

Participation in Sustainable Urban Planning

Levels, Categories, and Roles Across Planning Phases

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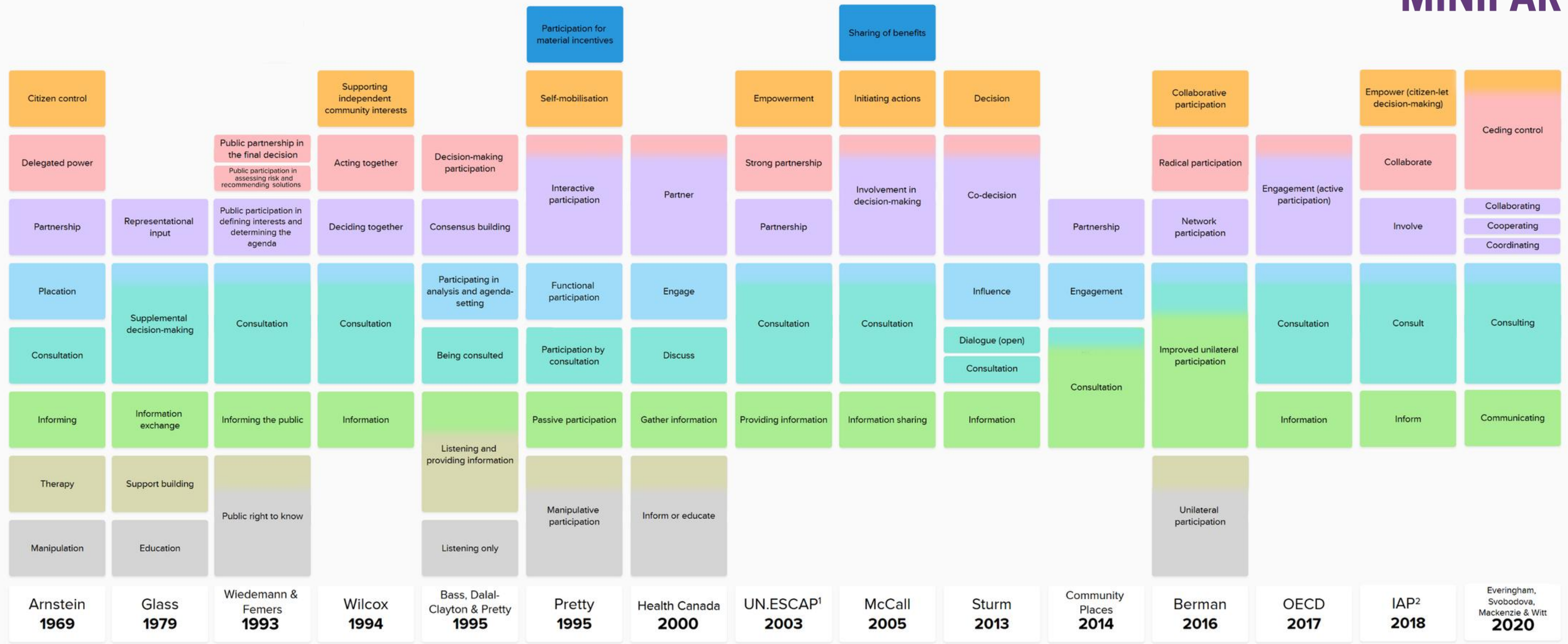
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Introduction

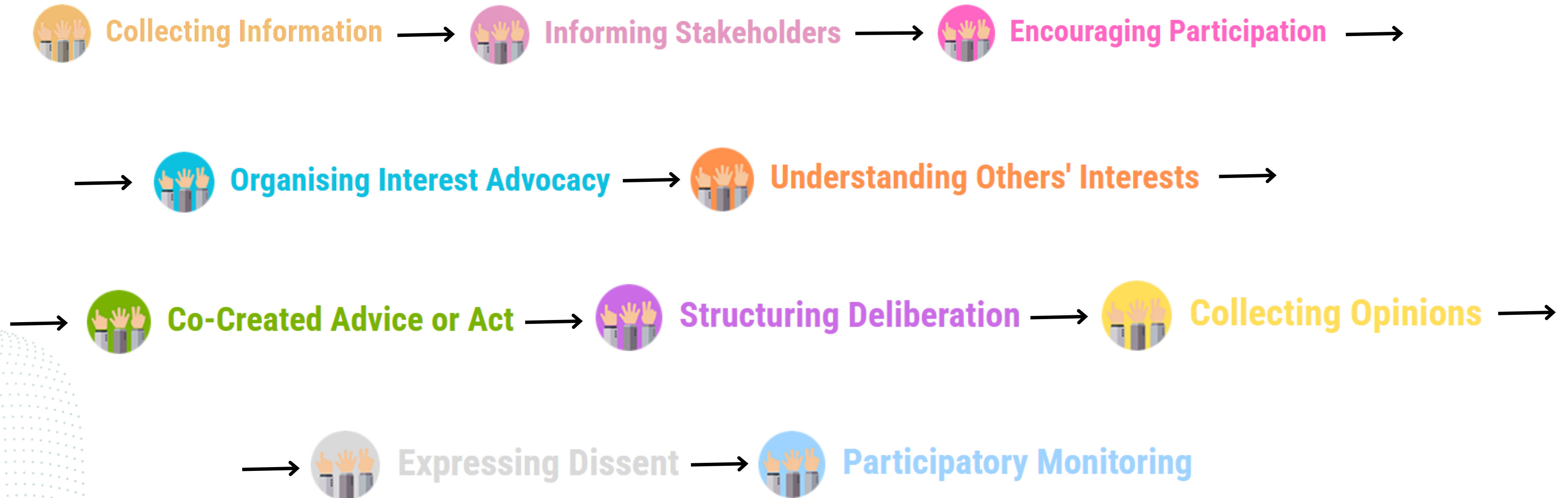
- Public participation is a key element of sustainable urban planning, supporting inclusive, transparent, and community-responsive planning processes (Arnstein, 1969; Healey, 1997).
- Contemporary planning theory highlights a shift from top-down approaches toward collaborative and communicative governance models (Innes & Booher, 2004; Fung, 2006).
- Understanding how participation is structured and operationalised is essential for improving planning outcomes in complex urban contexts (Healey, 1997; Innes & Booher, 2004).



Dimension: levels of participation



Dimension: categories of participatory methods



Dimension: categories of participatory methods

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MINIPART website:
www.minipart.rs

Category ▾

Method ▾

Action Learning
Activist Group
Advertising
Alliance
Appeal
Artistic Workshop
Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD)
Augmented Reality (AR)
Awareness Workshop

 **Community Mapping** 🏡

Generating a wide variety of creative ideas and potential solutions to a problem or challenge. It is a Brainstorming session where participants are encouraged to think outside the box without focusing on the feasibility or practicality of ideas.
Purpose: to capture local knowledge, highlight community priorities, and foster dialogue among participants, often for use in planning, development, or advocacy.

- 👉 Local residents and stakeholders collectively create maps to identify and visualise key features, challenges, and resources of their area from their own perspective.
 - 👉 Participants draw or annotate maps (paper or digital).
 - 👉 Often used to identify needs, assets, and spatial inequalities.
- 👉 Focus can be on physical spaces (e.g., parks, roads, unsafe areas), social dynamics, or future visions. Also spelt: Mapping, Community Mapping Workshop, Mapping Workshop, Participatory Mapping, Asset Mapping, Participatory Cartography, Community Mapping, Parish Mapping, Participatory Land-Use Planning (PLUP), Ground Mapping, Collaborative Mapping, Participatory Resource Mapping, Geo-Referenced Discussion.

Variations: Interactive Choropleth (interactive thematic maps); when aimed at a specific population group - Gender-Based Community Mapping; when instead of mapping on an areal/satellite view background, participants draw the map themselves - Sketch Mapping / Hands-On Mapping; when focuses on habitation, community facilities, roads, temples, etc. - Social Mapping; Geodesign.

Tools: Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS) / Public Participation Geographic Information Systems (PPGIS) / Interactive Web-Based Maps.



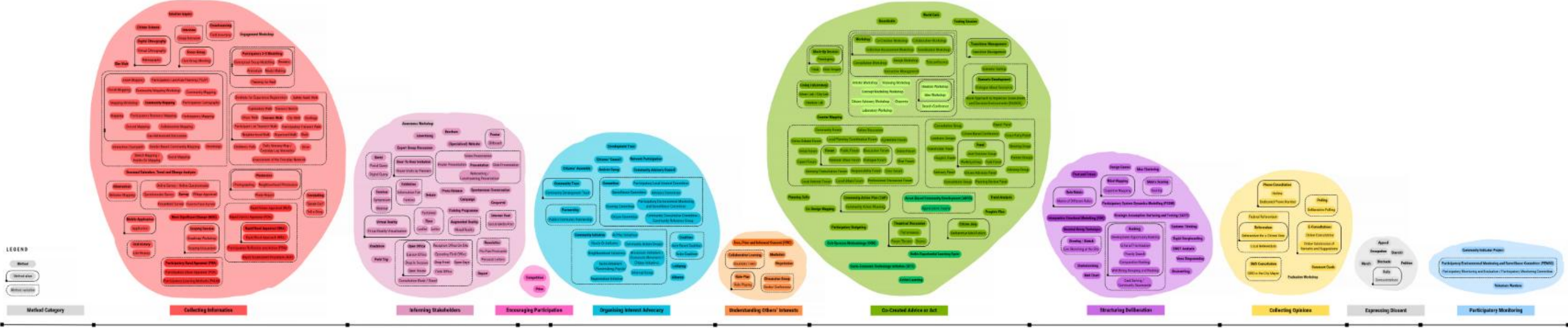
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ods network

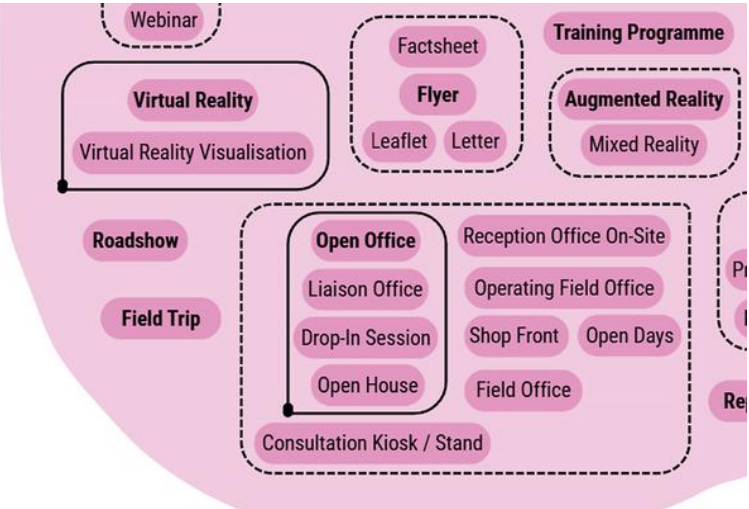
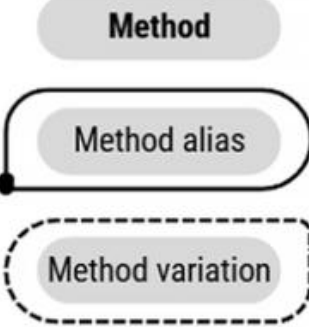


Dimension: methods variations

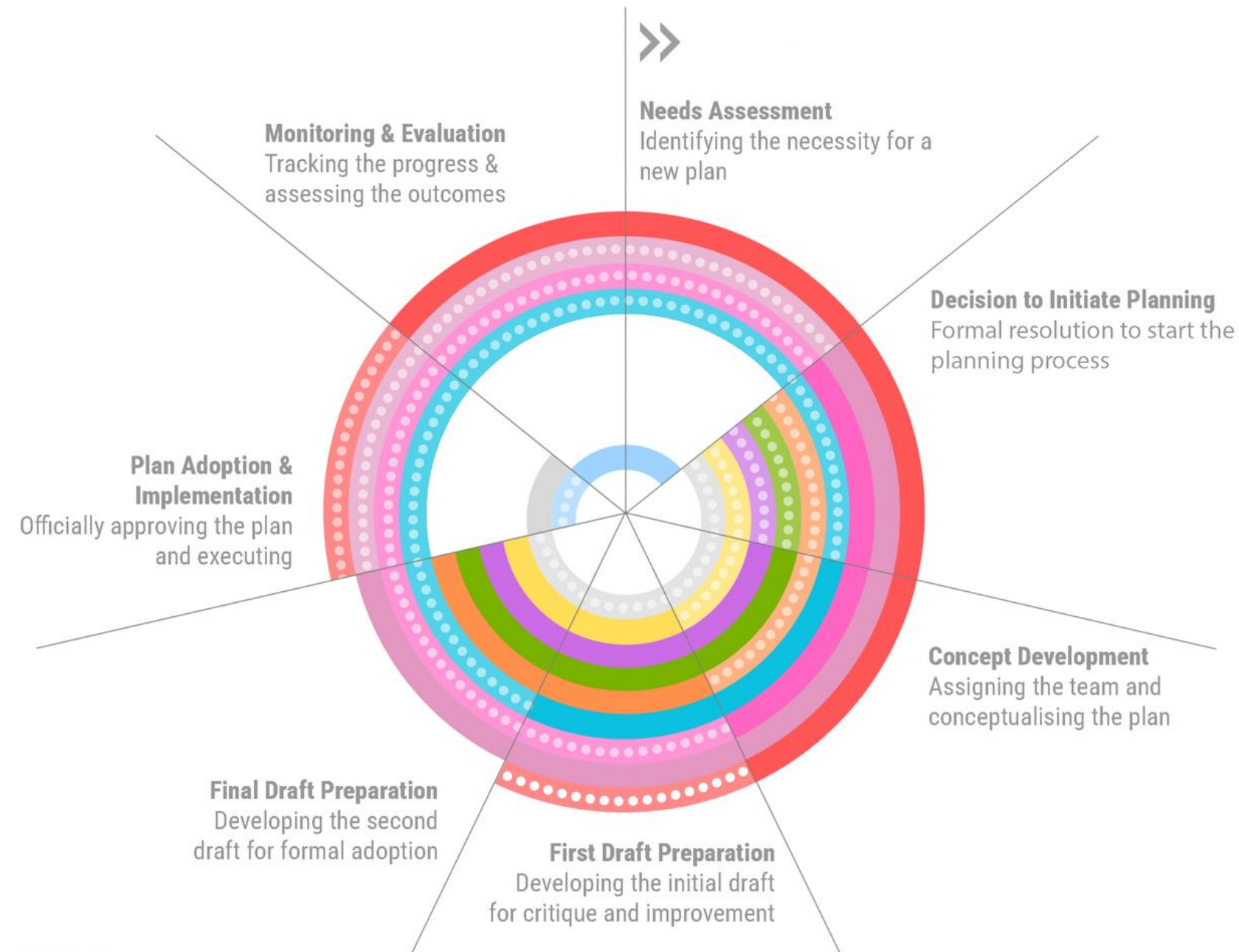


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Dimension: categories in planning phases



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Conclusions

- No single method is universally effective.
- Instead, the strategic combination of methods—aligned with both participation level and planning phase—enhances the quality and legitimacy of planning outcomes.
- Systematisation of participatory methods and their application in particular planning phases provides a practical framework for planners and policymakers.
- A combination of methods throughout the planning processes supports more meaningful citizen involvement and more resilient, context-sensitive urban solutions.

Thank you for your attention

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