



CITIES AS ARENAS OF POLITICAL INNOVATION IN THE STRENGTHENING OF DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

FINAL REPORT

MARCH 2024

EUARENAS investigates the ways in which social movements coupled with local government reform initiatives, manifesting themselves in local-level experiments, create momentum for political change that include more inclusive and participatory forms of governance.



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INTRODUCTION

As the European Committee on Democracy and Governance states “democracy itself is one of the cornerstones of peace in Europe and its reinforcement is a factor of stability, together with the rule of law and human rights. Within the democratic framework, representative democracy is part of the common heritage and is well established as the basis for the participation of citizens in public life at national, regional, and local level” (Report on Deliberative Democracy, 2023:33).

However, some gaps between political decision-making processes and citizens have become noticeable in Europe, especially since the recent economic, political and security crises. This situation has called for the use of a long list of methods and techniques whose objective is to restore the public sphere to its essential role as a real and virtual space mediating communication between the political and social spheres. Promotion of social agendas neglected or marginalised by both national and international politics has found other arenas – the cities. Various forms of citizen participation have started to transform governance cultures of several large European cities regardless of, or independently from, other levels.

Participation has thus been treated as a key method for improving the dialogue among citizens and authorities and as a remedy for the shortcomings of representative democracy and its institutions. In recent years, the use of participatory methods has been supplemented with deliberative methods. They are seen as more representative in expressing social opinions and needs, and as more effective in bridging the divide.

The scope of research and analysis carried out within WP3 is primarily designed for understanding and explaining processes and mechanisms conditioning innovative democratic experiments. WP3 has contributed to learning from the past – i.e., gaining insight into the existing and already applied methods, processes, and tools to support citizen participation in local democracies. WP3 has provided a detailed knowledge on how specific groups of citizens engage with specific approaches and the impact of these approaches in their local contexts.

The main objective of WP3 was to gather expertise from diverse local settings where innovations in participatory and deliberative democracy (i.e., concrete governance practices) have taken place. Moreover, the research done under WP3 has allowed to reconstruct trajectories of governance innovation based on a comparison of contextual and structural drivers of innovation and indicators of institutional change. Just as important is the comprehension of learning processes that occurred in the case study cities and how these have affected the evolution of collaborative governance.

The purpose of this report is to summarise the work carried out in WP3, focusing not on the actual research results —as these have been elaborated in the previous deliverables —but on the research process itself, including the evolution of the methods used, the case studies considered and the lessons learnt throughout the process.

This report consists of six sections. Section 1 presents the evolution of the research questions. Section 2 is divided into six subsections summarising the research tasks undertaken in WP3. Section 3 discusses the changes in the research timeline. Section 4 reviews the structure of the data and provides information on the access to it. Deliverables prepared under WP3 are introduced in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 explains the links with other work packages and cooperation with members of the **EUARENAS** consortium.

Section 1

WP3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The WP3 analysis was guided by a set of basic research questions of the EUARENAS project, which, in relation to the scope of works carried out under WP3, were initially formulated as follows:

1. How do local democratic governance innovations emerge and to what extent they are the product of learning from other local governance contexts?
2. What concrete agendas, actor constellations and strategies characterize these governance experiments?
3. What are the circumstances that trigger the decisions to implement governance innovation?
4. Which are the key drivers (economic, political and cultural) that influence or bias local outcomes of democratic governance experiments?
5. In what ways are local forms of deliberative and participatory democracy influenced by multilevel governance relationships with regional and national levels?
6. How successful can the implementation of local governance innovations be in other places and at different levels of governance?
7. To what extent do the new technologies and digital platforms support participatory/deliberative governance techniques or deteriorate them?
8. What is the added value of substantive provided by participatory/deliberative means?
9. Which governance practices and institutional arrangements best facilitate citizen engagement and co-governance and democratize the local governance?

Over the course of the project, these original Research Questions were re-examined to align with the evolving focus of the primary research strands within WP3 and across the other Work Packages. The changes introduced were not revolutionary, as elaborated in detail in D3.3 (Section 2: Revision of the Research Questions). As a result, the number of questions was reduced from nine to eight, and their wording and scope were mostly modified slightly.

The final set of research questions is as follows:

1. How do local democratic governance innovations emerge and to what extent they are the product of learning from other local governance contexts?
2. What are actor constellations and agendas in these governance innovations?
3. Which are the key drivers that influence or bias democratic governance experiments?
4. What is the potential of change/adaptation of the process to the changing conditions?
5. Which factors determine the effectiveness of governance innovations?
6. Which practices and institutional arrangements best facilitate citizen engagement and co-governance and democratise the local governance?
7. How do the innovations relate with regional, national and supranational levels?
8. How universal for implementation in other places and to other levels of governance successful local governance innovations can be?

Additionally, according to the suggestions made in the first EC evaluation report (March 2022), the research scope was broadened and special attention was paid to the inclusion of monitoring criteria for

analysing democratic innovations in different cultural, social and governance contexts and the accommodation of the effects of the current situation in Ukraine in WP3.

As a result three research publications are being prepared . They address the issues of hidden citizens energies, local governance and social cohesion (see: D3.3 Section 6).

Moreover, as Ukrainian immigrants had been an increasingly large population group in Gdańsk since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian conflict in 2014, the field research of the local case study planned back in autumn last year, already envisaged including this group of citizens in one of the Community Reporting sessions (RT 3.2.2) scheduled for early spring. For obvious reasons, these plans could not be implemented in time, however the UG research team managed to organize such a session in July 2022.

Section 2

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH TASKS

Having in mind the WP3 objectives, five research tasks (RTs) were assigned and performed under WP3:

- RT 3.1 Review and final selection of the case studies;
- RT 3.2.1 Desk-based research of existing knowledge on the case studies;
- RT 3.2.2 Field research of the case studies;
- RT 3.3 Data analysis of individual case-studies;
- RT 3.4 Cross-case analysis of case studies;
- RT 3.5 Synthesis and conclusions.

The research on the case studies undertaken during the second year of the project encountered three major challenges. Two of them were related to external adversities, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the escalation of the Russian military aggression in Ukraine on 24th February 2022. The third one was of amore internal character, pertaining to the local conditions of case studies under investigation.

RT 3.1 Review and final selection of the case studies

Prior to submitting the project proposal, the consortium held several preparatory meetings where its members collectively identified 11 case studies located in different cities and countries which they agreed to incorporate in WP3. This selection aimed to cover a wide range of participation and deliberation methods, while also ensuring a broad geographical representation of different regional contexts across the EU. The list included both widely applicable approaches, such as citizens' assemblies in Galway and Copenhagen, and locally rooted initiatives, such as The Deal for Communities in Wigan or the Office for Community Participation in Budapest (Figure 1).

	Atlantic region		West-Central European	Northern	Mediterranean	Central European and Baltic
Dominant integration model (welfare regime)	Liberal	State based		Society-based (social democratic)	Family-based	Mixture of models
Case studies	Wigan (UK) Galway (IE)	Paris (FR) Berlin (DE)	Helsinki (FI) Copenhagen (DK)	Barcelona (ES) Lisbon (PT)	Budapest (HU) Gdansk (PL) Vilnius (LT)	
Pilot locales				Reggio Emilia (I)	Budapest (HU) Gdansk (PL) Voru (EST)	
case study coordination	PVM	CRN	UEF	Luiss	UG	
piloting partners				Luiss, CRN, Eutropian	UG, SWPS	

Figure 1: Preliminary list of case studies included in the delivered project proposal
Source: Scott 2020: 17.

The need for a revision of the list of case studies has emerged during the first project's kick-off meeting held online in January 2021. As new partners joined the consortium at that time, some new ideas emerged and several of our preliminary conceptions fell through in the course of debates.

Prior to making any alterations to the list, the project partners conducted preparatory research by gathering fundamental information on the initial catalogue of case studies. All the partners were to assess the overall successfulness of each of the case studies, as well as their relevance in relation to the aims and objectives of the EUARENAS project (the questionnaire template provided in D3.1: Appendix 1 may be also accessed online at: <https://www.euarenas.eu/deliverables>). The results of this task confirmed the idea that there was a considerable type of varieties across the case studies. More importantly, the feed back from the partners enabled a more informed final selection of cases for the ensuing detailed investigation and interpretation. During this stage suggestions for potential new additions to the list were also welcomed.

After completing this stage (end of March 2021), 20 case studies were submitted by the partners, of which 8 had been included into the project proposal. The other 12 arose from the new circumstances and the overall discussion during the above-mentioned kick-off meeting. The process of final selection, elaborated in D3.1: Section 1, revealed 12 different governance innovations that were agreed to be analysed under WP3, as presented in Table 1 and Figure 2.

Table 1. List of the case studies after final review

Region	Participatory/Deliberative process	City/Town	Responsible research team/partner
Atlantic	The Deal for Communities	Wigan (UK)	PVM
	Citizen-Jury	Galway (IRL)	UEF
West Central European	Quartiersmanagement Pankstraße	Berlin (GER)	CRN
Northern	District Liaison Officers /Borough Liaison Officers*	Helsinki (FI)	UEF
	Citizens' Assembly	Copenhagen (DK)	UEF
Mediterranean	Quartiere Bene Comune	Reggio Emilia (IT)	CRN
	Community Balance**	Barcelona (ES)	LUISS
CE & Baltic	Participatory Budgeting	Gdansk (PL)	UG
	Citizens' Assembly	Wroclaw (PL)	SWPS
	Office for CommunityParticipation	Budapest (HU)	CRN
	Social Hackaton	Voru (EST)	CRN
	Socialising Cultural Policy	Wroclaw (PL)	SWPS

* the name of the process was changed during the desk-based research phase to conform to the official English version used by the City of Helsinki

** this case study was eventually cancelled during the implementation of RT3.2 which is discussed later in this section

Source: Own elaboration

One of the criteria for the final selection of the case studies was the idea to link the case studies with the pilots which arose from the requirements of the knowledge transfer between WP 3 and 4 – the lessons learnt through the detailed analysis of the case-study processes were to feed into the design of the pilot interventions. It therefore resulted in adding participatory/deliberative processes from the two previously missing pilot cities – Reggio Emilia (Quartiere Bene Commune) and Voru (Social Hackathon).

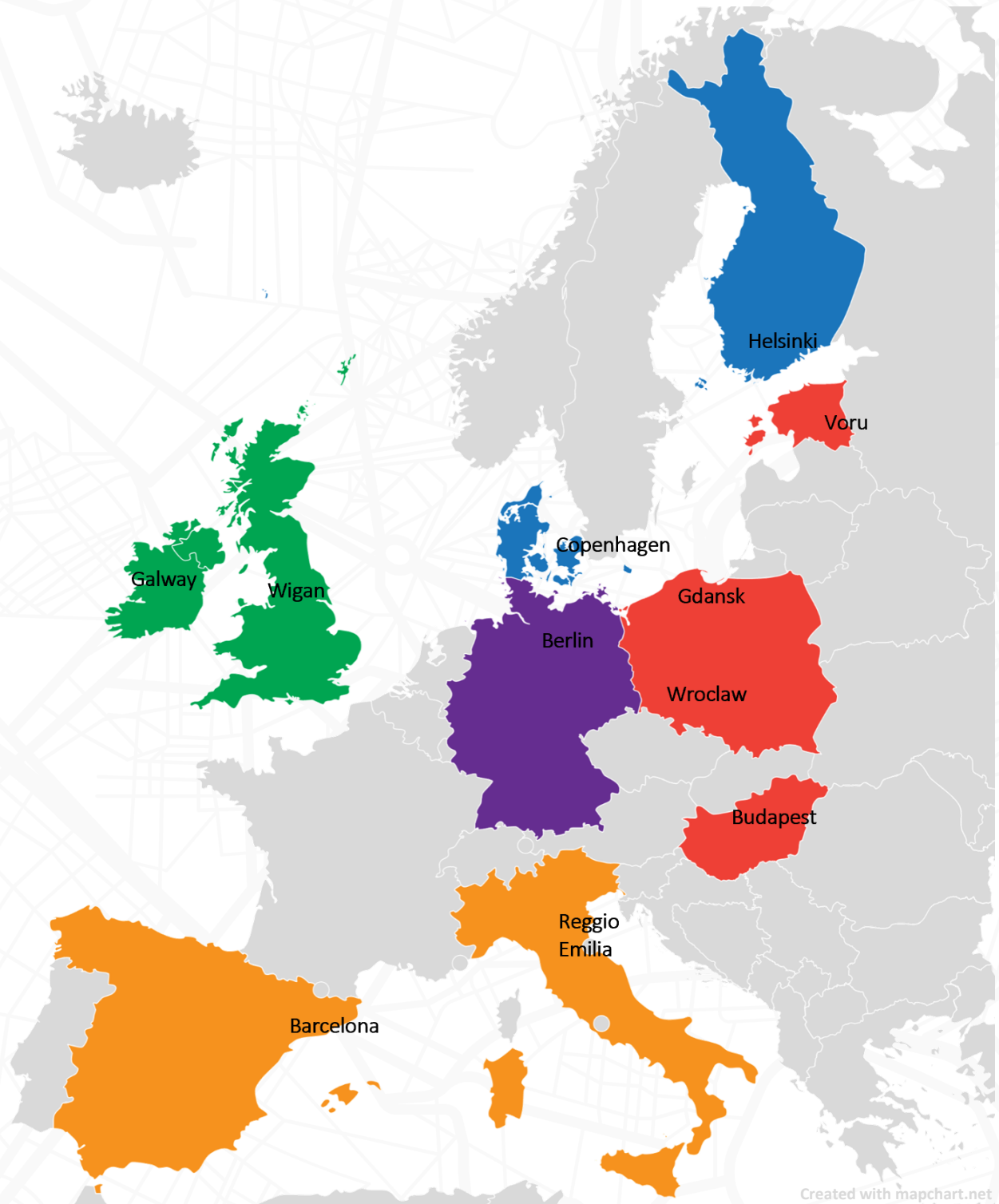


Figure 2. Location of the case studies selected for analysis in WP3
Source: Own elaboration

Research Task 3.1 was planned to be finished within the first five months (M01-M05) of the project and was completed on time. An overall assessment of the WP3 timeline is provided in Section 3 of this report.

The following research phase was divided into two research tasks: desk-based research of the case studies (RT 3.2.1) and field research (RT 3.2.2). The latter experienced a delay of several months due to delays in data collection, as outlined in D3.2. This setback hindered the planned integration of knowledge from WP3 into the planning phase of pilot activities in WP4. Nonetheless, a consistent exchange of knowledge between WP3 and WP4 facilitated the partial incorporation of initial findings from the case studies into the design of the pilot initiatives. This collaborative effort occurred during regular weekly meetings organized by WP4 and during consortium meetings, particularly during and following the WP4 workshops in Võru in March 2023.

RT 3.2.1 Desk-based research of existing knowledge on the case studies

A detailed comparative analysis of numerous and varied case studies required a comprehensive set of data. In order to do so a two-step procedure of data collection was adopted. The first step was desk-based research which began with review of the existing secondary sources (Part I) and media content (Part II) related to the selected case-study participatory and deliberative processes (Figure 3).

The design of data collection procedures was elaborated in detail in D3.1 (Section 2).

DESK-BASED RESEARCH

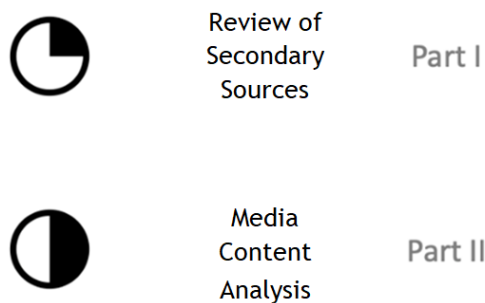


Figure 3. The two parts of the first component of the data-collection procedures
Source: Own elaboration

All relevant information on the case studies, namely the issues directly relating to the WP3 key research questions (see: Section 1 of this report), that had been gathered by the research teams during Parts I and II was included in a single report template (see D3.1: Appendix 2 or access online at: <https://www.euarenas.eu/deliverables>). The initial set of guidelines and content of the template were discussed and agreed with all partners.

When designing the template, our goal was to ensure an inclusive representation of perspectives of different actors on the urban arenas, as well as their different experiences, genders, ages, ethnicities and cultural and social backgrounds. Therefore, the materials used when reviewing the secondary sources should have fallen into several different categories of discourse: academic (monographs, articles, reports, etc.), legal/administrative (court decisions, acts, resolutions, ordinances, formal documents, etc.), political (transcriptions of public speeches, election leaflets, etc.), media (press articles, TV programmes, blog entries, etc.), educational (e.g. textbooks) etc. The research teams were asked to use sources covering several different types of discourse. In addition, to ensure objectivity, the template should have indicated any cases of bias or disagreement between two or more sources on a particular issue.

Two examples of sources for the case study of participatory budgeting process in Gdańsk – an ordinance of the City Mayor and an academic monograph – were provided by the WP3 coordinating team.

As for the media content analysis, the research method applied was very similar to the one which was designed for WP5 (Foresight). Courtesy of PVM, the media discourse report template from WP5 was

incorporated into Section 1 under Desk-based Research Part II. Yet, two small changes were introduced related to the period of analysis and selection of content. Firstly, the research teams had to screen the period covering the duration of the process plus some time before the process had started and - if it was not still ongoing – after it had ended (approx. 3 months in both cases). This alternation helped us to grasp how the event was promoted and how it was evaluated in various media over time. Secondly, the research teams were given more choice in selecting the sources. There was no limitation to the number of pieces of media content they selected for the analysis nor to the type of media - ensuring representativeness of different media outlets and content was the most significant issue. The key was the relevance in the context of participatory/deliberative democracy assessed by the researchers – as local experts their task was to pick the most suitable media content to be analysed.

The deadline for completing the desk-based research was 29th October 2021. However, it was finally extended until the end of 2021. Therefore, the WP3 coordinating team had 2 months to verify/evaluate the data (Table 2) before its analysis and preparation of individual case-study summary reports.

Table 2. Evaluation of the WP3 desk-based research performance
Source: Own elaboration

Participatory/ Deliberative process	City/Town	Desk-based research	
		Part I	Part II
The Deal for Communities	Wigan (UK)	completed	completed
Citizen-Jury	Galway (IRL)	partial	partial
Quartiersmanagement Pankstraße	Berlin (GER)	not applicable	not applicable
District Liaison Officers	Helsinki (FI)	completed	completed
Citizens' Assembly	Copenhagen (DK)	partial	partial
Quartiere Bene Comune	Reggio Emilia (IT)	completed	completed
Community Balance	Barcelona (ES)	not applicable	not applicable
Participatory Budgeting	Gdansk (PL)	completed	completed
Citizens' Assembly	Wroclaw (PL)	completed	completed
Office for Community Participation	Budapest (HU)	partial	partial
Social Hackaton	Voru (EST)	completed	completed
Socialising Cultural Policy	Wroclaw (PL)	partial	partial

The pandemic restrictions as well as other internal obstacles negatively impacted fulfilment of RT 3.2.1, especially in the case of Berlin although the CRN researchers found it difficult to collect all the required data in time and did not complete the RT 3.2.1 template, they later submitted a detailed report containing most of the data required to complete this research task.

As for Barcelona case, the LUISS team (based in Italy) encountered unexpected complications. Due to the pandemic restrictions and the fact that none of the project partners were based in Spain at the time, it was impossible to collect the data and consequently this case study had to be abandoned.

The most challenging component of the desk-based case study reports appeared to be the question of transferability of processes and governance innovations. In addition, some research teams indicated the difficulties they encountered when working on the templates. These ranged from technological (concerning the creation of a graph showing the actors and their interrelations using an online tool), conceptual

(unclear or unexplained terms used in the tables), to operational (insufficient media coverage of the issues under investigation).

All feedback comments were collected and taken into account when designing the guidelines for the field research, as well as during the analysis of the case-study processes. The research teams were also asked to identify any key issues that they felt were not covered by either the existing documents or the analysed media content. The WP3 leaders also inquired about any actors’ perspectives missing from the existing documents and/or the analysed media content. Therefore, it may be stated that planning overlapping research tasks, especially those aimed at data gathering, is a good practice, as it allows to cover some missing information during the second stage of the research. A valuable lesson was drawn from the Barcelona case – when planning case studies, there should always be a project partner/associate based in a selected location.

RT 3.2.2 Field research of the case studies

In the second step of data collection, two qualitative research methods were employed (Figure 4). Community Reporting (Part III) served to investigate the experiences of local communities engaged in or affected by the case studies. Next, the bottom-up perspective was complemented with a polyphonic account of different groups of urban actors gathered during Focus Interviews (Part IV).



Figure 4. The two parts of the second component of the data-collection procedures
Source: Own elaboration

At first, this stage of research was intended to primarily utilize traditional methods of data collection, which included conducting individual interviews with stakeholders and experts, as well as implementing location-based surveys. However, after the project had started, the decision was made to modify the approach, so that it would better correspond to other work packages. Therefore, individual interviews were replaced with Focus Interviews (FI) and location-based surveys gave way to Community Reporting (CR) - a qualitative method used and promoted by PVM in WP5¹. The order in which they were to be performed had changed as well—the field research began with CR workshops with citizens which was planned to be finished at the end of February 2022. Outcomes of these workshops were to inspire the FI with stakeholders relevant in each of the case studies (planned to be conducted until the end of May 2022). In case the partners found the information gathered via CR and FI insufficient, they could decide to conduct additional Individual Interviews by the end of June 2022).

The entire methodology of Community Reporting under WP3 was arranged in collaboration with the WP 5 research team, who also prepared the guidelines and templates (see D3.1: Appendix 3 or access online at: <https://www.euarenas.eu/deliverables>). It had been agreed that each case study team would deliver at least two CR sessions and gather at least 12 lived experience stories to produce one summary report. These

¹ The CR workshops in WP3 were later renamed as Citizen Experience sessions to distinguish them from CR workshops in WP5.

minimum criteria were set to enable the research teams to tailor the number of sessions and participants to the specifics of the participatory and deliberative processes under investigation. The reports summarising the Community Reporting were due on 28th February 2021. A training to familiarize the research teams with the method was delivered to by PVM during the EUARENAS Project Workshop in Helsinki in November 2021 and additional online support sessions were held on 10th December 2021 and 14th January 2022.

The key role of the focus group research was to complement the desk-based research, as it was mainly aimed at covering the issues absent from the existing documents analysis. However, it also served to capture interrelations and dynamics between the participants and their potentially clashing perspectives. Finally, it corresponded with the results of the Community Reporting workshops undertaken beforehand, as another part of the field research of case studies in WP3.

Detailed guidelines for Focus Interviews were prepared by the WP 3 leaders based on some basic assumptions agreed upon during the EUARENAS Project Workshop held in Helsinki in November 2021. As agreed between the consortium partners the guidelines for conducting the FI provided by the WP3 leaders were limited to the “minimum requirements” for all the research teams to fulfil. Thus, each team should have delivered at least 2 Focus Interviews with at least 6 participants each. The participants in each FI should represent the following types of urban stakeholders identified in D 1.1 (Ufel et al. 2021: 23-25). The composition of the groups, specific selection of participants and methods of recruitment (randomized versus deliberate selection) were up to the research teams. However, it was recommended that each focus group includes a participant representing the local authorities as organisers of the process – either a local politician or a public officer.

Focus Interview scenarios had to be prepared individually by each case study research team. They should have contained “obligatory” questions and be complemented with a set of additional questions, tailored to the specific, individual needs and conditions of the particular case studies. The “obligatory” questions had to relate to the following issues:

- at least one of the questions should have been based on the outcomes of the Citizen Experience sessions (i.e., be based on the results obtained during the Community Reporting workshops);
- at least one of the questions should have referred to the problem of inclusiveness of the case-study process;
- at least one of the questions should have referred to the problem of actors’ impact on the case-study process (e.g., “who among the actors involved has had the largest impact?”);
- at least one of the questions should have corresponded with the “What went great?/What went wrong?” sections in Table 5 in the RT 3.2.1 Report template,
- at least one of the questions should have related to the trajectory of the process in terms of the turning points and tools applied (Table 4 in the RT 3.2.1 Report template).

The additional FI questions had to be formulated in a way which would allow for: 1) filling in the missing information unavailable from the existing sources (“empty spaces” in the RT 3.2.1 tables), 2) and/or, obtaining different perspectives on particular issues critical for the analysed processes and not represented in the existing sources, 3) anything the research team working on the case study found valuable, interesting, and important from the point of view of the case study specifics. It was also agreed that in order to ensure impartiality and high standard of the FIs, their facilitation should be performed in a way which prevents any potential conflict of interests. The interviews were conducted in the participants’ native languages and digitally recorded, but their transcripts were delivered in English. The reports summarising the FI sessions were initially due to 31st May 2022.

After collecting all the reports based on the field research, the WP3 coordinating team verified/evaluated the data (Table 3) before its analysis and preparation of individual case-study summary reports. The work

on Research Task 3.2.2 was affected by the pandemic restrictions to an even greater extent than the desk-based research, since field research, employing qualitative methods for data collection, involved direct interactions between researchers and respondents, as well as among the respondents themselves. Research teams encountered challenges in conducting research through online sessions, finding it either more challenging or less effective compared to in-person interactions. Despite additional training and adjustments, some planned activities had to be delayed or cancelled as a result.

In seven out of eleven case studies the field research proceeded fully as planned, while in the remaining four the task was accomplished partially and/or the methodology had to be adjusted (Table 3).

Table 3. Evaluation of the WP3 field research performance
Source: Own elaboration

Participatory/Deliberative process	Field research		Scope
	Part III	Part IV	
The Deal for Communities, Wigan (UK)	completed	completed	full
Citizen-Jury, Galway (IRL)	completed	completed	partial
Quartiersmanagement Pankstraße, Berlin (GER)	completed	completed	partial
District Liaison Officers, Helsinki (FI)	completed	completed	full
Citizens' Assembly, Copenhagen (DK)	cancelled	completed (replaced with individual interviews)	partial/ adjusted
Quartiere Bene Comune, Reggio Emilia (IT)	completed	completed	full
Participatory Budgeting, Gdansk (PL)	completed	completed	full
Citizens' Assembly, Wroclaw (PL)	completed (replaced with individual interviews)	completed	full/ adjusted
Office for Community Participation, Budapest (HU)	cancelled	completed	partial
Social Hackaton, Voru (EST)	completed	completed	full
Socialising Cultural Policy, Wroclaw (PL)	completed (adapted)	completed	full/ adjusted

The research teams involved with the Citizens' Assembly in Copenhagen and the Office for Community Participation in Budapest were unable to conduct Citizen Experience sessions due to insufficient resources or a shortage of adequate social networks and personal contacts. Similarly, the latter circumstance also hindered the previously scheduled focus interviews in Copenhagen – they had to be replaced with individual interviews. As for other adjustments, they were mostly related to the specifics of the processes under investigation, and they were elaborated in D3.2: Section 2.

Moreover, the process of RT 3.2.2 data collection was impacted—although to varying degrees—by the aftermath of 24th February 2022. Especially in cities located in countries neighbouring with Ukraine, the following refugee crisis engaged citizens and other urban actors, rendering them understandably

unavailable for the researchers at the time of the planned Citizen Experience sessions and Focus Interviews. Research Task 3.2.2 was planned to be finished in June 2022 and it was partially overlapping with RT 3.2.1. Eventually, the process of RT 3.2 data gathering finished in October 2022.

The overall assessment of the entire field research process is that it proved to be considerably more demanding than the preceding phases of desk-based research. Both components (Part III and IV) of the field research proved to be significantly more manageable in case-study cities where research teams were situated or had established extensive networks and expertise to engage with pertinent urban stakeholders. In contrast, despite the repeated attempts, delving into urban contexts beyond the consortium's scope proved to be challenging. While this situation may have been anticipated, the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic added further difficulty to the endeavour.

Given the diverse array of participatory and deliberative processes, the planned research methodology occasionally proved incompatible with the proposed "one-size-fits-all" approach and necessitated customization to suit local circumstances or requirements. Flexibility in this regard was crucial for achieving the intended objectives.

RT 3.3 Data analysis of individual case-studies

The suggestion made during the first project review in March 2022 resulted in the addition of a case-study summary report linking Research Tasks 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 (desk-based and field research) with Research Task 3.3 (analysis of individual case studies) to the body of research on case studies. These reports did not require any additional research, but involved own reflections and recapitulations of the researchers, grounded in what they have learned and understood while researching the case studies.

Therefore, the analysis of individual case-studies performed by the UG team was based on the following materials:

- 1) WP3 RT321 Final Reports;
- 2) Citizen Experience Summary Reports;
- 3) Focus/Individual Interview Reports and Transcripts;
- 4) Case-study Summary Reports.

Although this research task was originally scheduled to run from July 2022 to June 2023, the RT3.2 schedule adjustments resulted in the work being moved to November 2022.

The synthesis of individual cases yielded a deeper comprehension of the mechanisms accountable for the success or failure of innovative democratic endeavours and enabled the formulation of recommendations for political implementation. The analysis was guided by the final set of the WP3 research questions (see: Section 1 of this report).

In the first step, the analysis of the individual cases led to the preparation of short summaries of the case studies, presenting some of their individual characteristics as typologies. These summaries provided a proper starting point for the subsequent cross-case analysis. The actual results are presented in D3.3 Section 3, D.8 Working Paper Series 3 inform of a Guide to the EUARENAS Case Studies (Grabkowska et al. 2024) and on the EUARENAS website (<https://www.euarenas.eu/wp-3-case-studies>). Initially, the Guide was intended for internal use only, as new members joining the EUARENAS consortium were unfamiliar with the WP3 case studies and needed a summary. Later, however, its potential accessibility to external audiences was recognised and the original concept was adapted accordingly.

The Case Study Summaries included in the Guide to the EUARENAS Case Studies and on the dedicated EUARENAS subpage (as mentioned) follow the same structure. The three-part format of each summary consists of:

- introduction of the urban arena, i.e., the case study city and relevant background;
- description of the idea behind the specific participatory/deliberative process (innovation) and how it has generally worked in practice so far;
- indication of main successes and failures, with some basic conclusions that could be instructive/transferable to other cities or cases.

The accompanying case study typologies serve as categorizations derived from the principal criteria defining the case study processes investigated in WP3. They were designed to bridge the gap between individual and cross-case analyses, delineating and organizing the array of participatory and deliberative innovations in governance based on fundamental distinguishing characteristics. These characteristics include the scale of the process (district/neighbourhood, municipal, regional) or the status of the urban context (capital, city, town).

The quality and quantity of the empirical material gathered and analysed during this stage has also inspired some research papers on the participatory budgeting in Gdansk and effectiveness of deliberative and participatory processes implemented at the local level, which are now being prepared.

Although work on RT 3.3 started with a significant delay, the UG team managed to complete it in April 2023.

RT 3.4 Cross-case analysis of case studies

The study of individual cases was followed by a cross-case analysis which finished in December 2023 (due to the already mentioned delays). In carrying out RT3.4, the variable-oriented approach was adopted (Khan & Van Wynsberghe 2008), and the list of specific issues identified for a detailed cross-sectional study is provided in D3.3 Section 2: Cross-case analysis of case studies. The results of the cross-case analysis are elaborated in D3.3 Section 4.

The approach adopted was not without its limitations. For instance, not all the topics investigated were present in all the gathered material. This could be due to these subjects not being central to certain case study processes or inadvertently overlooked by the researchers. Nevertheless, determining the precise reason afterward was challenging.

Undoubtedly, the extensive array of significantly diversified cases renders their comparative analysis challenging. However, it was still feasible to derive certain overarching conclusions, particularly the ones regarding the efficacy of the scrutinized processes, thereby constituting a notable achievement.

RT 3.5 Synthesis and conclusions

The main aim of Research Task 3.5 was to recapitulate the whole WP3 research work done and results obtained. This RT started in November 2023 (delayed) and finished timely in January 2024 (it had to be rescheduled due to the previous delays in RT 3.2.2, RT3.3 and RT3.4).

While each of the studied cases embodies a distinct social phenomenon, meticulous examination facilitated the identification of shared elements of experience. The insights garnered can inform the cultivation of optimal practices in participatory and deliberative methodologies. The breadth of democratic innovations explored, alongside the varied cultural, social, and political milieus in which these innovations were enacted, posed challenges to generalization. Nevertheless, this diversity engendered a broad spectrum of cases, thereby ensuring a high degree of representativeness in the resultant findings.

The conducted research has unveiled recurrent flaws and shortcomings in participatory and deliberative innovations. Additionally, the analysis of the processes studied in the case studies has elucidated the specific elements of their characteristics that influence their social efficacy.

A detailed summary of WP3 and the conclusions drawn from the research and policy recommendations may be found in D3.3 (Section 5).

Section 3

RESEARCH TIMELINE

As mentioned in Section 2 of this report, several changes were made to the original WP3 schedule. They are shown altogether in Figure 4.

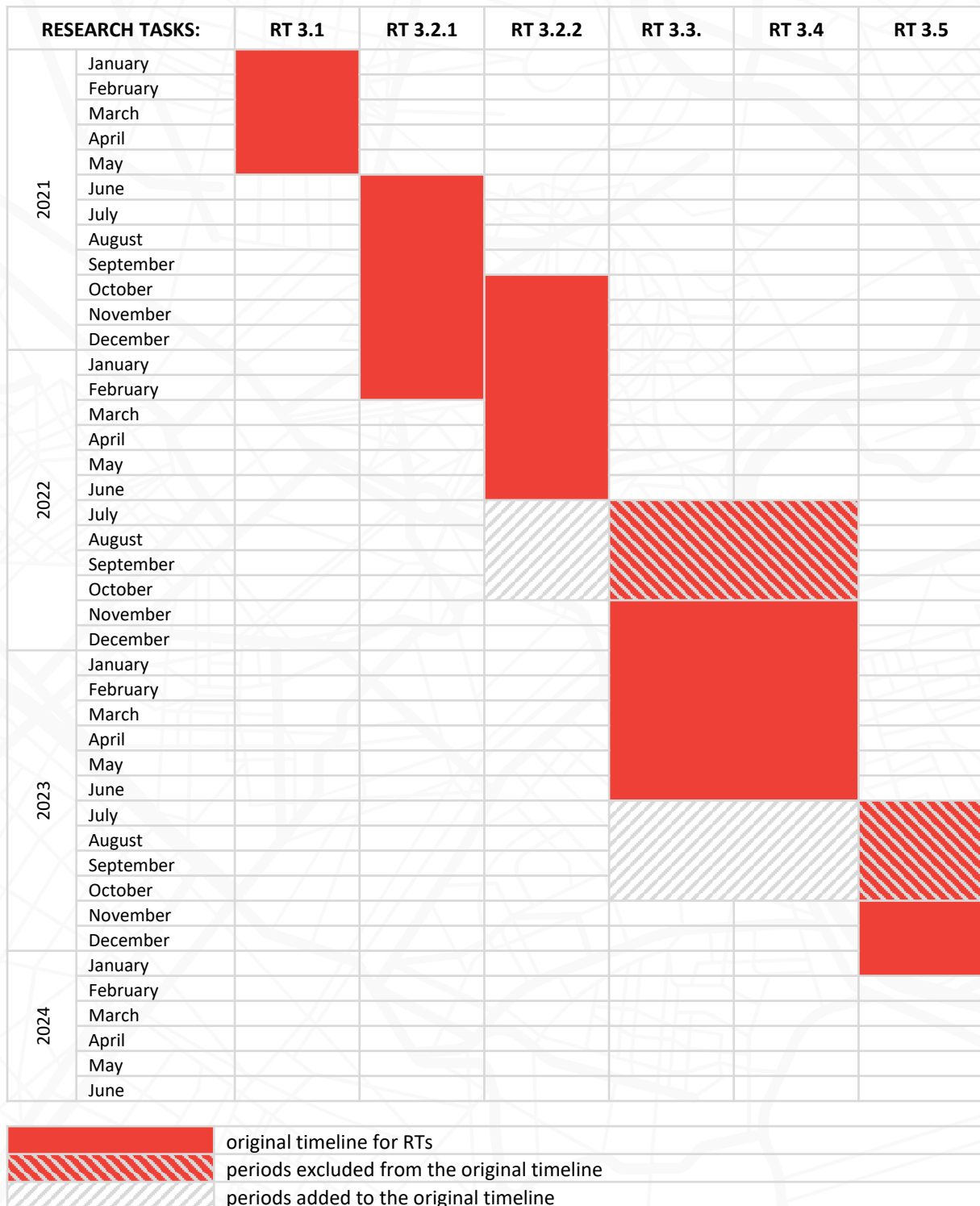


Figure 4. Changes introduced to the WP3 timeline
Source: own elaboration

The timelines for Research Tasks 3.1 and 3.2.1 remained unchanged. The delay in the completion of Research Task 3.2.2 (see: Section 2 of this report) has resulted in changes to the timelines of the remaining research tasks. Despite the fact that the case study research encountered numerous challenges, as detailed in section 2 of this report, all the research work planned for WP3 was completed on time, regardless of the internal shifts in the WP3 timeline.

Section 4

CASE STUDY DATA: STRUCTURE AND REPOSITORIES

A wide range of data collected during the execution of WP3 research tasks 3.2.1 and 3.2.2, treated as research material, was made available to all consortium members (via the password-protected MS Teams online platform) and interim conclusions from partial analyses were consistently communicated for the benefit of other work packages in the EUARENAS project.

To facilitate the search for specific information, registers (Table 4 and 5) have been prepared containing categories of data acquired during the implementation of successive research tasks.

Table 4. Research Task 3.2.1 data structure
Source: own elaboration

Desk-based research		
Analysis of existing documents		
Background information on the case study	Location	Region and country
		City and district/neighbourhood
	City	Population
		Position of the city in the country’s urban hierarchy
		Political level of the city’s independence
		Relevant geographical, socio-economic and cultural background of the city (and district/neighbourhood – if applicable)
		Quality of participatory and deliberative democracy at the local level
		Process
	Topic [main objectives/tasks/problems to be solved]	
	Reasons/rationales for use of this method	
	Initially expected effects	
	Initially expected level of participation	
	Innovativeness of the method on the outset	
	Region and country	
City and district/neighbourhood		
Time [duration/cycle]		
Actors and actions involved	Initiators, organizers and main actors	
	Participants and the level of inclusiveness	
	Transfer of knowledge between the actors	
	Bottom-up vs top-down dimension	
	Legal / institutional/financial embedding of the procedure	
	Levels of effectiveness	

Trajectory of the process	Initial phase	Initial design
		First turning points and tools applied
	Development	Obstacles and problems
		Turning points and tools applied
	Current state	Results
		Level of participation
		Level of innovativeness of the effects
		Implementation
		General assessment of success/failure (1-5) according to groups of actors
		Turning points and tools applied
Internal and external change		
Relation to multilevel governance		
Lessons learnt	Keystrengths and weaknesses	
	Critical success and failure factors	
	Decisive moment(s)	
	Best and worst practices	
	Transferability	
Media analysis		
Trajectory of the process	Initial phase	Initial reception in the media
	Development	Reception in the media during the project
	Current state	Reception and evaluation in the media
Lessons learnt	Transferability	Local context of responses to key challenges

Table 5. Research Task 3.2.2 data structure
Source: own elaboration

Field research	
Citizen experience	Focus interviews
Complementing desk-research - gathering data that couldn't be found in the existing documents	
Characteristics of actors involved in the case study	Inclusiveness of the case-study process
	Actors' impact on the case-study process
	Interrelations and dynamics between the participants and their potentially clashing perspectives
The trajectory of the process	

What worked well		
What didn't work well		
Other learnings	Impact on citizens' lives	Power relations, other important issues in a particular case
	Expectations vs. reality	

Section 5

WP3 DELIVERABLES

According to the WP3 timeline as set in the Grant Agreement, WP3 coordinators were to deliver 4 deliverables on the following dates:

- D3.1 Initial Report- due in December 2021 (M12 of the project duration) ;
- D3.2 Midterm Report- due in December 2022 (M24 of the project duration);
- D3.3 Case Studies Report - due in December 2023 (M36 of the project duration);
- D3.4. Final WP3 Report (herein) - originally due in June 2024 (M42 of the project duration), later due in December 2023 but postponed until February 2024 (M38 of the project duration).

All the reports may be found at the official **EUARENAS** website in the Deliverables section:

D3.1 Initial Report

https://www.euarenas.eu/files/ugd/e14654_edb7832d15c04339bf10824abcf17bae.pdf

D3.2 Midterm Report

https://www.euarenas.eu/files/ugd/e14654_b1f1e42efcae4fae971a686eb8556313.pdf

D3.3 Case Studies Report

https://www.euarenas.eu/files/ugd/e14654_6cb3d1f3812e4510be0a745ba798710b.pdf

Section 6

COOPERATION WITH OTHER WORK PACKAGES AND CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

At every stage of the preparatory and research work conducted, the members of WP3 team collaborated with consortium partners representing the other WPs.

All consortium members, representing all work packages, participated in the review of the case studies selected for WP3 (RT 3.1). Their feedback enabled a more informed final selection of cases for the subsequent detailed investigation and interpretation. Before introducing any changes to the final list, the project partners engaged in preparatory research; some suggestions for new case-studies emerged at this point as well.

The report templates for desk-based and field research as well as for the Community Reporting Sessions (part of RT 3.2.1 and 3.2.2) were designed in collaboration with both WP1 and WP5. Then, the initial set of guidelines and content of the templates were discussed with all partners. During one such discussion, held with the WP 4 research team, the idea of creating a common project glossary was born. The glossary was developed by all consortium members under WP6 and it helped to establish some working definitions and meanings of concepts used across all work packages and among the EUARENAS researchers. The members of the WP3 research team also took part in this project activity.

Generally, the research method applied in Media Content Analysis (RT 3.2.1) was very similar to the one which has been designed for WP 5 (Foresight). With the kind permission of PVM (who led WP5), the template for the media discourse report was adapted from the WP5 methodology. Similarly, the methodology of Community Reporting (RT 3.2.2) under WP3 was arranged in collaboration with the WP 5 research team. Additionally, two support workshops (held online in December 2021 and January 2022) were organised by PVM as an additional training to familiarise the research teams with the method, initially presented and rehearsed during the EUARENAS Project Workshop in Helsinki in November 2021. The first support workshop was dedicated to general organisational issues and the second one offered the research teams training on how to carry out the Citizen Experience sessions online, as a way to overcome the seasonal pandemic peaks of late winter/early spring.

WP3 research outcomes complemented the development of the toolbox applied in WP4 (Deliverable 4.1: Toolbox of Participatory Methods) as well as they have been available to all consortium members. The WP3 research team was also engaged in evaluation of piloting in Gdańsk under WP4.

The WP3 research team members have been also collaborating with other consortium members in various co-author constellations preparing research papers on such issues as: dynamics of deliberation in older adults, neurodivergent involvement in deliberative democracy, gentrification, and evolution of deliberative democracy (see more details in Section 3 of Deliverable 3.3).

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