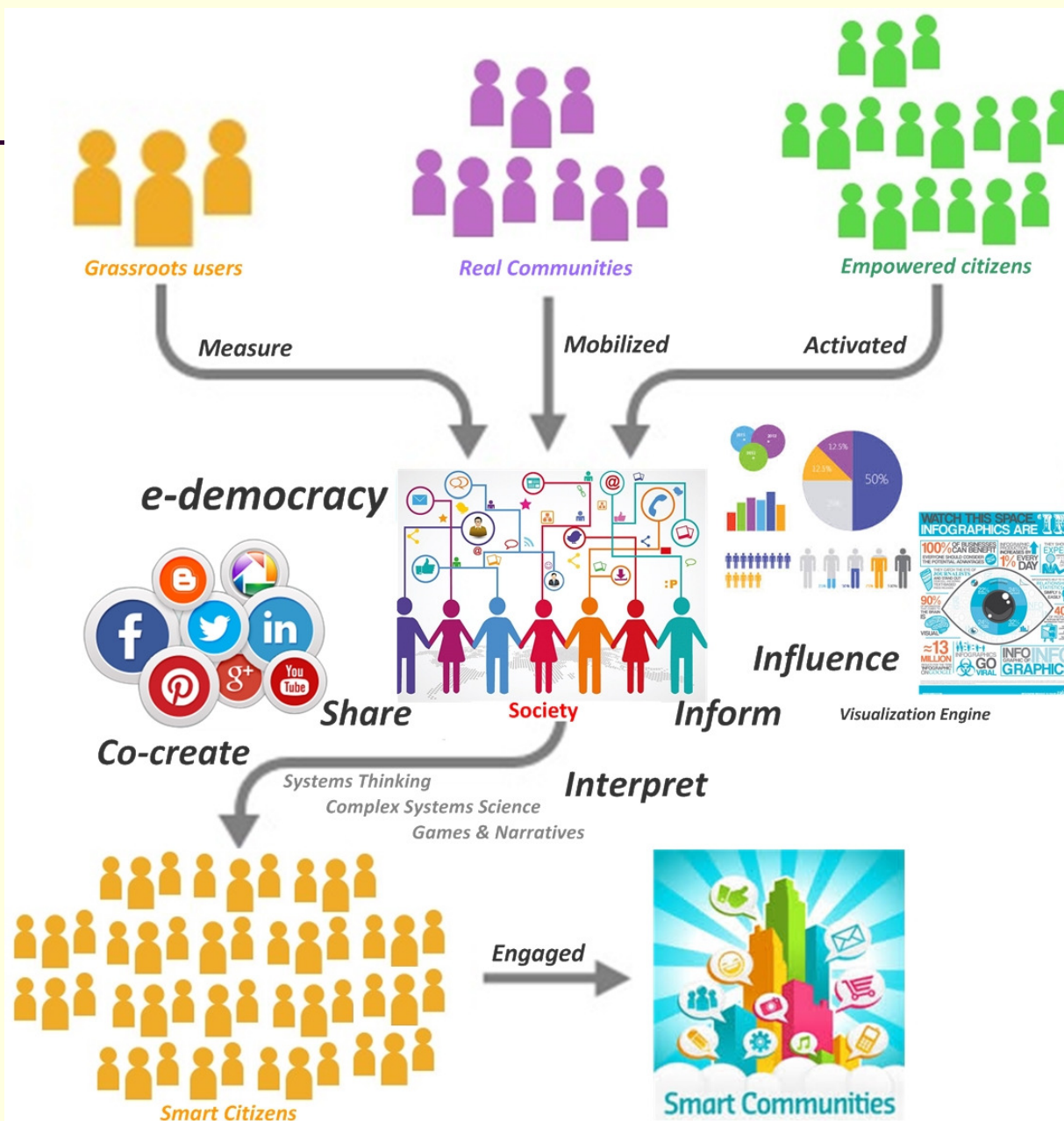
## ICT is crucial towards a “Socially-oriented” bottom-up approach



Pyramid of the levels of citizens' interaction in order to enable citizens to become “Smart Citizens”.



## The overall collective awareness&intelligence concept







## Creating tools and motives...

In order to create motives/incentives for citizens, tools are required in order to enable citizens to become “Smart Citizens”:

- Collaborative Awareness Platforms (CAPs), which facilitate decision-making by providing increased transparency as well as opportunities for citizens’ empowerment in order to fully collaborate and promote better informed decision-making processes.
- Approaches that will empower citizens, through participation and interaction to adopt more sustainable individual and collective behaviors and lifestyles in order to improve the exposure levels.
- Bottom-up participatory paradigms via ICT-based collective awareness and collaborative activities of citizens’.

**Main conclusion: Inform, Empower, Participate, Interact  
towards providing a hybrid bottom-up and top-down perspective**



**Hvala na pažnji!!**

**In any case, we should  
«get up from the armchair» in order  
to improve our environment!**