



Inclusive
Science and
European
Democracies

HOW TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO ENGAGE IN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?

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GOALS AND METHODS

Our goal is to provide an overview of participatory and deliberative tools or practices of citizen engagement in public, science-informed discussion, and problem-solving in Europe.

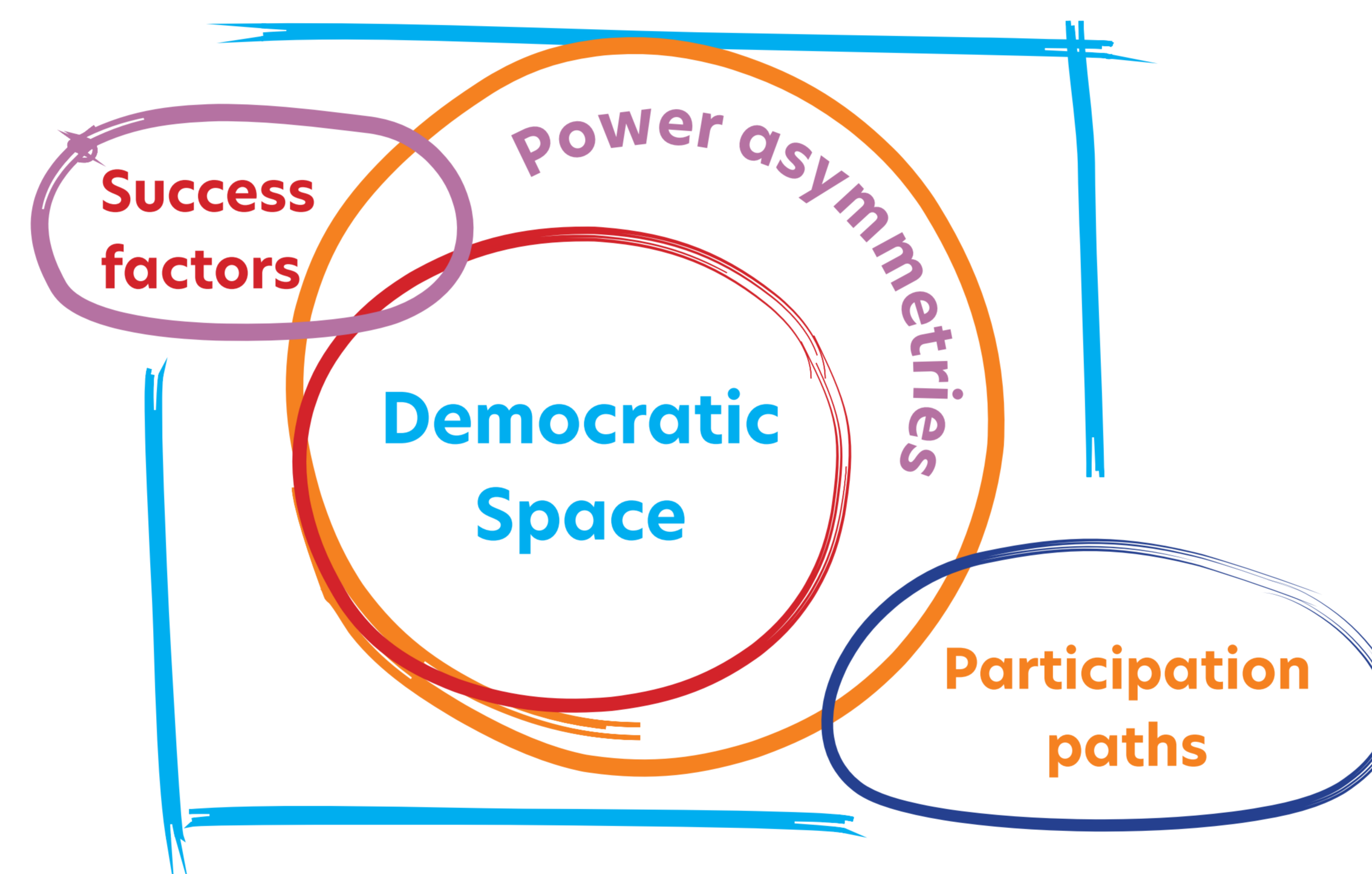
Alongside the reconstruction of the practices and strategies of involvement, participation, and deliberation, 50 interviews were carried out with scholars and practitioners in various areas of Europe.

KEY ACTORS

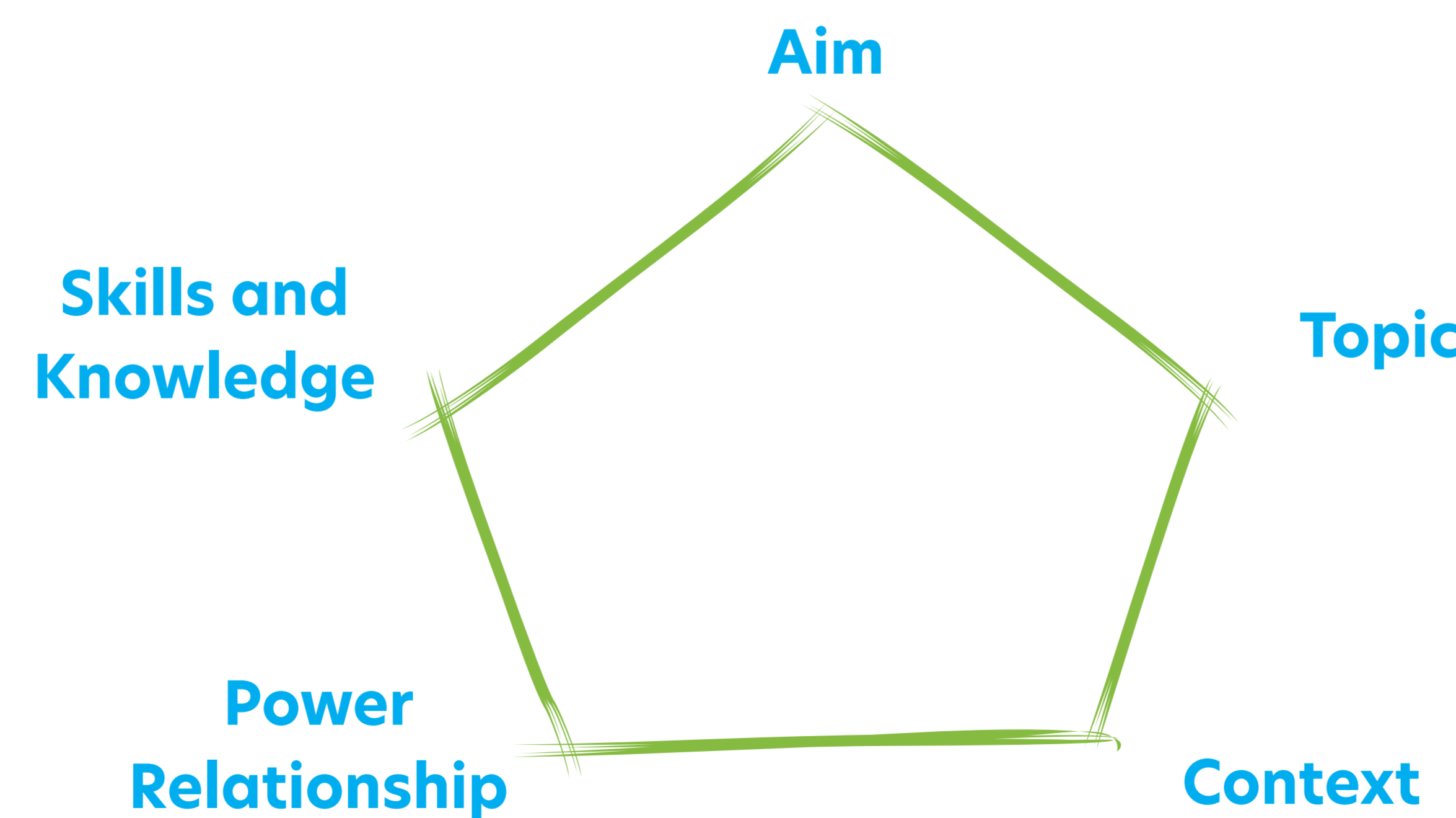
The in-depth analysis of the different democratic contexts discussed by the interviewees and the difficulties and strengths of the various systems has highlighted that the main actors of the deliberative processes are decision makers and experts, here defined as scientists and key actors with formal knowledge which is of great relevance in participatory and deliberative processes.

OUTPUTS

We developed a report illustrating the level of inclusion in consultative and deliberative participatory processes and the theoretical framework assumed by these approaches, comparing the different European areas.



Interview results: dimension of analysis



Relevant factors for developing participatory practices

OUTCOMES

- ▶ Among the elements that can determine effective practices of participation were indicated: economic and human resources, education, the democratic culture of the country.
- ▶ Participatory initiatives can create easier and lower-cost access to: knowledge, actions, education and other benefits at local level.
- ▶ Democratic innovations might increase and deepen citizens' participation. Various formats, like citizens' juries, consensus conferences, town meetings, etc, have channeled citizens' growing willingness to join pressure groups and to have a say in techno-scientific issues.
- ▶ Project benefits encompassed the positive outcomes, advantages, or improvements gained as a result of completing a project.
- ▶ These benefits went beyond the tangible and measurable project outputs, reflecting the broader and often long-term impacts on the targeted area, whether it was a community, organization, or specific process.
- ▶ Identifying and understanding the expected benefits was crucial in project planning and management, as they signified the overall success and value of the project, guiding decision-making and justifying the project's existence.



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