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18.6 Number of governance innovations adopted

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Governance innovation

Participatory Planning and Governance

Description and justification

The planning, delivery and stewarding of nature-based solutions requires participatory governance approaches (Frantzeskaki et al. 2020; Hölscher et al. 2019; van der Jagt et al. 2017). Participatory governance will enhance the social support of the nature-based solution and awareness of its changing functional design over time. Moreover, the engagement of a large variety of actors is also a matter of creating economic insurance, where different financial resources can be activated to sustain functionality over time. For these reasons, participatory approaches to co-design, cocreation and co-management ('co-co-co') of NBS are advocated (European Commission, 2016). For example, Buijs et al. (2018) show how active citizens can significantly contribute to urban green infrastructure planning and implementation, for example by developing large parks with volunteers or designing a network of green corridors. As they show a large diversity of citizen-local government collaborations and different pathways for upscaling innovative discourses and practices, they term this 'mosaic governance' that can facilitate a combination of long-term, more formalised strategic approaches with more incremental approaches that correspond with localised, fragmented and informal efforts of local communities.

Generally speaking, participatory governance is embodied in processes that empower citizens to participate in public decision-making. Around the world, a growing number of local governments are experimenting with innovative practices that seek to expand the space and mechanisms for citizen participation in governance processes beyond elections.

Putting in place the mechanisms for participatory governance requires governance innovations. In general terms,

governance innovations can be diverse – they refer to novel rules, regulations and approaches, as well as skills, competencies and structural capacities of actors to address a public problem in more efficacious and effective ways, lead to better policy outcomes and enhance legitimacy (Hertie School of Governance 2017; Anheier and Korreck 2013; OECD 2018). Governance innovations that facilitate participatory governance refer to the creation of those novel conditions (e.g. resources, cognitive, social and normative capacities) that support collaborative decision-making (cf. Kerkhoff and Lebel 2015; Wyborn 2015).

Innovative conditions for participatory governance governance refer to the provision and institutionalisation of participatory mechanisms in city governance. Pieterse (2000) provides an overview of participatory governance methods and tools, including citizen juries, referenda and participatory diagnostic tools. Similarly, the Hertie School of Governance (2017) identifies several democratic innovations, which refer to new mechanisms for citizens' engagement in decisionmaking (e.g. referendums, citizens' assemblies, participatory budaetina). The institutionalisation of participatory governance will depend on political will, establishing an accurate picture of the variety of urban stakeholders and formulating a policy on participation for the municipality (Pieterse 2000). Such conditions also include the extent to which information is readily available and citizens are aware of opportunities for participation (Pieterse 2000; Galukande-Kiganda and Boitumelo Mzini 2019).

In addition, several authors identify capacities for coproduction, or co-productive capacities (Hölscher et al. 2019b; Kerkhoff and Lebel 2015; Wyborn 2015). Next to strategies, programmes and goals that are in place, these capacities also address which type of knowledge and skills existing for participatory governance. For example, Frantzeskaki et al. (2020) highlight that for collaborative decision-making, specific skills such as negotiation and collaboration are needed.

Definition

Governance innovations for participatory governance refer to the creation of those novel mechanisms, processes and rules that support participation.

Strengths and weaknesses

- + Provides insights into extent to which nature-based solutions process contributed to governance innovations for participation
- -Difficult to assess and data collection could be time consuming
- -Does not address the quality of participation and issues of power and equity

Measurement procedure (P) and tool (T)

■ Quantitative P: Scale inventory/Questionnaire (survey procedure, paper-and-pencil administration, computer-based administration)

	 T: 1 item at measuring respondents' perception of governance innovations. Qualitative P: T: participatory data collection methods, such as focus groups, semi-structured interviews, case study analysis, participant and non-participant observation
Scale of measurement	A five-point Likert scale can be used to evaluate the extent of governance innovations for participation: No innovations for participation — 1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — Very high level of innovation for participation 1. Not innovation: No innovation for participation 2. Low level of innovation: Participation is considered as hoc in few governance activities in projects of the city 3. Moderate level of innovation: Participation is embedded in city strategies, but not required as part of city projects and activities 4. High level of innovation: Participation is embedded in city strategies and required for any type of city project and activity 5. Very high level of innovation: Participation is embedded and mainstreamed in city strategies, projects and activities
	and capacities (knowledge, skills) for ensuring good participation are supported and ensured
Data source	
Required data	 ✓ Essential: questionnaire to collect different perspectives on the governance innovations for participation ✓ Desirable: qualitative data on nature-based solutions governance processes to reveal challenges and opportunities for governance innovations, as well as reflect on outcomes.
Data input type	Quantitative (quantitative and qualitative, if participatory data collection methods, and/or participatory action research are opted for)
Data collection frequency	Aligned with NBS implementation and timing of targeted objectives
Level of expertise required	 Methodology and data analysis requires medium level expertise in social science research and the governance of the city in question Quantitative data collection requires no expertise Qualitative data collection requires medium level expertise in social science research
Synergies with other indicators	

Connection with SDGs	Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	
Opportunities	Participatory methods (e.g., participatory data collection	
for	methods, and/or participatory action research) may be	
participatory	applied to collect data on nature-based solutions governance	
data collection	processes to reveal challenges and opportunities for	
governance innovations, as well as reflect on outcomes. Additional information		
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Studies on Water.