Involving the youth via participatory democracy
Hello!

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Citizens trust their governments less.

- 83% experiences a lack of transparency.
- 55% wants to think along and participate.

Source: Youthful Cities, 2016
Efficiency in public participation is low

- Physical activities
  - Resource-consuming
  - Limited reach

- Paper surveys
  - Lack of transparency
  - Laborious to process

- Social media
  - Hard to manage
  - Lack of (data) ownership
Building stronger local democracies by improving the legitimacy and efficiency of public decisions through citizen participation.
How it works

Engage citizens on participation projects

Manage the citizen input and give feedback

Understand citizens’ needs better based on data insights
Toolbox for citizen participation

- **Information**
  - Project information
  - Council decisions
  - Feedback

- **Consultation**
  - Scenarios
  - Surveys
  - Polling

- **Co-production**
  - Ideation
  - Debates
  - Voting

- **Co-creation**
  - Participatory budgeting
  - Citizen initiatives
Our impact today

+100 local governments

+10% participation rate

+75% feedback rate
Case studies
City of Leuven
Idea generation for the multiannual strategic plan
City of Leuven
Case study

Student city in Belgium
102,000 inhabitants

How to gather as many ideas as possible to shape strategic plan?

WHERE

CONTEXT

RESULTS

16,000 participating citizens (16%)
2,500 ideas collected
34.6% participants under 30yo
Youth4Climate
Turning youth strikes into policy recommendations
Youth For Climate
Case study

**WHERE**
Belgian citizen initiative
30,000 youngsters

**CONTEXT**
How to turn our action and enthusiasm into policy?

**RESULTS**
3500 online participants
1700 ideas
15 priorities
Lessons learned
1. Empower citizens to set the agenda

Combine **top-down** consultations on specific projects, with **bottom-up** participation. Citizens should have their say in the agenda-setting.
Focus on **closing the feedback loop** towards citizens and visualise the decision-making process.

**Transparent decision-making**

1. Submit your idea
2. Commenting on ideas
3. Community voting
4. **Council decision**
5. Satisfaction survey

Ends on June 30, 2018
Think beyond input collection and install an **efficient process** to continuously integrate the citizens’ voice into policy-making processes.
Thank you!

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