

Innovative Implementation of the Partnership Principle in EU Cohesion Policy

Insight into case study:
Implementation of Ideathon in Integrated territorial strategy of functional urban area of Banska Bystrica



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CONTEXT OF SLOVAKIA

- **5, 432** mil inhabitants
- President: **Peter Pellegrini**
- **Post-communist country** struggling with participatory governace

Current mood..

- intensification of disinformation
- increased polarisation
- increased distrust towards EU
- changing attitudes towards civil society sector, questioning the Partnership principle
- **investment priorities** – areas of transport infrastructure, water supply, sewerage and flood protection





CONTEXT OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA CITY



- **75,317** inhabitants
- Mayor: **Ján Nosko**, serving 3rd term (10th year)
- **prior 2020**: no systemic approach to participatory governing development within the municipality
- **2021**: entry into the programme OPEN GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP = **systematisation & acceleration** of participatory governing
- **2024**: establishment of small department for Participation and innovation in open (participatory) governance
- **impact of national politics, polarisation and traditional way of governing**



CASE STUDY: IMPLEMENTATION OF IDEATHON IN INTEGRATED TERRITORIAL STRATEGY OF BANSKÁ BYSTRICA



PROJECT CALLERS:

- DG REGIO
- OECD

PROJECT TEAM:

- Open governance unit at OECD
- Department for strategical planning of the City
- Participation unit of the City
- Dialogue Centre (CSO)



AIM OF THE PROJECT

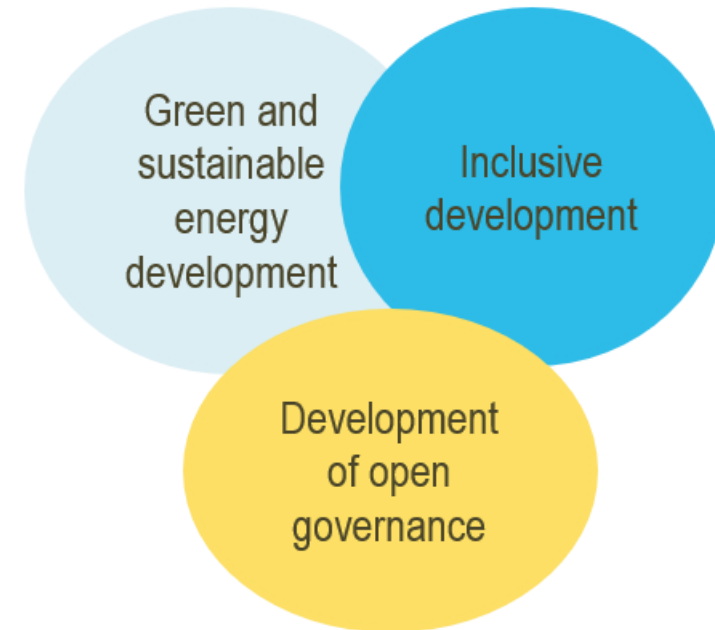
- broadly - to implement **partnership principle** in **EU Cohesion Policy** at the **local level**
- specifically - to implement innovative participatory method **Ideathon** to involve **citizens** in the **development** and **prioritisation** of the **project ideas** for the ITS 2021-2027 within EU Cohesion Policy



PROJECT METHOD / (Hybrid) IDEATHON

- **Ideathon** /format for an **intensive brainstorming** of diverse stakeholders to come up with **ideas**
- mixed participants - **citizens, stakeholders, municipality experts**
- invites via social media, website, posters in the city & direct invitations

Themes of Ideathon



PROJECT METHOD / (Hybrid) IDEATHON

- 2 x in **person sessions** (including 1 x day long session on Saturday)



- **online** consultation about project ideas via **Google Forms**
- **prioritising** project ideas through **online** voting via [Consider.it](https://www.consider.it)



TIMEFRAME OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



QUANTITATIVE OUTCOMES

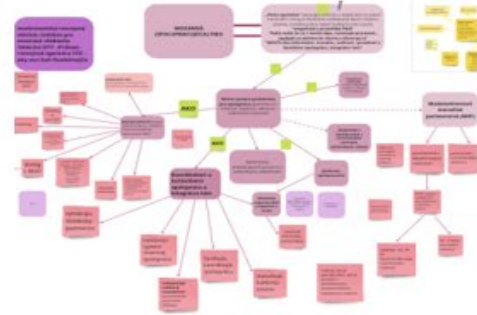
24
participants

107
online
voters

1
final
report

25
project
ideas

4
mind-maps
of ideas
develop-
ment





QUALITATIVE OUTCOMES

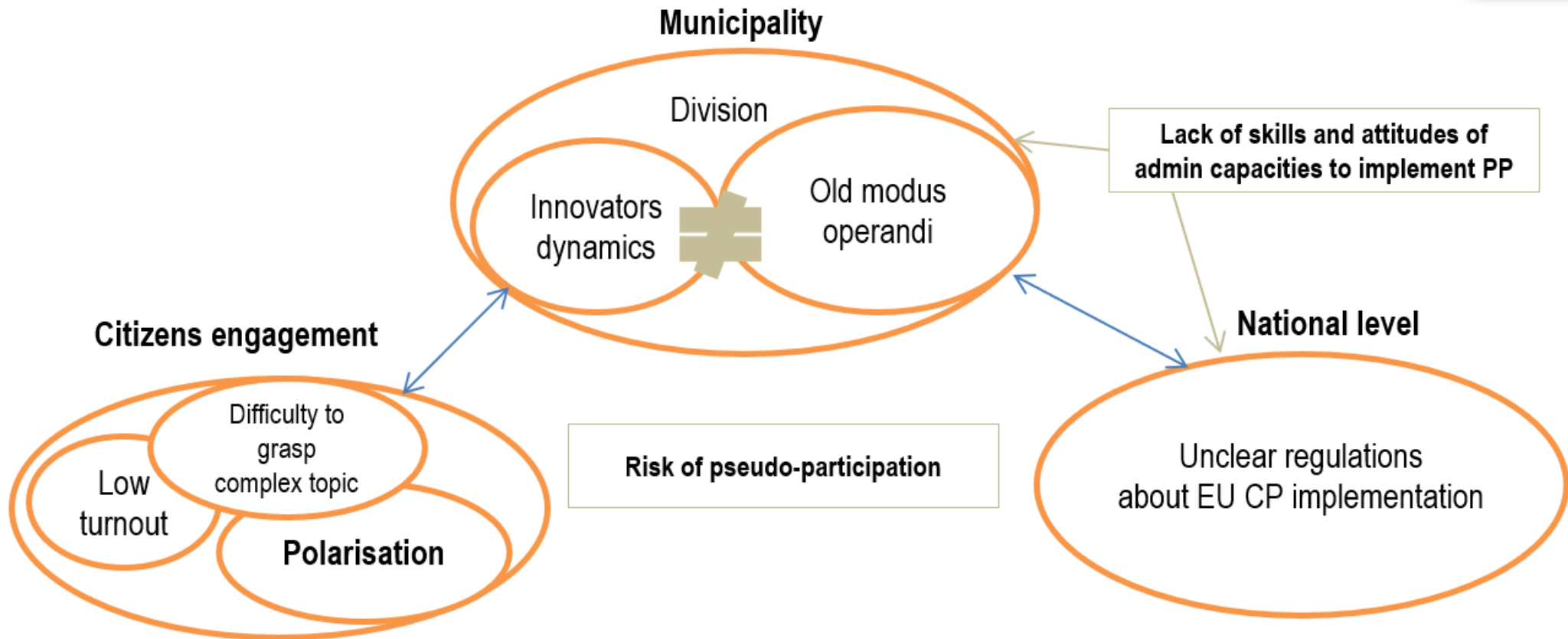
- the **implementation** of some of the **project ideas** is expected to be co-financed within the EU Cohesion policy resources
- **capacity building of internal staff** / experiential learning throughout Ideathon process
- **empowerment & increased visibility of OGP Local Banská Bystrica**



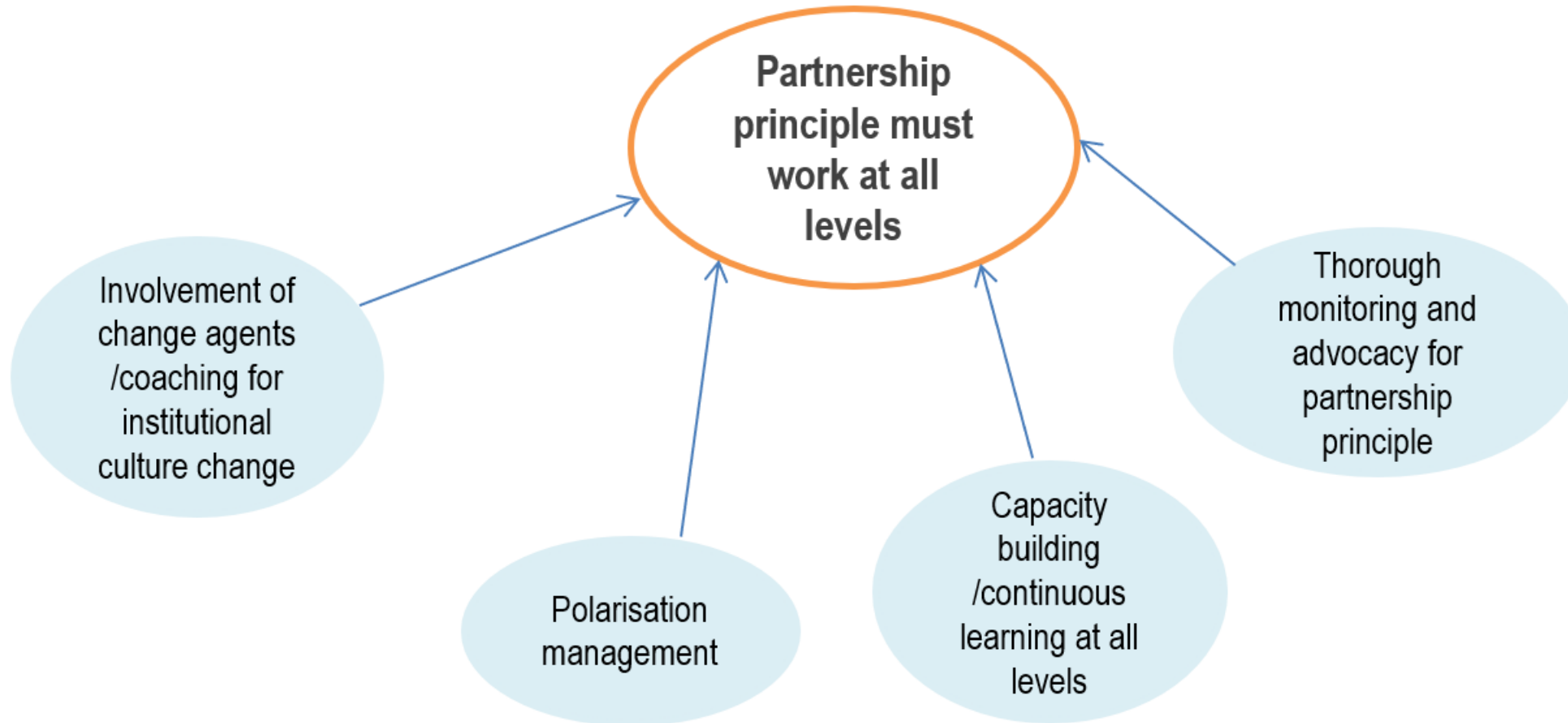
SECONDARY OUTCOMES

- development of **internal support** (elected official, staff members) to improve digital democracy infrastructure – platform **DECIDIM** for online participatory processes **was implemented**
- using **DECIDIM** for **online voting** in **participatory budgeting** (increase of voters from **400** to **1400** voters)

LESSONS LEARNED

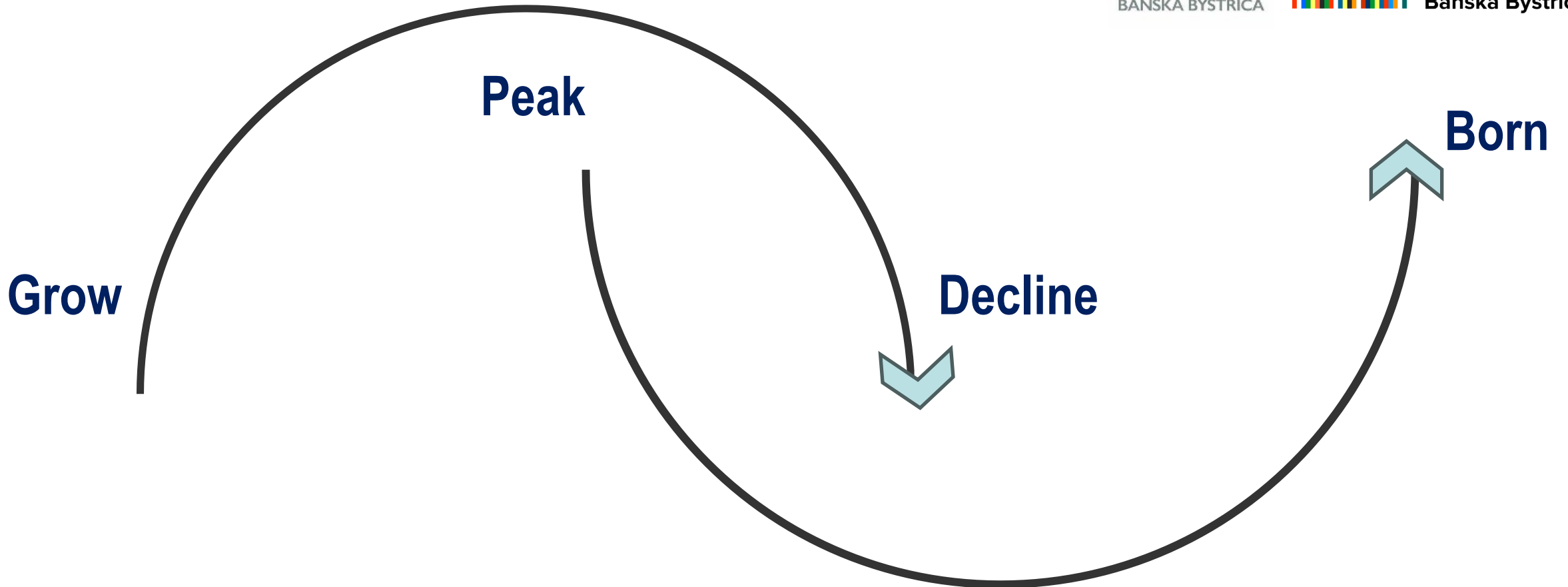


LESSONS LEARNED



“2 LOOPS MODEL OF CHANGE”

Dominant system vs Innovation system





“2 LOOPS MODEL OF CHANGE” Dominant system vs Innovation system



Steward

Name

Hospice

Illuminate

Connect

Compost

Nourish



Margaret Wheatley & Deborah Frieze from The Berkana Institute





Interactive exercise with “Innovation cards”



1. **Challenge** / What conditions are needed to empower innovation initiatives such as participatory governing inside your institution?
2. **Create teams of 5** /2mins
3. **Choose the card that resonates** /4 mins
4. **Silent work** /4 mins
 - write down answers to questions:
 - How your card relates to the challenge?
 - What is a possible insight and way forward in relation to the challenge?
5. **Share your insights** /4 mins per person
6. **Discuss and agree on takeaways, briefly present to the whole group** /10 mins



Thank you for your attention!

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