How much self-governance is in local government?

Davos, 12.03.2014

Plan of presentation

- Strength of the cities
- Communication with inhabitants
- Conclusions

Strength of the cities

Will city counsels rule the world?

- In Europe more than two-thirds of the population live in urban areas – the value is still growing

- In 2030, in cities will be living more than 60 percent of world's population

- Increasing role of cities is the result of metropolisation of the world, development of technology and increasing mobility of populations

- Cities as economic, social and cultural partners

Warsaw

- The capital of Poland since 1596
- Located in the centre of Europe
- The largest Polish city (1.7 million inhabitants, 3 million people daily)
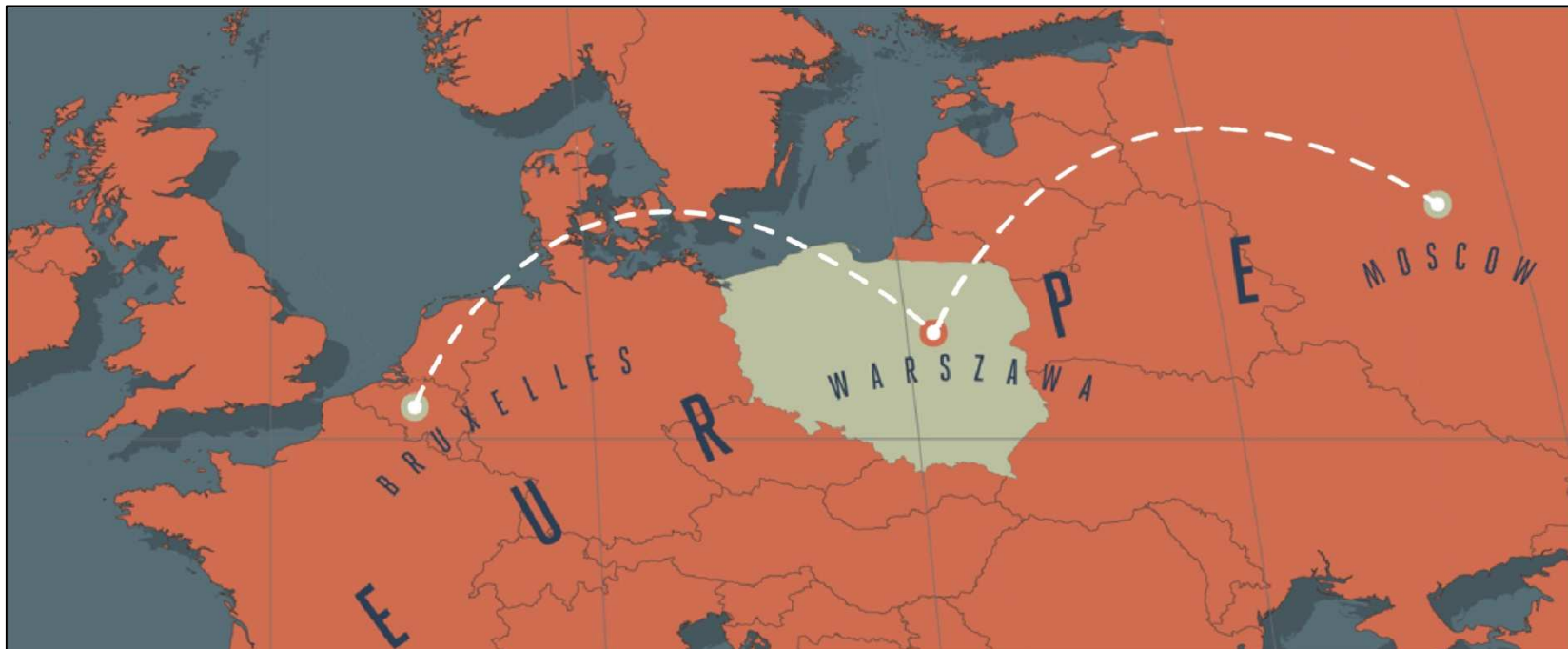
Warsaw

- Unemployment at about 4%
- Over 70 higher education institutions and over 300.000 students
- Over 1 million people attending business meetings during one year
- Warsaw Stock Exchange placed 2nd in Europe (by the number of Initial Public Offerings)

Branding - storytelling

City devoted to its inhabitants - two meanings
- Committed to governing through participation
- Committed to improve quality of life in the city

Communication with inhabitants

Communication tools

- Debate
- Commissions for Social Dialogue
- Participatory budget
- Crowdsourcing
  - Warsaw 2.0 Opencity

Debate

Forms of debate

- Project debates
- Special consultations
- Workshops
- Trainings

Commissions for Social Dialogue

Characteristics

- Initiative and consultative bodies created jointly by NGO's and municipality of Warsaw
- There are currently 29 commissions led by 11 offices and 15 districts
- Open in nature – only 10 NGO's needed to create new commission

Goal

- Joint development of satisfactory solutions between NGO's and municipality

Threat

- Too much focus on financial aspects – NGO's expectation of gratification
- Prohibitive demands on municipality
- Lack of willingness and time for social service, weariness and conflictuality at the very start of cooperation

Participatory budget

Models of use

- Administrative reform – Porto Alegre (Brazil)
- Project – Cordoba (Spain)
- Tool – Sopot (Poland)

Participatory budget

Why is it worth to use?

- Helps to bridge the growing gap between governing bodies and city residents

- Facilitates a dialogue between officials and NGO's representing so called „urban social movements"

- Helps in making controvertial decisions

- Builds residents trust towards local government organization and its officials

- Increases transparency of the public funds management process and has a strong impact on reducing corruption

Participatory budget

Threats

- Mental (citizens vs officials are not partners)
- Structural (lack of local regulation)
- Political (competition between parties)
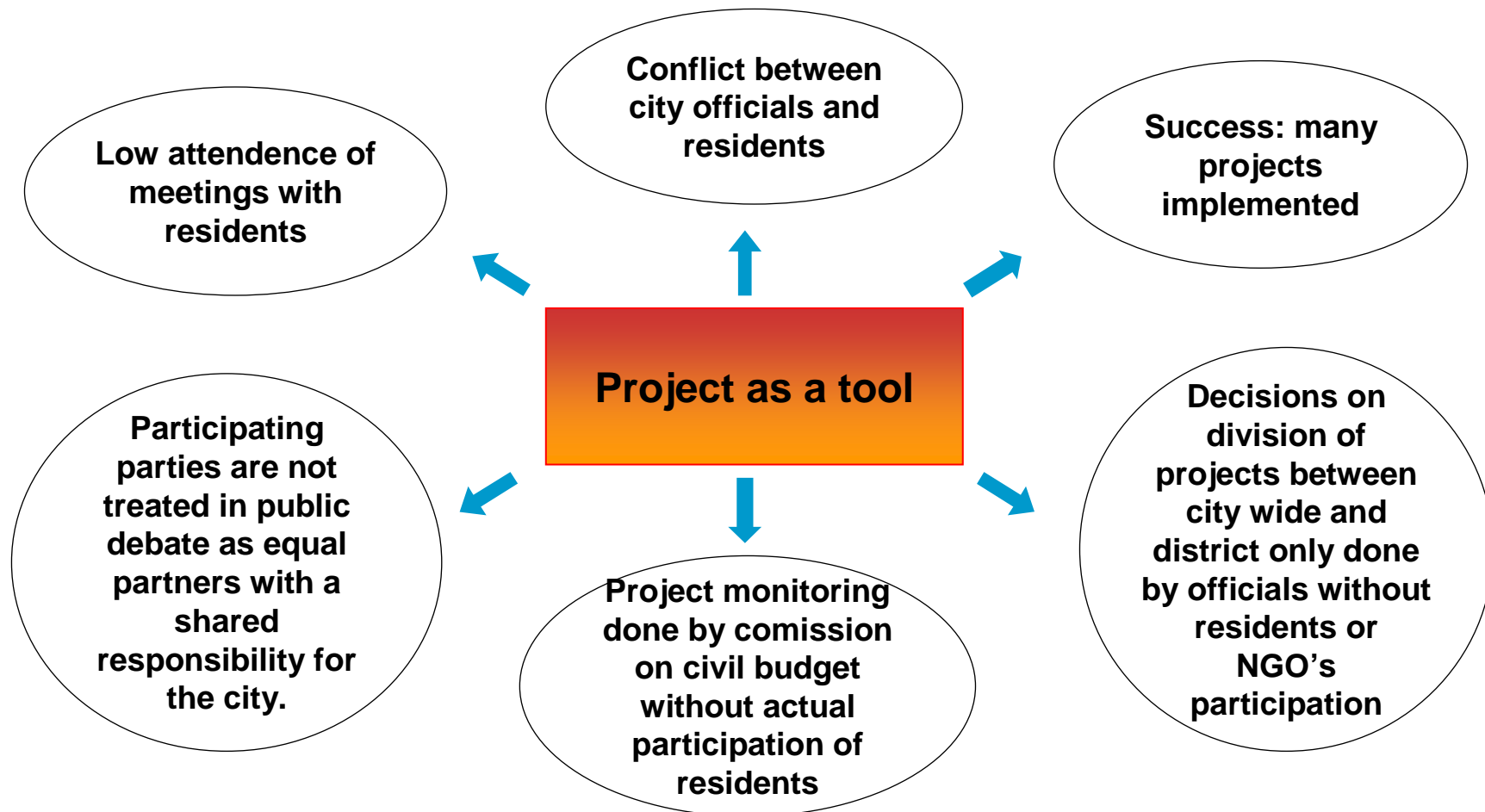
Participatory budget

Indicative numbers

- Since 2008 - 80 municipalities are using it as a tool
- 1% of city's budget goes to participatory projects
- In 2014 Warsaw has at its disposal over 6 mln euro

Participatory budget

Cases study analysis – Sopot 2011/2012

Conflict between city officials and residents

Low attendence of meetings with residents

Success: many projects implemented

Project as a tool

Participating parties are not treated in public debate as equal partners with a shared responsibility for the city.

Project monitoring done by comission on civil budget without actual participation of residents

Decisions on division of projects between city wide and district only done by officials without residents or NGO's participation

Crowdsourcing

Crowdsourcing

- Is a tool that allows businesses and organizations to engage a large number of contributors in a challenge.
  In order to solve the defined challenge, a large community is engaged to share ideas and content through an online platform.

Citizensourcing

- Is an adoption of crowdsourcing techniques by the government in order to engage citizens in shaping cities. Thanks to the collective intelligence of citizens, it is possible to solve public issues and improve public spaces.

Why citizensourcing?

Citizensourcing

Helps to improve cities thanks to:

- **Empowerment** – citizens, local community groups and government act together to improve their city
- **Efficiency** – no one can be in all the places at the same time… but citizens can! Government can focus on solving public issues instead of trying to identify them
- **Engagement** – citizens that take time to submit ideas and identify issues, they get more engaged in their local communities. It also gives people satisfaction because they feel that they can really shape their city

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Case study

Objective

Develop strategy and a pilot open innovation platform for the City of Warsaw. Actively engage citizens in shaping the city through providing ideas to challenges it faces.

Idea

Create a work plan with the citizens and a PR plan in order to specify the vision of the brand, its identity, the key stakeholders in the government to lead the dialogue with the citizens. Based on these findings a pilot was conducted on an open innovation platform dedicated to Warsaw. The identified target group was engaged in challenges related to the city.

Result

As a result of the project, the city received 145 ideas, 45 of which were selected as the most valuable ones.

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Why?

- To create new quality of communication with citizens
- To discover the city's identity and create a new platform for a dialogue with the residents and key stakeholders
- To integrate city council's units around the project
- To redefine civic responsibillities
- To provide input for updated City of Warsaw Development Strategy 2020

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Objectives

- Build citizens trust through constant dialogue

- Citizens have the opportunity to change the city

- Citizens become city ambassadors

- Citizens themselves promote their own ideas and solutions

- Cost-efficiencies – thanks to the citizen engagement, the city receives feedback, insights and ideas

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Risks

- If at the end of the process the city will not implement the winning ideas, the citizens will feel deceived and the distance between them and the government will deepen

- If the procedure are not formulated right, the discussion will get off track and the city won't meet the goal of solving the challenge

- Keeping community engagement at high level throughout the whole project duration

Conclusions

In order to achieve our goal of self-governance in local government we need

- Mature citizens, mature officials and mature politicians
- System approach in building, new structures local goverment structures permitting self-governance development
- Create codex of good practice
- Constant monitoring of life quality satisfaction

Self-governance vs global approach

Question

Do we need global comprehensive approach to city issues?

Do we stress the importance of global approach to legal regulation of the city?

Thank You

fall in love with warsaw