

FROM CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION TO CO-GOVERNANCE

IS THE ROAD TO HELL PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS?

Roberto Falanga

FP7 Fellow Researcher – Institute of Social Sciences (University of Lisbon)
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Catholic University of Viseu)

Structure of the presentation

- Outline on participation in policymaking
- Focus on the BipZip Programme in Lisbon, and its five Principles
- From participatory principles to co-governance

What is participation?

- Wide range of activities are classified as participatory worldwide
- Participation in policymaking: new arenas aimed at making civil society, stakeholders and decision-makers deliberate over public policies.
 - Participatory budgeting in Brazil in the end of 1980s
 - Dissemination of participatory initiatives in Europe from 1990s
 - Diffusion of participatory processes in Portugal from 2000s

Why participation?

- Claims for shared sovereignty and social inclusion
 - + Equal redistribution of resources
- Goals of public policies' enhancement
 - + Cost-effective measures
- Need to recover citizenry trust towards political institutions
 - Electoral abstention

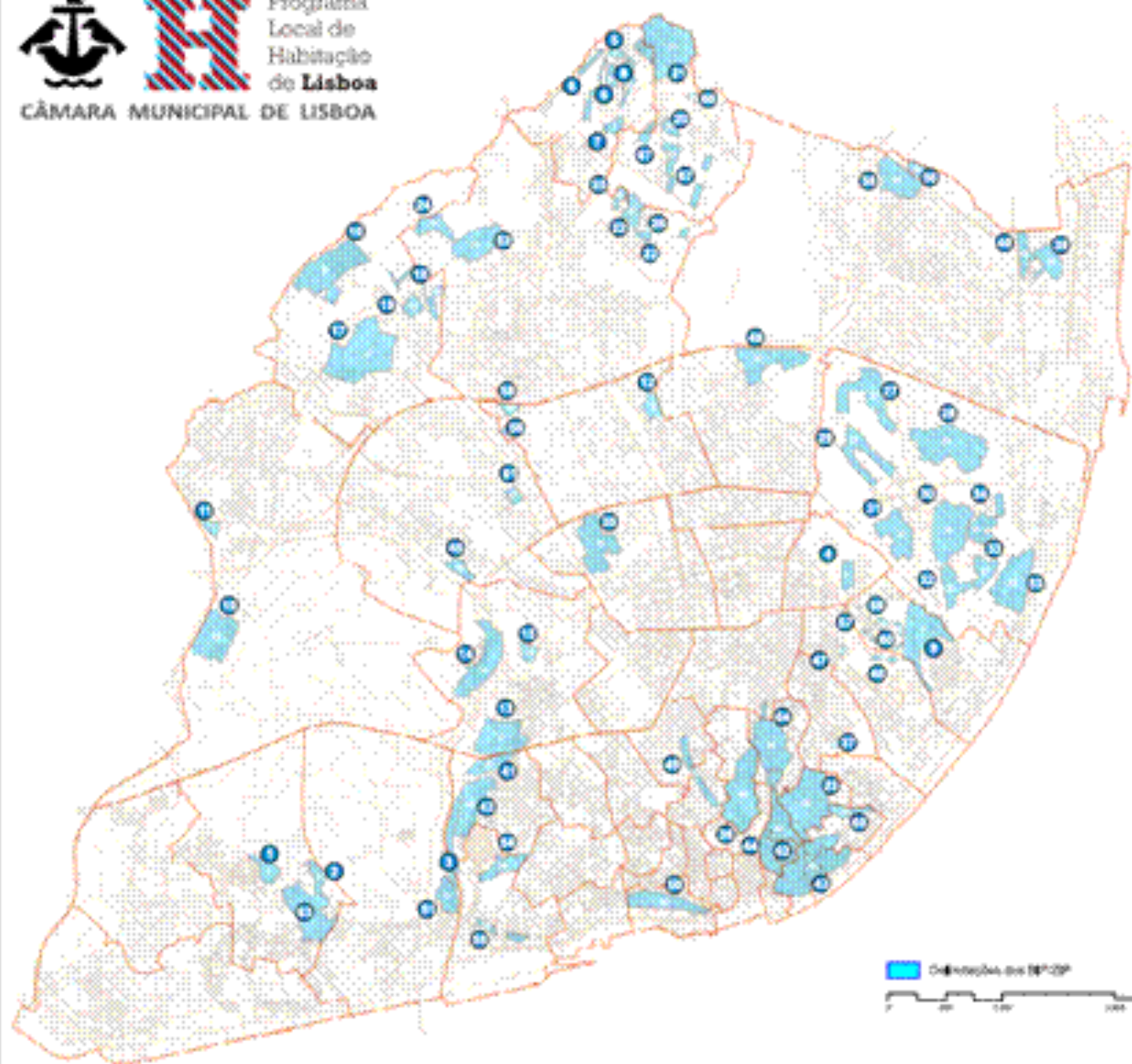
The BipZip Programme

- Origin: the Local Housing Programme decided to start a specific programme – the BipZip Programme – for critical areas in 2009 and organised mapping in 4 categories: Municipal; Historical; Illegal origin; Mix/Other.
- Purpose: the BipZip Programme annually funds and supports participatory initiatives (up to 50 thousands euro) in 67 priority urban areas.
- Method: Local partnerships gather NGOs and – in some cases – Parish Governments and implement initiatives by engaging local communities.
- Achievements: 2013 first prize as Best Participatory practice by the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy



CÂMARA MUNICIPAL DE LISBOA

Programa
Local de
Habitação
de Lisboa



Carta dos BIP/ZIP

Salvas e Zonas de Intervenção Prioritária de Lisboa

Salvas	Zonas de Intervenção Prioritária
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The BipZip Principles

- Five Principles:
 - Citizens' participation
 - Effectiveness
 - Local development and social cohesion
 - Sustainability
 - Innovation

Principle 1: citizens' participation

- Public Consultation
- Local partnerships
- Citizens' engagement in the implementation process

Are these objectives *participatory* enough?

Principle 2: innovation

- Public funding for local partnerships
- Micro-local initiatives (funded up to 50 thousands euro) in priority areas

What happened to the *welfare state*?

Principle 3: local development and social cohesion

- Micro-local initiatives
- “Secondary effects”:
 - Initiatives as “incubator” for training activities and employment
 - “Reconversion” of the missions

What is the impact of *micro-level* development and cohesion?

Principle 4: effectiveness

- Path-dependency
 - “Municipal” areas: community and family
 - “Historical” areas: heritage preservation and promotion
 - “Illegal origin” areas: dwellings, housing and social fractures
 - “Other/Mix” areas: drug addiction young generation exclusion
- Overall shifting towards:
 - Care and social solidarity as fields of local partnerships’ action
 - Networks focused on target-problems

Are these *demands or effects* of the supply?

Sustainability

- Short-time funding for micro-local initiatives towards “external” sustainability
- Search for stronger articulation between politics and administration towards “institutional” sustainability

What is next?

Co-governance: a new achievable desiderata?

- New external sustainability through socio-territorial articulation: from local partnerships to local public platforms for permanent dialogue between political institutions and citizens.
- New institutional sustainability through both political and bureaucratic articulation:
 - from single policies to new forms of synergy within long-term agendas
 - from “small administrative communities” to “stable participatory networks”



Thank you!

roberto.falanga@hotmail.it