



ENECON ESPON Evidence in a North European Context
“Integrated Territorial Management and Governance”
III Postgraduate workshop of the ESPON/ENECON project

Integrated Governance Model for Municipalities in EU based on Subjective Well-being Assessment and Co-responsibility Approach



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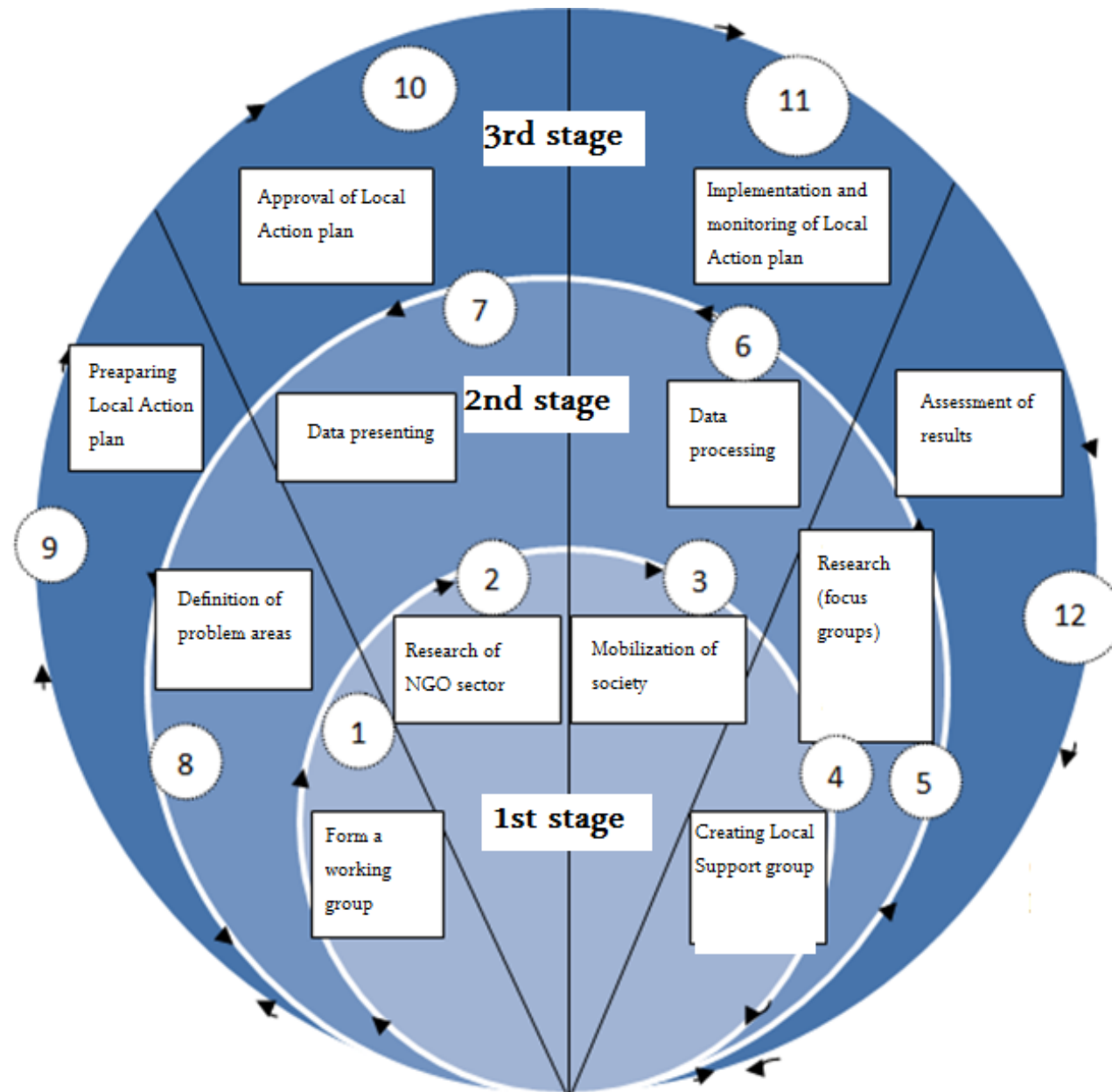
Aalborg, DENMARK, March 28, 2014

BACKGROUND

- Increasing role of municipalities in promoting well-being
- In towns and cities across Europe, there are moves towards a new type of engagement with citizens and NGOs
- How to measure well-being?
- In URBACT II project “TOGETHER for territories of co-responsibility” 8 EU municipalities were testing out the co-responsibility approach, which seeks to put citizens, civic associations and municipalities in a new productive relationship

INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE MODEL FOR MUNICIPALITIES

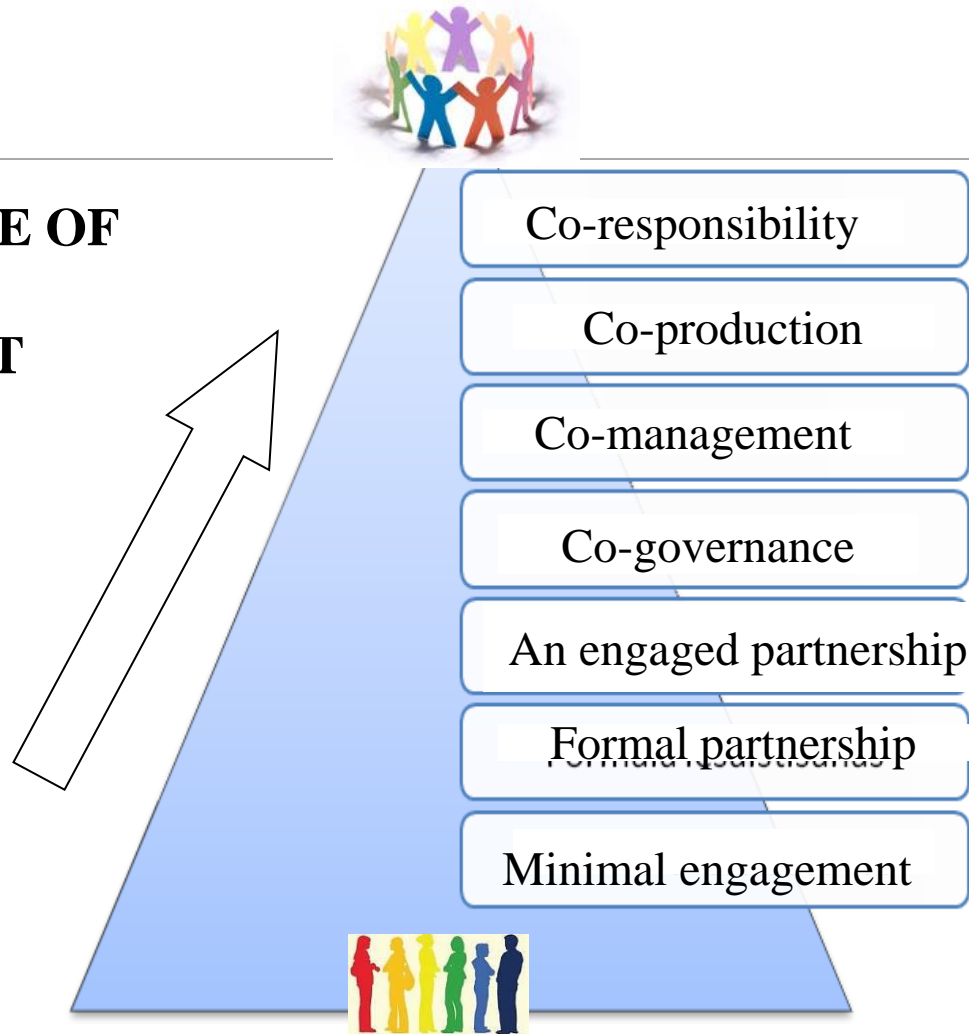
12 Steps for Evaluating and Increasing Well-being in Municipalities



1st stage: preparation
2nd stage: research
3rd stage: achievement of results and durability

ASSESSMENT OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN MUNICIPALITY AND SOCIETY

7 POINT SCALE OF CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



THE STRUCTURE OF LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP: SALASPILS (LATVIA) CASE

SOCIETY GROUP/ NGO	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS	LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION	LEVEL OF IMPORTANCE	LEVEL OF INFLUENCE
Youth	5	Medium	Medium	Low
Young families	8	High	High	Medium
Cultural/ sport/ religion organizations	8	High	High	High
Science workers	3	Low	Medium	Low
Municipality workers	3	High	High	High
Disabled people	3	High	Medium	High
Seniors	3	High	Medium	Medium
Representatives from rural territories	2	High	High	High
TOTAL	35			

Source: authors' created table

LOCAL SUPPORT GROUP: SALASPILS (LATVIA) CASE

- Formed by the leaders of 35 different organizations
- Main principle - representativeness



DATA COLLECTION USING FOCUS GROUPS

35 focus groups – different NGOs, hobby groups, organizations

Questions:

What is well-being/ ill-being for you?

What could you do to improve your well-being?



DATA PROCESSING USING ESPOIR SOFTWARE

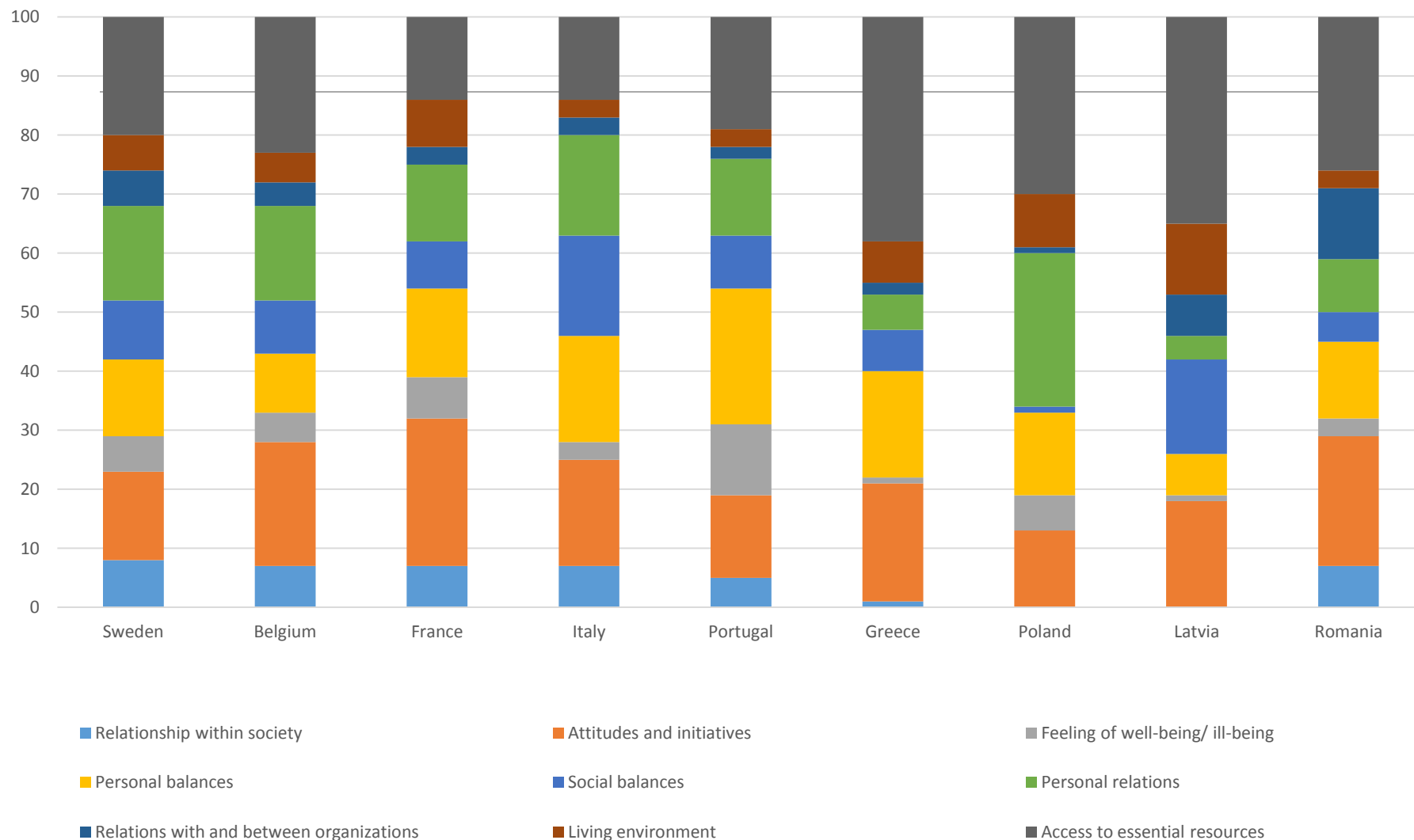
Responses (criteria) input
by dimensions:

For each response (criterion)
indicates the level of situation:

- ☐ Access to essential resources
- ☐ The living environment
- ☐ Relations with and between organisations
- ☐ Personal relation
- ☐ Social equilibrium
- ☐ Personal equilibrium
- ☐ Well-being/ill-being feelings
- ☐ Attitudes and Initiatives

- ☐ very bad situation
- ☐ bad situation
- ☐ medium situation
- ☐ good situation
- ☐ ideal situation

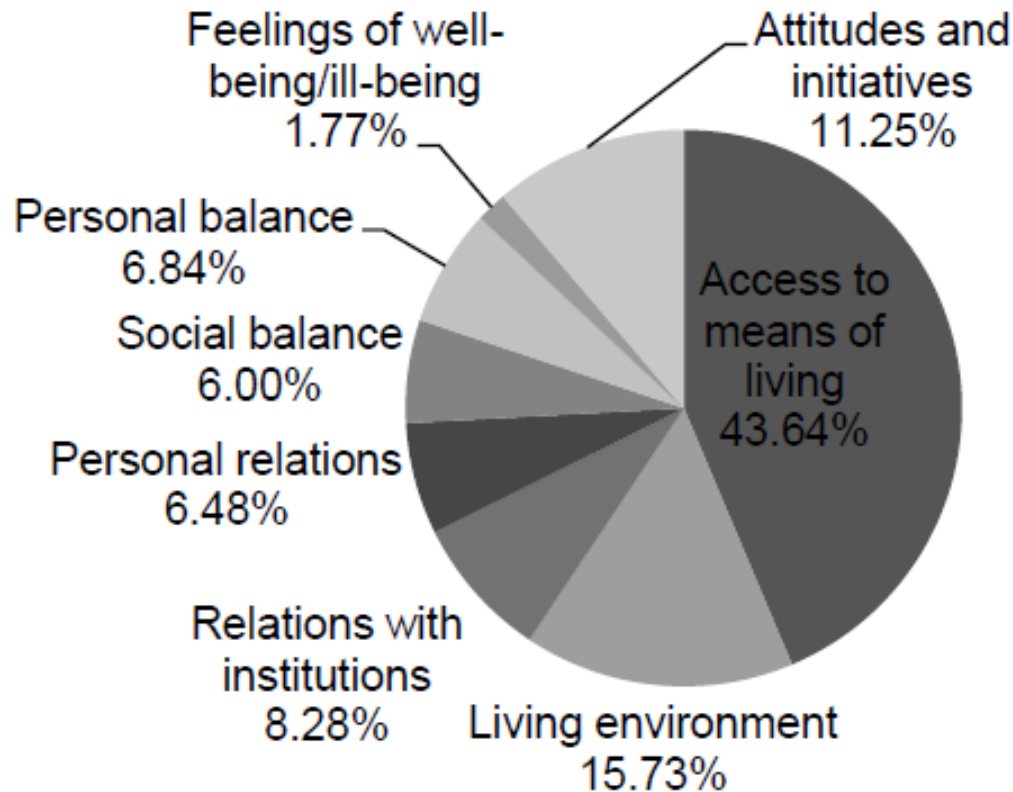
REPARTITION OF THE SUBJECTIVE WELL-BEING DIMENSIONS PER COUNTRY IN EU COUNTRIES, 2012, %



Source: the results of the SPIRAL methodology gained from 147 focus group meetings organized on 2011-2012 (from 14 014 criteria)

SALASPILS, LATVIA (POPULATION 23 000)

The Results of Subjective Well-being Research: Salaspils Case



EXAMPLE OF WELL-BEING INDICATOR

A05 Indicator of Education (249)

Very bad situation: Lack of access to educational institutions (kindergartens, schools).

Bad situation: No possibilities to improve yourself. Interest groups are not available. Children are not able to sport, travel, participate in interest education.

Medium situation: The educational institutions are available. There are good schools in sufficient numbers.

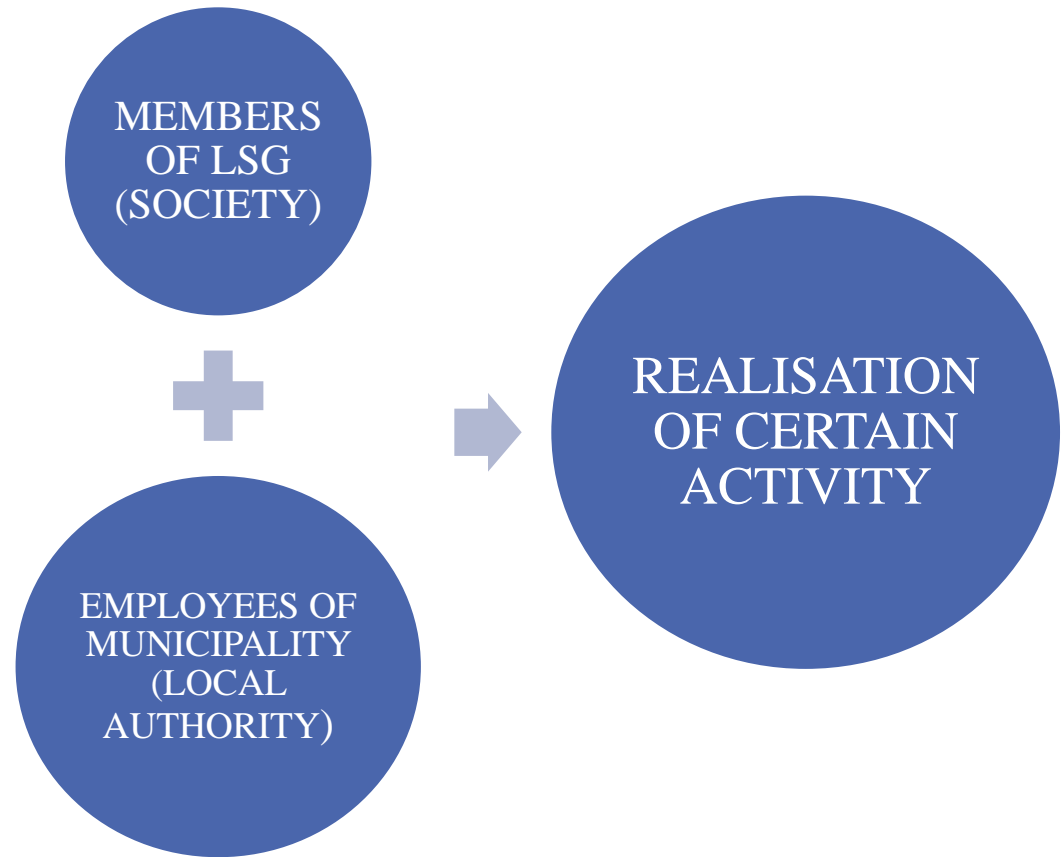
Good situation: It is possible to educate children. The development groups are available for children (for 0-3 years). There is a chance for children to spare their free time.

Ideal situation: Competitive level of education in comparison with other EU countries. Lifelong learning programs are using.

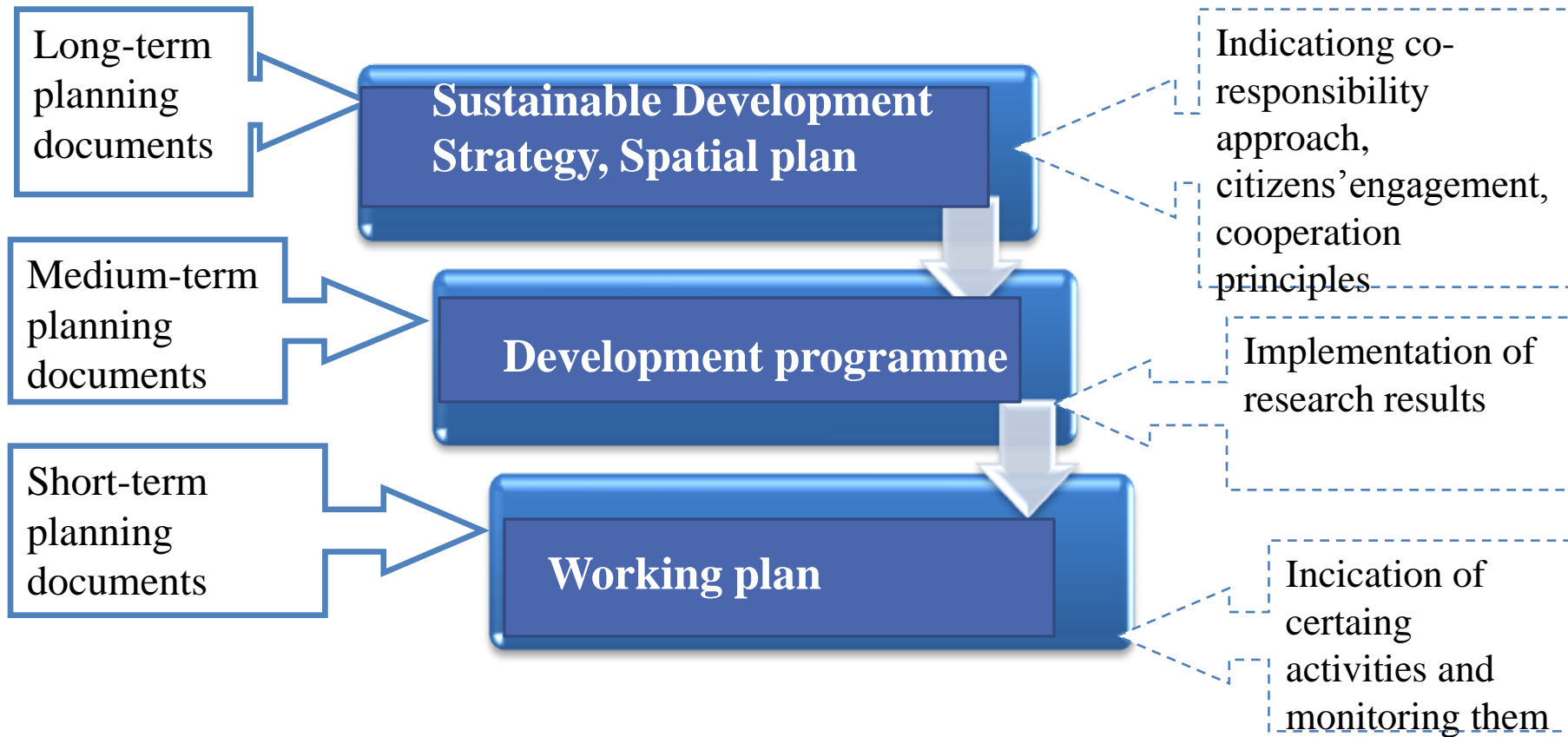
Situation in Salaspils: MEDIUM

PREPARATION OF LOCAL ACTION PLAN

- Defining activities
- Indicate responsible persons, timeframe, resources
- Realisation of activities using **co-responsibility approach**



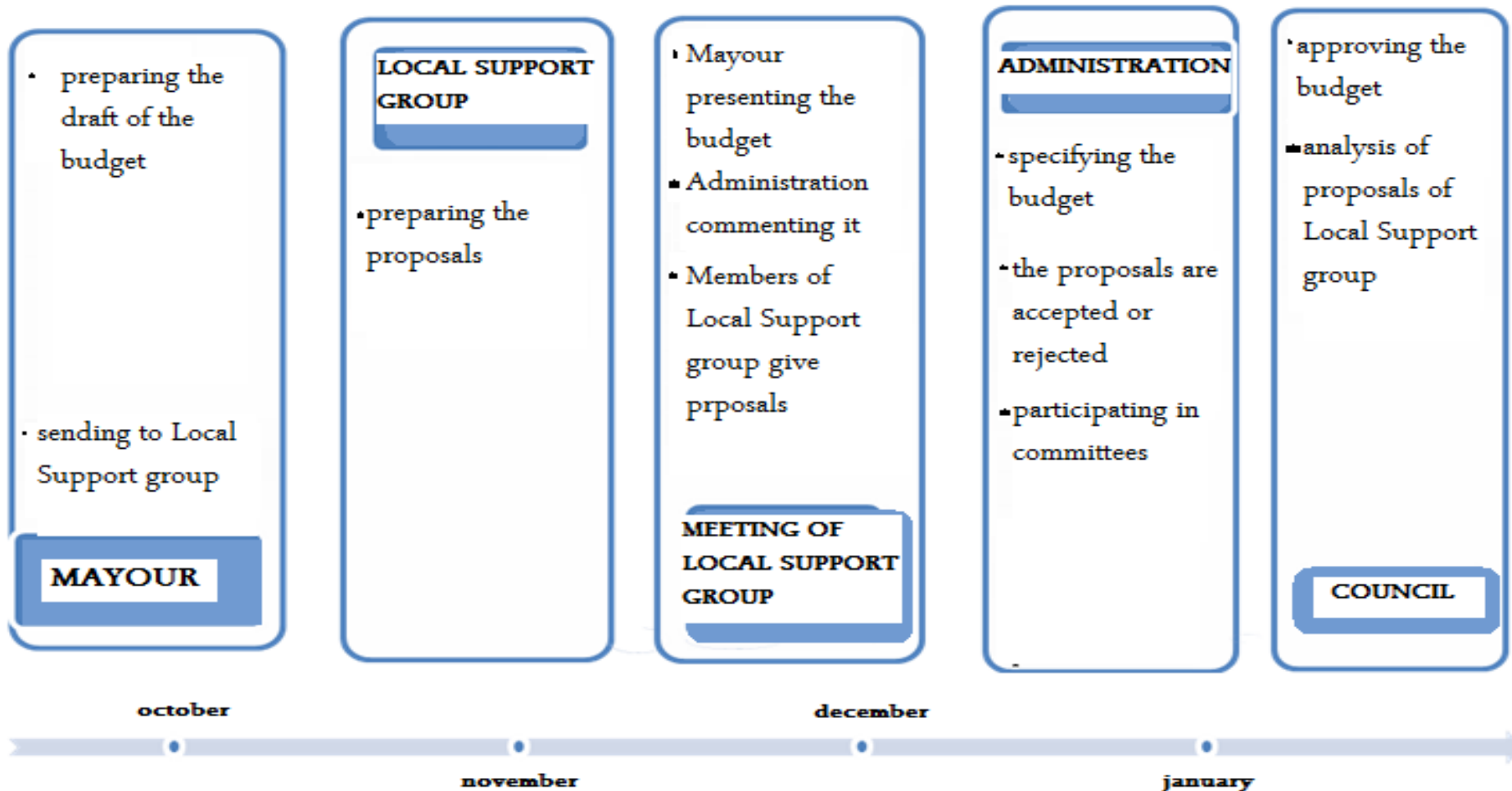
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESULTS



Development
programme
Law on state budget

FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

Envolvement of Society in Preparation of Municipality Budget



Source: author's created figure

LESSONS LEARNED

The focus group findings give new and valuable insights into the concerns of citizens

They bring home to policy-makers and politicians the multi-dimensional elements of public interest and the full range of issues which municipality needs to address

When there are linked to a co-responsibility process where citizens and civic associations are engaged in addressing these concerns, then new perspectives for action are opened up

The pilot actions being undertaken by municipality are testing a number of these

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

Main challenges:

- validity of results
- political and administrative risks
- monitoring of results
- resources

Great advantages of this approach:

- it reaches the parts of the community that other methods do not reach
- preparing new development level of local government

The provided methodology could be nominated as reliable research methodology for evaluating well-being in society with condition of all mentioned challenges would be considered and activities to reduce risks would be undertaken

Thank you for your attention!



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