

"Citizen Participation and Social Inclusion Procedures in Santo André, Brazil: Participatory Budgeting and City of the Future Project"

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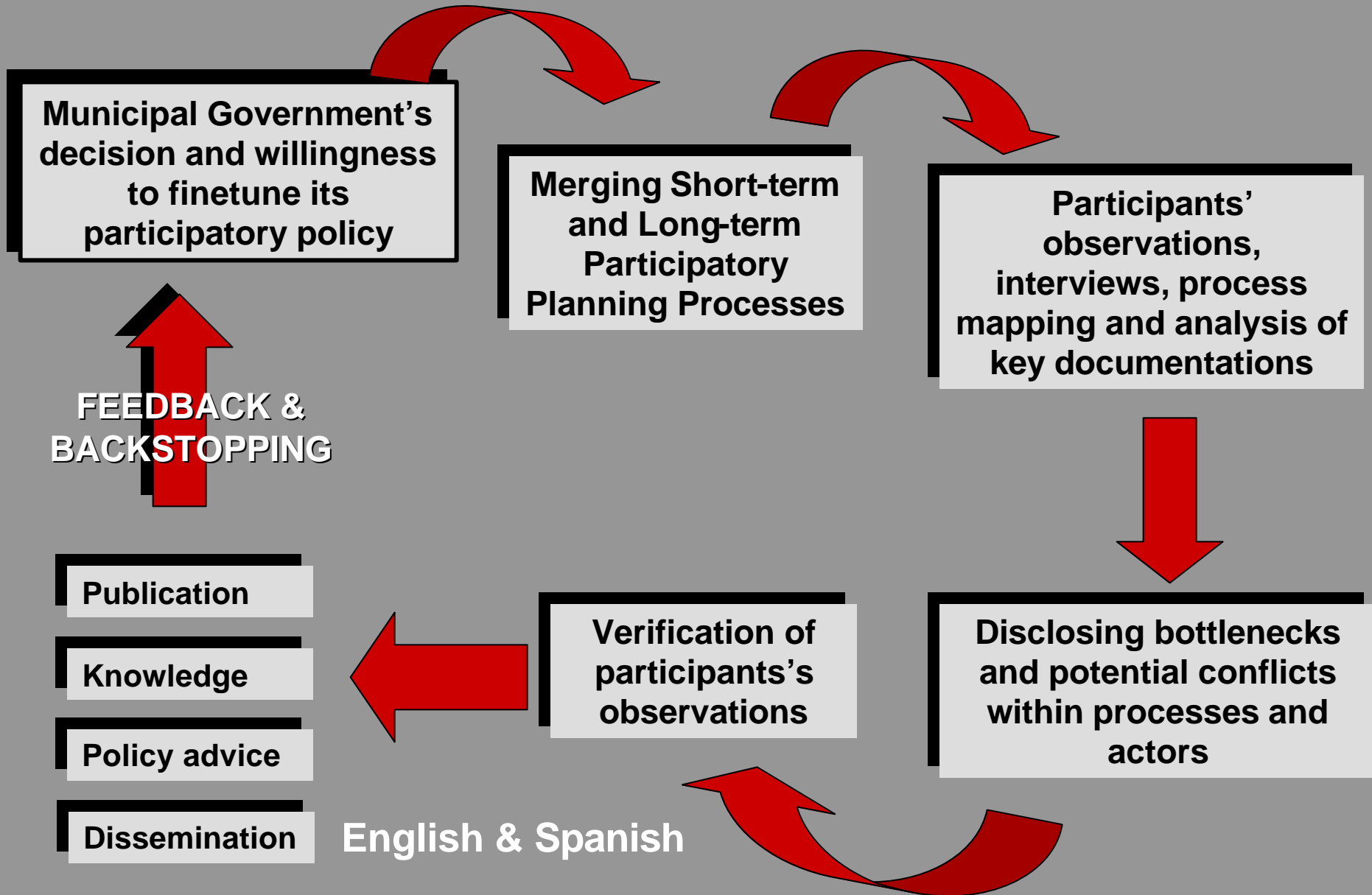
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Research Objectives

1. Analyze and describe the citizen participation experience of Santo André - Participatory Budgeting (OP)
2. Analyze the on-going merging of short-term planning (OP) and long-term strategic planning processes (City of the Future)
3. Carry out a “process mapping” in order to detect bottlenecks and unveil problems and opportunities in the participatory processes providing backstopping and policy advice to the municipal government

Research Questions & Methodology



Research Questions & Methodology

- Are all stakeholders and participants aware of their roles and responsibilities?
- What are the costs and benefits of participation? What motivations trigger citizen participation?
- How is the decision-making process actually coined and executed?
- What type of bottlenecks and obstacles are identified by the participants? How do they think to surpass these obstacles?
- Is the OP leading to more responsive and demanding citizens?
- Are the public resources more equally distributed in the city as result of the OP?
- Is it leading to alleviate social exclusion?
- Is the OP helping to building or/and strengthening a co-management of the local government?



- SANTO ANDRÉ
- SÃO BERNARDO
- DIADEMA
- SÃO CAETANO
- MAUÁ
- RIBEIRÃO PIRES
- RIO GRANDE DA SERRA

Greater ABC Region

Where is Santo André ?

- One of the 39 municipalities of the Metropolitan Region of São Paulo, located in the Southeastern region of Brazil (Greater ABC Region)
- Industrial heartland of Brazil and Latin's America largest industrial complex.



648.443 inhabitants

174.38 km²

39% in urban area and 61% in watershed protected area

98% water supply

95% sewage

139 *favelas* (slums): 18,5% of the total population

Economic activities: car manufacturing, petrochemicals, steel and plastics

Participatory Budgeting – OP: governance and transparency

✍️ “A process of prioritization and cojoint decision making through which community representatives and local government actually decide on the final allocation of public investment in the city on an yearly basis”

✍️ Participation and representation on parity basis as a way to foment consensus building: equal number of representatives chosen by the community and nominated by the Municipal Government

✍️ In operation terms: city is divided in 19 geographic regions and 9 thematic issues, i.e. Education; Health; Cultural Identity; Social Inclusion and Housing; Environmental Quality; Economical Development; Urban Development; the Reform of the State; and Urban Violence

City of the Future Project - CF: participatory strategic planning

✍️ A city-wide strategic planning process for the next 20 years (Local Agenda 21) involving a multiplicity of social, economic and political actors

✍️ Searching for a viable and sustainable local and regional economic development

✍️ It involves city consultations and thematic working groups matching the same spearheads of the OP

✍️ Representation is less regulated than in the OP

✍️ A coordination group of approximately 80 people is in charge of steering the process.

Short + Long-Term Processes: a viable future for the city

- ✍ Merging takes place in 2001
- ✍ Participants from both processes must build alliances and consensus in resource allocation: now investments in short-term needs like water, upgrading, sewage, pavement also have to consider investments in long term and less-visible, less immediate problems
- ✍ In operational terms, the merging means an OP Council of:
 - ✍ 56 regional and thematic plenary representatives;
 - ✍ 18 representatives of the community;
 - ✍ 56 representatives indicated by the Government;
 - ✍ Representatives of civil society are in majority.

Results Achieved (1997-2002)

✍ 86 different interventions/projects prioritized by the population and approved by the OP Council

✍ Already finalized: 11 slum upgrading, 10 drainage works, 6 basic health units built/renewed; 2 schools and 12 new classrooms built, 10 child day-shelter were built and 21 urban renewal works were done

✍ Implementation of long and short terms actions in the planning process of the city

✍ Extension of the target group in the participation processes: community and entrepreneurs together debating the city

✍ Claiming character + propositive character = better future

Lessons Learned and Challenges Disclosed

- ✍ Unanimity on the benefits of participation but full-time citizen participation has high costs involved (loss of income and family) and is time consuming
- ✍ Technical staff not fully instrumented with project communication tools and adequate “language” to deal with dialogue and debate with the lay citizen
- ✍ The “OP Caravan” is not enough to build a vision about the city’s global problems and there is a need to intensify the capacity building process of the participants already in place
- ✍ The axiom consultation-empowerment implicit in the participatory process is not shared by all and despite the relative success of the OP, it has not achieved its final goal: an active citizenship

Lessons Learned and Challenges Disclosed

- ✍ Investments in information for the participant actors is needed
- ✍ There are difficulties in the discussion of the total municipal budget and the mechanisms of municipal taxation
- ✍ There are demands presented that can not be solved exclusively by the local government
- ✍ It's important to have a suitable joint of citizen participation processes with administrative modernization mechanisms, information production and Government strategic planning
- ✍ Internal cohesion of the Government in order to have the processes of citizen participation as method of Government is needed

Further Information

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