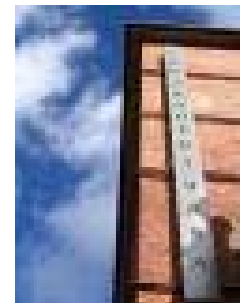


Identification and Evaluation of Good Practices in Local Agenda XXI

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Content

- Local sustainability through governance –
A process perspective
- A good practice process for sustainability –
Evidence from DISCUS project
- How to find good practices and learn from
peers and experts:
 - Local Evaluation 21
 - Informed Cities
- Informed Cities project partners

Local sustainability – Local democracy – Local development...

- My background: Masters in political science and Dr/Prof in public administration
- Research interest: Changing forms of democracy especially within environmental policy sector
- The process towards sustainability is a process of democracy too: To find common goals as well as common instruments to reach these goals
- Therefore, LA2I is as much as an environmental policy tool also a democratic tool
- My presentation looks at LA2I from a local government process perspective –
Environmental Governance

Why governance?

- **Due to a change in the POSITION OF THE NATION STATE** - changing balance of power? (*Pierre 2000*):
 - National governments have lost control to international actors and individual actors due to, for example, the deregulation of financial markets and information flows
 - Policy networks have a position of their own, regardless of states
 - Position of local and regional actors strengthened, as independent actors (sub national units, local governments, civic organizations and networks) introduce their own policies, and coordinate common efforts to influence policy-making processes
- **Due to the change in INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR:**
 - Post-materialistic values within society means...
 - ...changing patterns of political behavior, changing channels of influence, individual, not collective, interests
 - Governance a way to handle the failures of representative democracy, a way to handle specific interest articulation with a goal of higher level of legitimacy
- **Due to the fact that traditional government has FAILED to improve the state of the environment and to achieve sustainable development?**
 - However, this is hardly an explanation but rather a trigger for governments to try other and new methods, tools and channels of governance

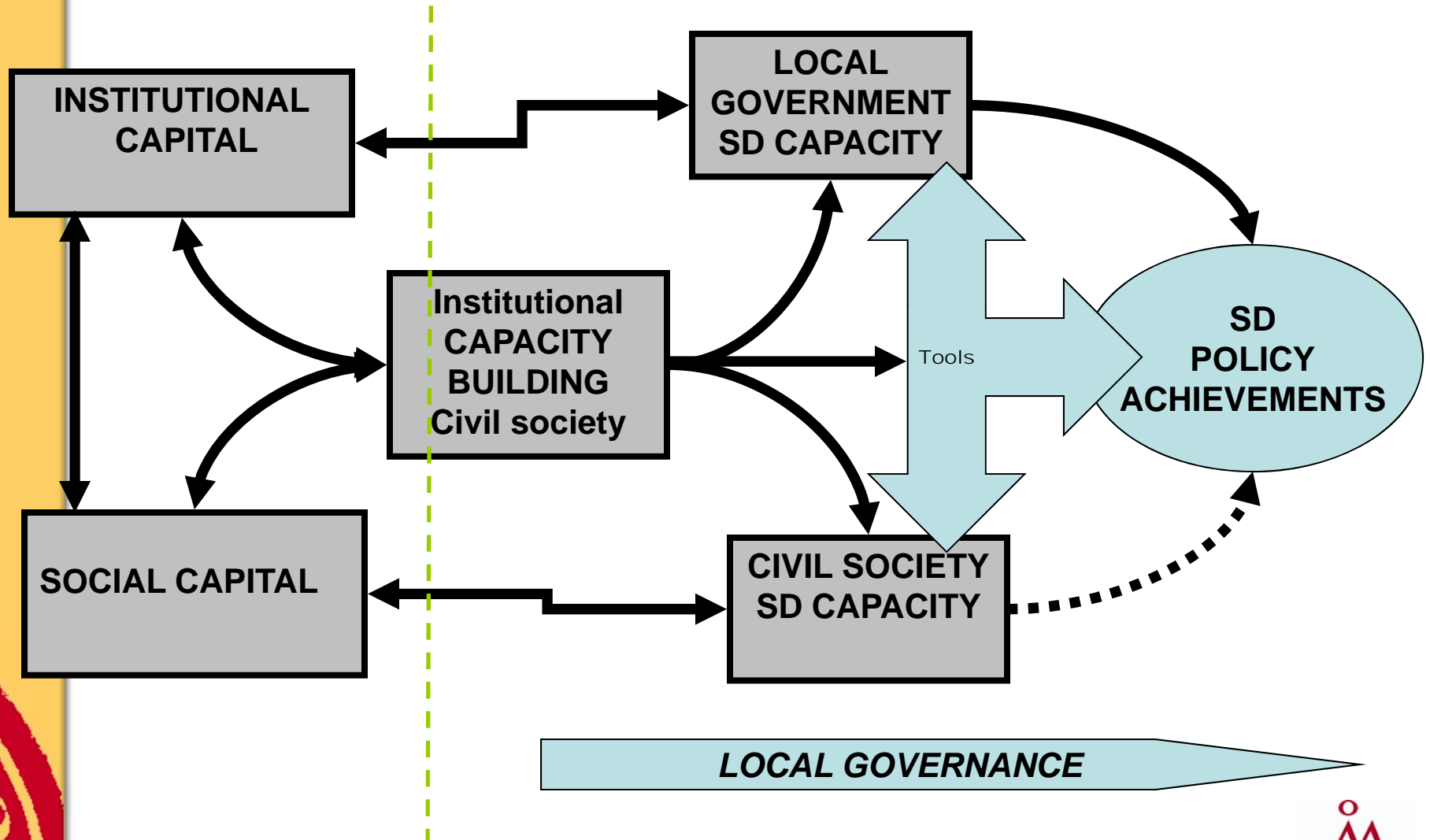
What is governance?

- One common feature in all **KEY GOVERNANCE DEFINITIONS** (in social sciences) is a notion of change in traditional government patterns: *'From government to governance'* (Joas 2008)
- **Governance = New Horizontal Division of Labour and Power?**
- **New Actors:** More and diversified actors involved in order to meet the demands of the (post-)modern citizens... *'Governing issues generally are not just public or private, they are frequently shared'* (Kooiman 2003)
- **New Objectives:** Same policy goals but the rationale to achieve them is new... *'...a change in the processes of interaction between different political actors'* (Joas 2008)
- **New Tools:** Old government methods has proved insufficient in order to meet all the aspects of sustainable development... *'...an additional tool for governments to achieve their political goals that would be impossible to realize (with reasonable costs) with traditional tools'* (Joas 2008)

Reforming democracy – Re-introducing citizens to decision-making

- There is a movement to (re-)introduce the citizens into the democratic process – **participatory democracy**
- This movement is happening actually both in the old democracies as well as in developing democracies, the main societal level of reform is often Local Government level
- The focus is to improve the quality of the contemporary democratic process, especially to handle **legitimacy** and **intensity** problems
- The aim is often, however, NOT to change the existing democratic institutions as such, only to **improve** them
- At least 3 ways to do this (*Geissel 2008*):
 1. **Introduction of direct democracy for a number of issues** (referenda, decision-making role)
 2. **Introduction of different deliberative institutions** (often small scale decision-making, improvement of the political debate)
 3. **Introduction of different co-governance structures** (small or medium scale institutions for better quality preparation and planning) → The project presentation about governance

The DISCUS analytical model

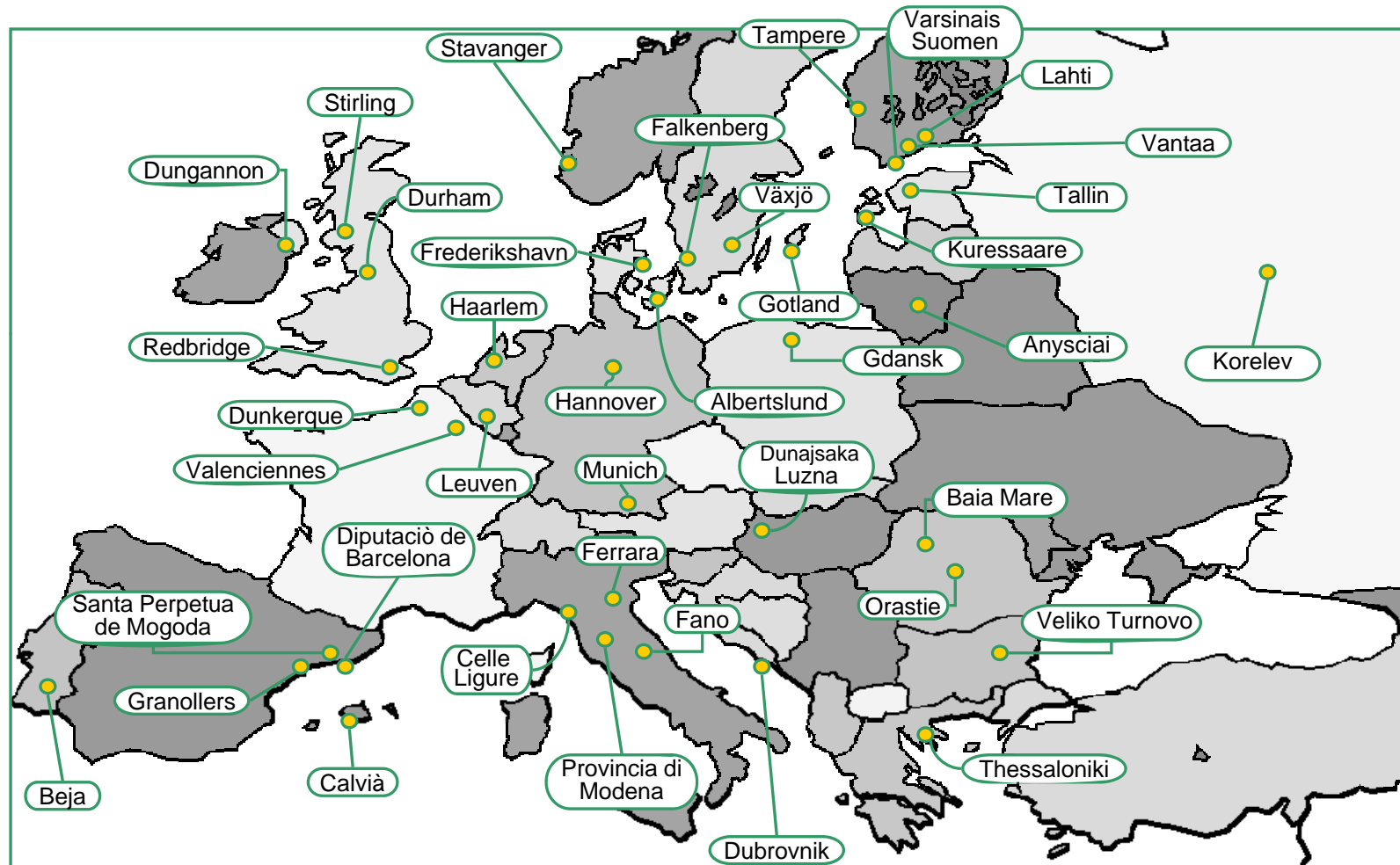


Why local environmental governance? DISCUS-project expectations

	Institutional capacity for sustainable development	
Social capacity for sustainable development	Higher	Lower
Higher	1 Dynamic governing → Active sustainability capacity-building → High possibility for sustainability policy achievement	4 Voluntary governing → Voluntary sustainable development capacity-building → Low possibility for sustainability policy outcomes
Lower	2 Active government → Medium sustainable development capacity-building → Medium or fairly high possibility for sustainability policy outcomes	3 Passive government → Low/no sustainable development capacity-building → Sustainability policy failure

Figure: The relationship between social and institutional capacity, capacity-building measures and sustainable development policy outcomes

40 cases / cities



The data

**40 cases/LGs
in 21 countries,
4 regions in
Europe:**

**Nr of Cities / Country and Nr of Answers / City and Type of Respondent
(Source: DISCUS Database)**

06.Region code:		Societal Position		Total
		Civil Society (all cat.)	Local Authority (pol+adm)	
Scandinavia	Denmark / 2	26	19	45
	Finland / 4	30	37	67
	Norway / 1	10	9	19
	Sweden / 3	27	36	63
	Total	93	101	194
Southern European Countries	Spain / 4	54	69	123
	Greece / 1	8	18	26
	Italy / 4	63	62	125
	Portugal / 1	16	14	30
	Total	141	163	304
Western European Countries	Belgium / 1	11	8	19
	Germany / 2	25	28	53
	France / 2	29	34	63
	United Kingdom / 4	57	47	104
	Netherlands / 1	15	12	27
Total	137	129	266	
Central Eastern European Countries	Bulgaria / 1	9	7	16
	Estonia / 2	26	37	63
	Hungary / 1	21	10	31
	Lithuania / 1	18	17	35
	Poland / 1	17	11	28
	Romania / 2	34	41	75
	Russia / 1	22	16	38
	Slovakia / 1	13	12	25
Total	160	151	311	

Societal Position				
		Frequency	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Civil Society (all cat.)	531	49,4	49,4
	Local Authority (pol+adm)	544	50,6	100,0
	Total	1075	100,0	

- About 50 % LG employees
- About 50 % Civil Society activists

Discus results I

	Institutional capacity for sustainable development	
Social capacity for sustainable development	Higher	Lower
Higher	1 Dynamic governing 10 Cases – 25 %	4 Voluntary governing 4 Cases – 10 %
Lower	2 Active government 7 Cases – 17.5 %	3 Passive government 19 Cases – 47.5 %

Figure: Our cases and the relationship between social and institutional capacity.

Discuss results 2

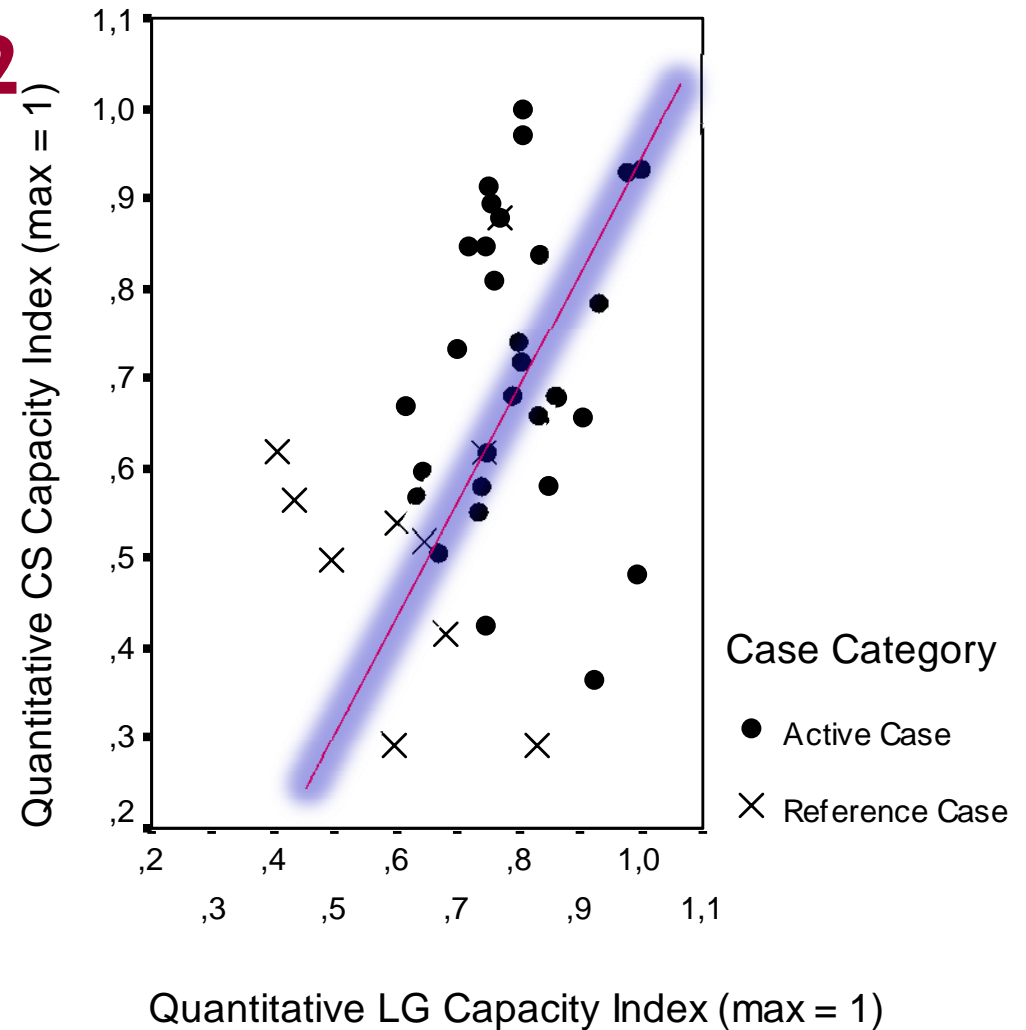


Figure: Our expected good cases and control cases - the expected relationship between civil society and institutional capacity.

Governance for sustainable development

- A brief analysis of DISCUS results

- No clear cut regional differences – Nordic countries forerunners in many aspects (but NOT all), Eastern Europe lagging in some aspects (but NOT all)...
- There is some **discrepancy** in the views of Civil Society and Local Government
- There is a need for governance in order to...
 1. Correct failures of the representative democracy = involve groups that otherwise would or could not participate, leading to higher level of **legitimacy**?
 2. To give access to interested, not politically organized, interest = to handle the **intensity problem** in an institutionalized way?
 3. Give the environment (or similar) a voice through governance = involve **stakeholder** organizations
 4. Include different forms of **knowledge** in to the decision-making process = two-way communication leading to better political decisions?

Informed Cities project

<http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities>



- A FP7 project that aims at...**PROJECT OBJECTIVES:**
 - Establishing dialogue between researchers and policy-makers on local sustainable development
 - Examining and evaluating the process of knowledge brokerage
 - Engaging stakeholders on national and European level to support the brokerage process and dissemination
 - Demonstrating the potential of a connectivity between research and policy-making
 - **Explorative application of research-based urban management tools by local governments across Europe →**
 - **LOCAL EVALUATION 2I as one of the tools, to find your own comparative GOOD PRACTICE level in GOVERNANCE for sustainable development!**
 - **On-Line website:** <http://www.localevaluation2i.org/>



<http://www.iclei-europe.org/informed-cities>

Informed Cities project partners

- Informed Cities **PROJECT PARTNERS:**
- ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (project coordinator)
- Ambiente Italia S.r.l. – Research Institute
- Åbo Akademi University - Department of Political Science
- Northumbria University Sustainable Cities Research Institute

- **FUNDING:** EU FP7 Coordination Action 2009-2011



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!