Ecologic Institute

Science and Policy
for a Sustainable World

INTERLACE
RESTORING URBAN ECOSYSTEMS
RECUPERANDO ECOSISTEMAS URBANOS

The Urban Governance Atlas:

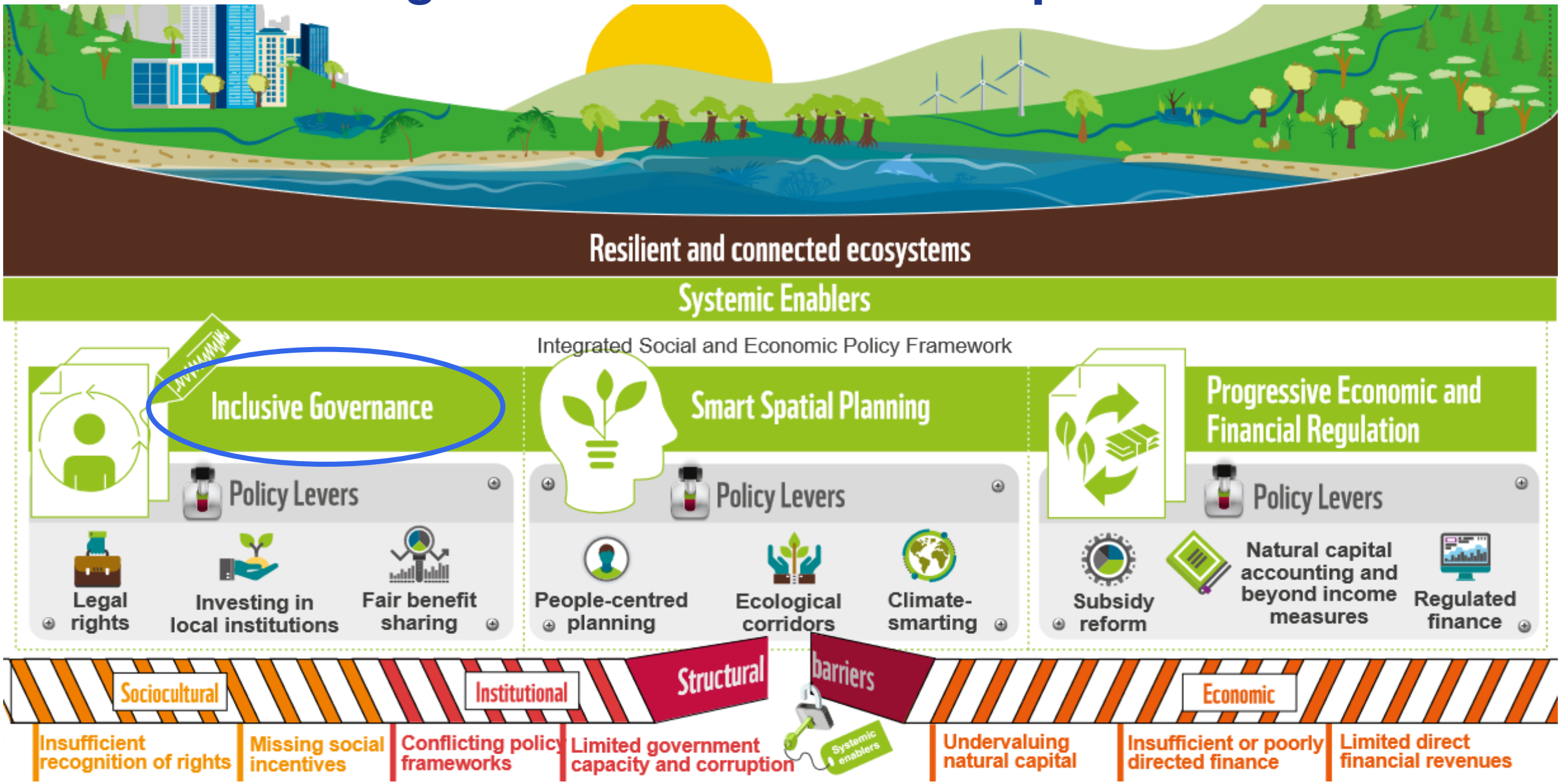
Enhancing local action on nature-based solutions

McKenna Davis

Ecologic Institute

RECLAIM Webinar: Engaging the public in GBI projects – 7.2.24

Enabling factors for GBI/NbS implementation



”

Processes and structures of public decision-making and management that engage people […] across the boundaries of public agencies [and] levels of government.“

(Sebastian & Jacobs, 2021: 1302)

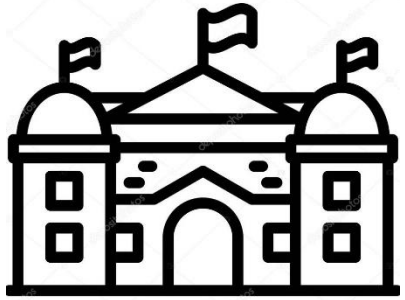
Inclusive (co-)governance: Where are we at? What do we know?

- Broad shift from ‚government' to ‚governance
- Recognition that stakeholder inclusion is critical for fostering NbS shared purpose, acceptance, responsibility and sustainability
- Involves complex management and decision-making processes around multiple interests and trade-offs
- Spectrum of methods available for deep vs wide engagement
- Locally adapted and appropriate approaches are needed → there is no ‚one size fits all' solution!

Diverse policy instruments are available, with varying opportunities for public participation, power sharing, and collaborative decision-making along the policy cycle

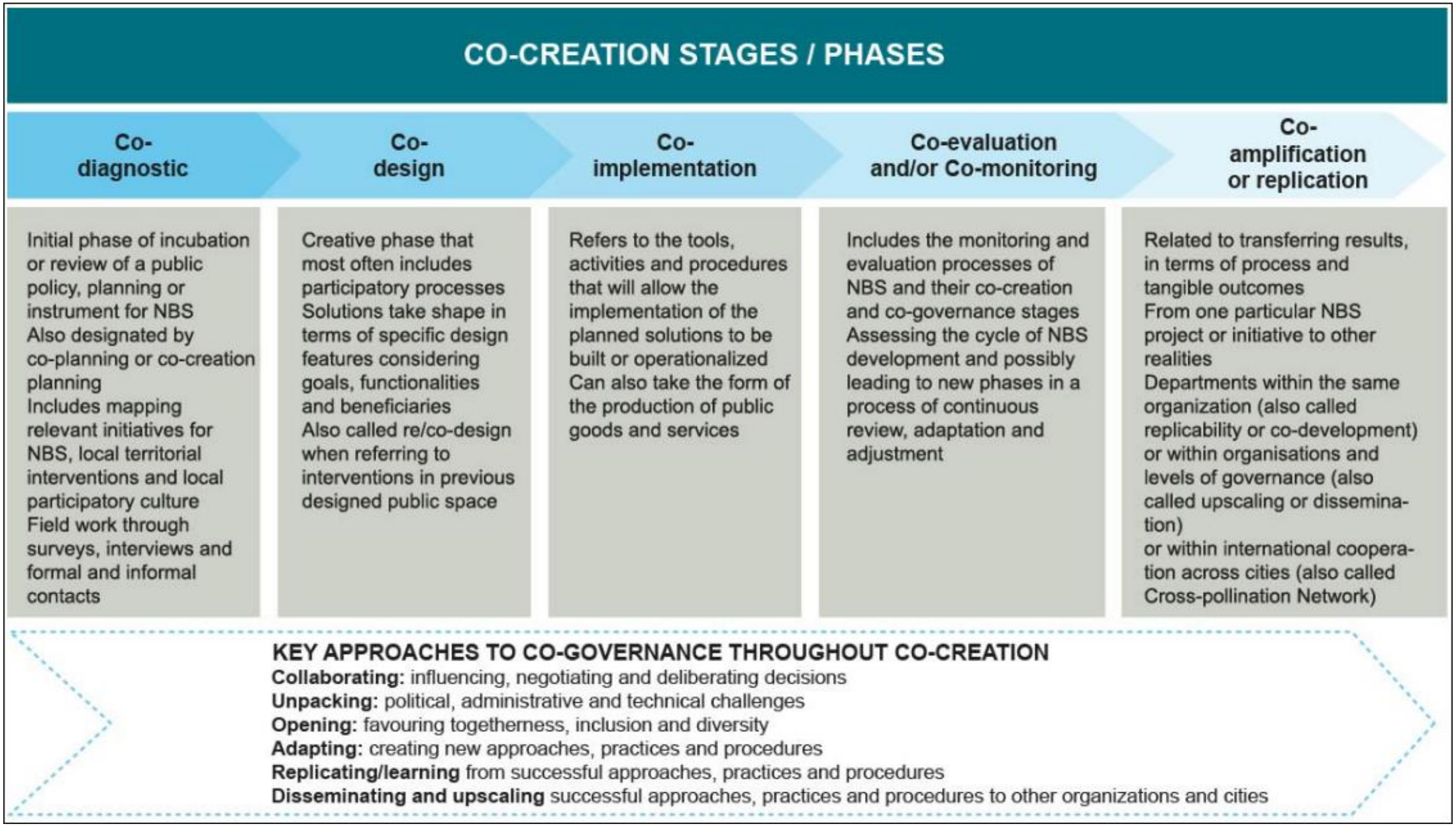
Partnerships & collaboration

Governments & their agencies



Citizens, civil society groups, businesses

(Political) champions


CO-CREATION STAGES / PHASES
Co-diagnostic
Co-design
Co-implementation
Co-evaluation and/or Co-monitoring
Co-amplification or replication
Initial phase of incubation or review of a public policy, planning or instrument for NBS
Also designated by co-planning or co-creation planning
Includes mapping relevant initiatives for NBS, local territorial interventions and local participatory culture
Field work through surveys, interviews and formal and informal contacts
Creative phase that most often includes participatory processes
Solutions take shape in terms of specific design features considering goals, functionalities and beneficiaries
Also called re/co-design when referring to interventions in previous designed public space
Refers to the tools, activities and procedures that will allow the implementation of the planned solutions to be built or operationalized
Can also take the form of the production of public goods and services
Includes the monitoring and evaluation processes of NBS and their co-creation and co-governance stages
Assessing the cycle of NBS development and possibly leading to new phases in a process of continuous review, adaptation and adjustment
Related to transferring results, in terms of process and tangible outcomes
From one particular NBS project or initiative to other realities
Departments within the same organization (also called replicability or co-development) or within organisations and levels of governance (also called upscaling or dissemination)
or within international cooperation across cities (also called Cross-pollination Network)
KEY APPROACHES TO CO-GOVERNANCE THROUGHOUT CO-CREATION
Collaborating: influencing, negotiating and deliberating decisions
Unpacking: political, administrative and technical challenges
Opening: favouring togetherness, inclusion and diversity
Adapting: creating new approaches, practices and procedures
Replicating/learning from successful approaches, practices and procedures
Disseminating and upscaling successful approaches, practices and procedures to other organizations and cities

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From theory to action:

Learning from good practice policy instruments in the Urban Governance Atlas

interlace-project.eu

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 887396.

Urban Governance Atlas (UGA)

A collection of more than **250 policy instruments** supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration

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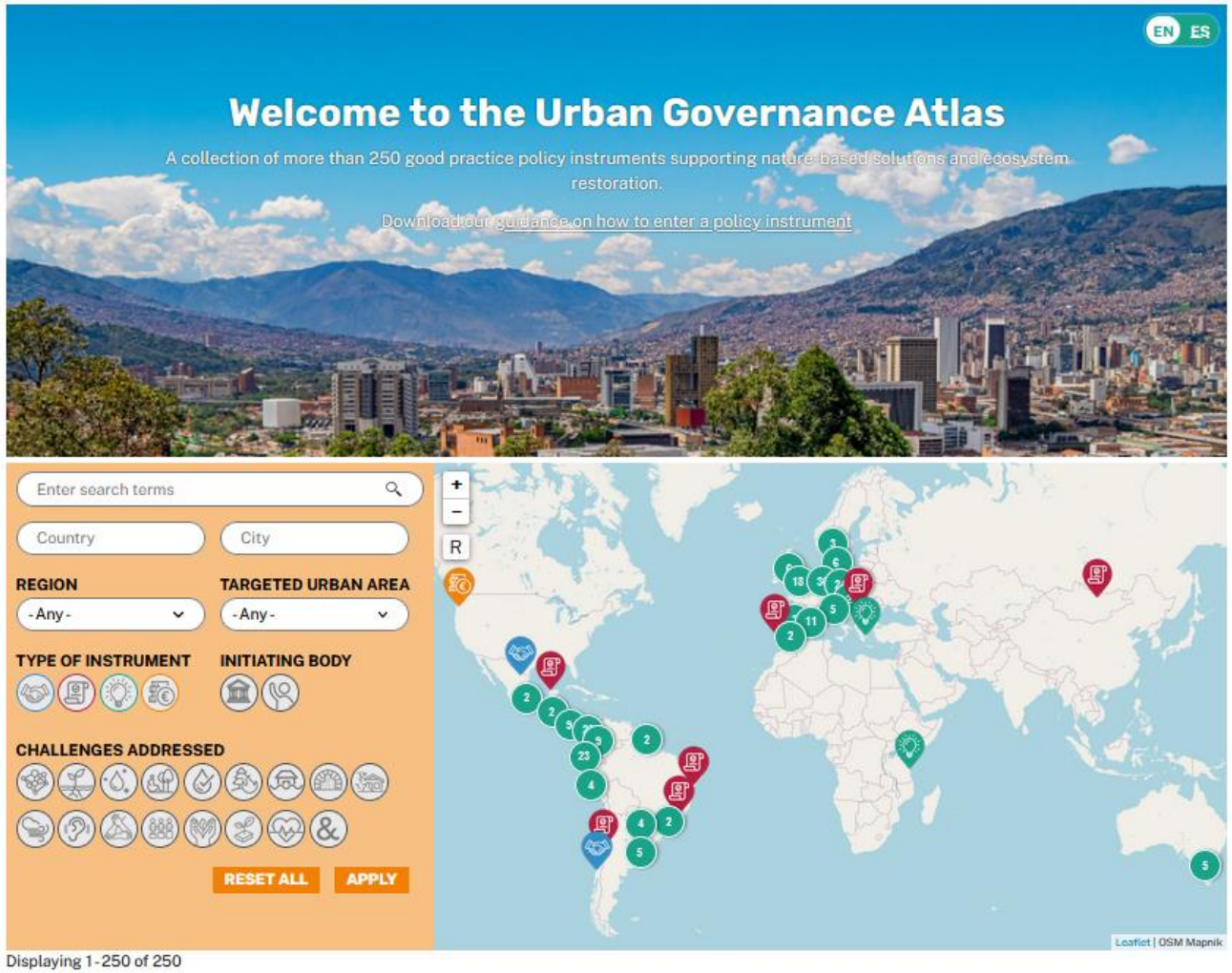


Aims to:

- Foster **ecologically coherent, inclusive planning** for urban ecosystem restoration and green space planning
- **Inspire global action** through good practice instruments, i.e.

  inclusive, sustainable, locally apprpropriate, upscalable/replicable, effective, support multifunctional NbS
- Represent **diverse contexts** (institutional/ geographic) – bottom up & top down
- Highlight **lessons learned**

In a nutshell...

Urban Governance Atlas

A collection of more than **250 policy instruments** supporting nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration

250 good practice policy instruments

Co-created by more than **48** organisations

Featuring examples from **41** countries

& Available in **English** **Spanish**

4 instrument types:

1 Legislative, regulatory, strategic instruments:

usually binding laws and regulations as well as strategies that set visions and strategic goals – overall: **47 % of all instruments.**

2 Agreement-based or cooperative instruments:

instruments in which the government and/or involved actors jointly and on a voluntary basis decide to behave in a certain way – overall: **23 % of all instruments.**

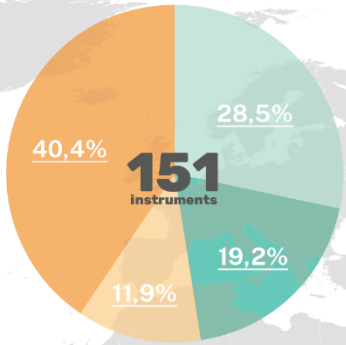
3 Economic and fiscal instruments:

instruments that influence market mechanisms through for instance disincentives, incentives, payments, subsidies, financing mechanisms and market-based instruments – overall: **18 % of all instruments.**

4 Knowledge, communication and innovation instruments:

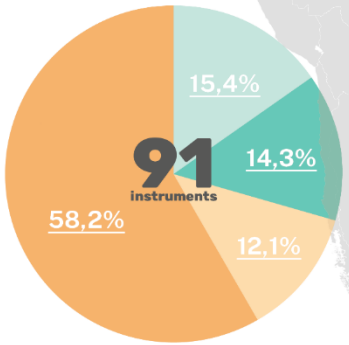
try to influence behavior by disseminating information to actors or involving actors in critical processes in innovative ways to inspire voluntary behavioral changes – overall: **12 % of all instruments.**

EU

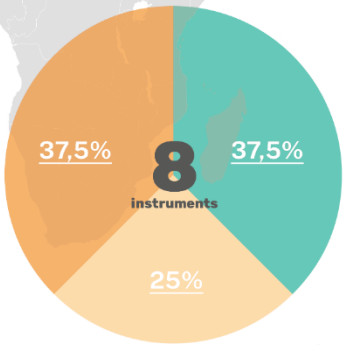


CELAC*

*Community of Latin American and Caribbean States



Other regions



Find out more about the methodology, findings, and how to contribute a new policy instrument at: https://www.interlace-project.eu/ https://interlace-hub.com/

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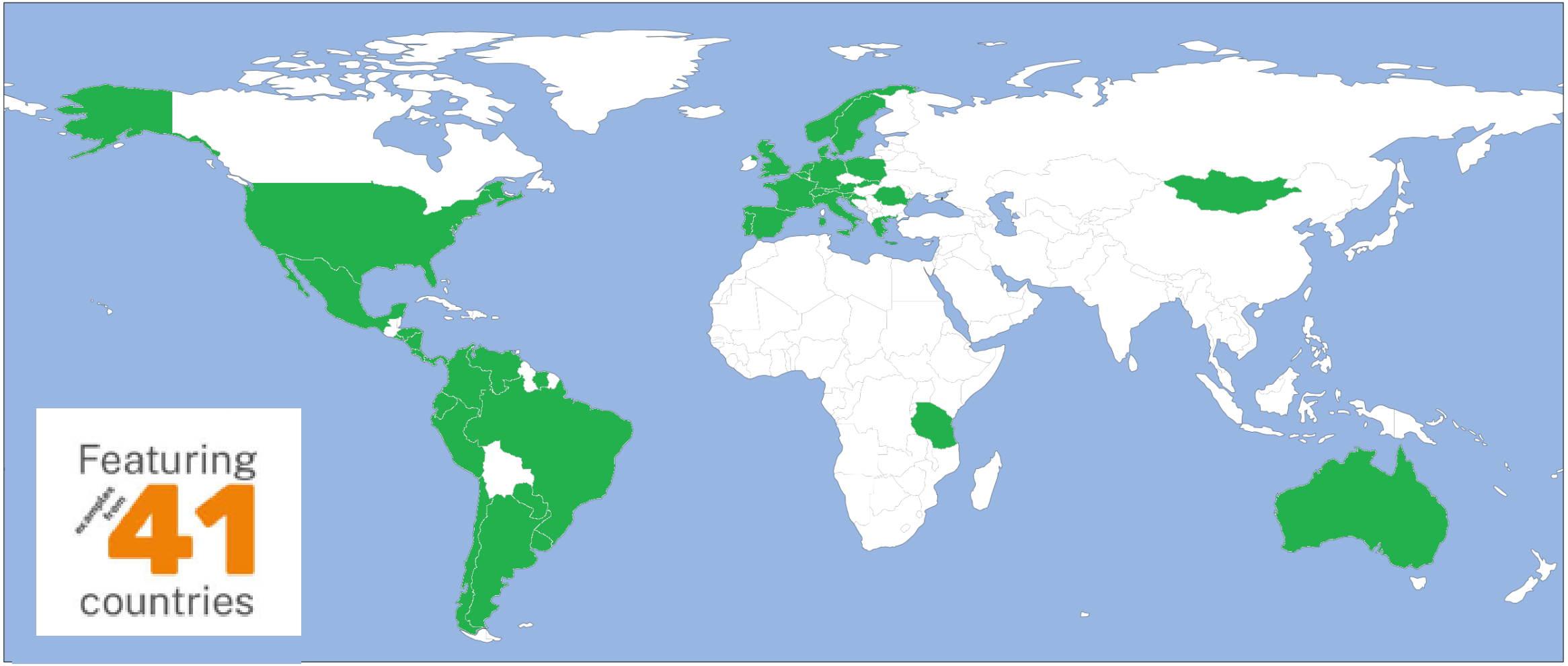
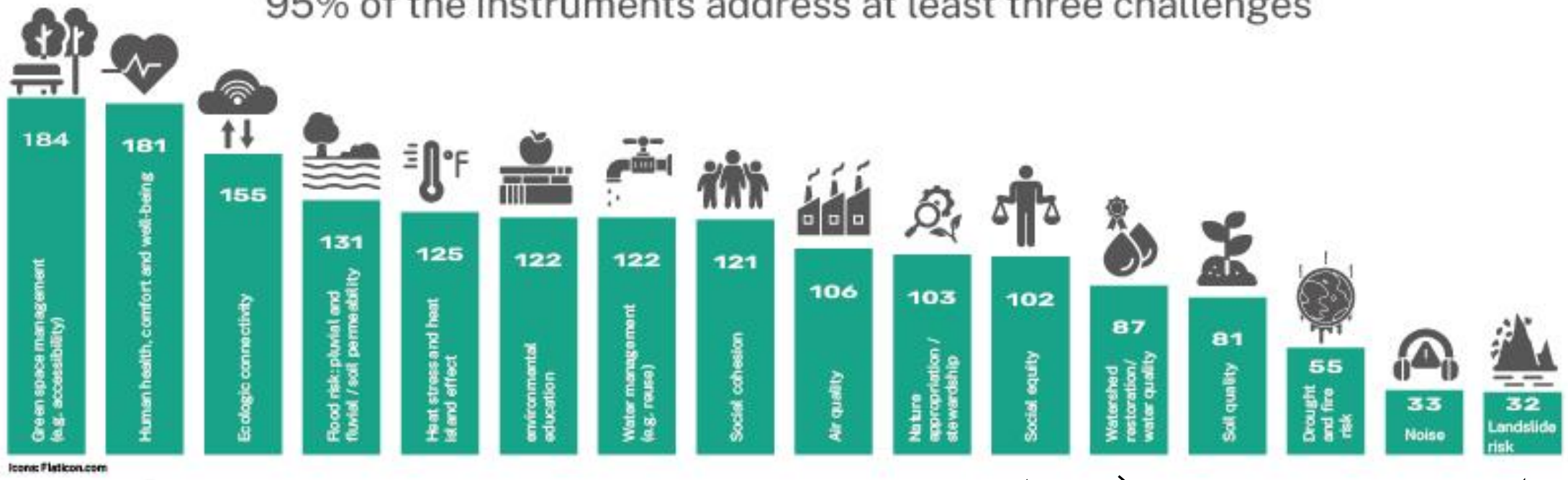
Geographic coverage



Challenges addressed

95% of the instruments address at least three challenges



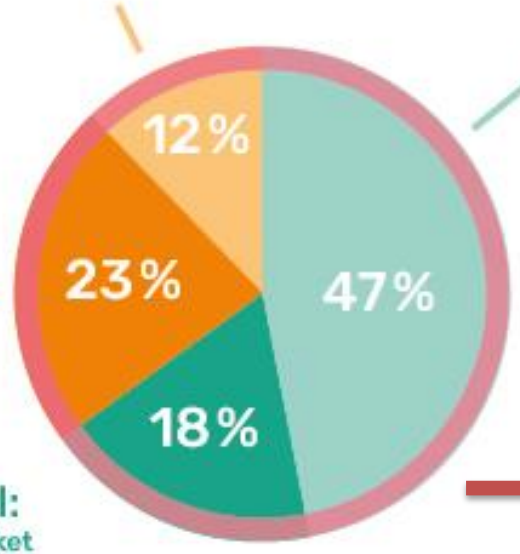
Showcasing 4 types of policy instruments

Knowledge, communication and innovation:

try to influence behavior by disseminating information to actors or involving actors in critical processes in innovative ways to inspire voluntary behavioral changes – overall: 12% of all instruments

Agreement-based or cooperative:

instruments in which the government and/or involved actors jointly and on a voluntary basis decide to behave in a certain way – overall: 23% of all instruments

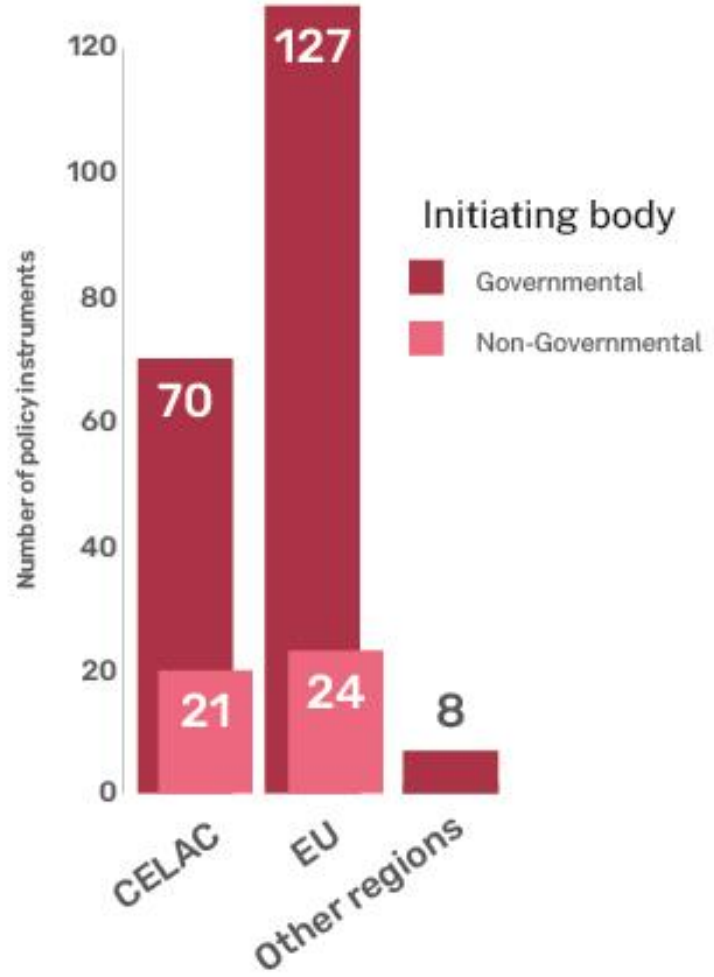


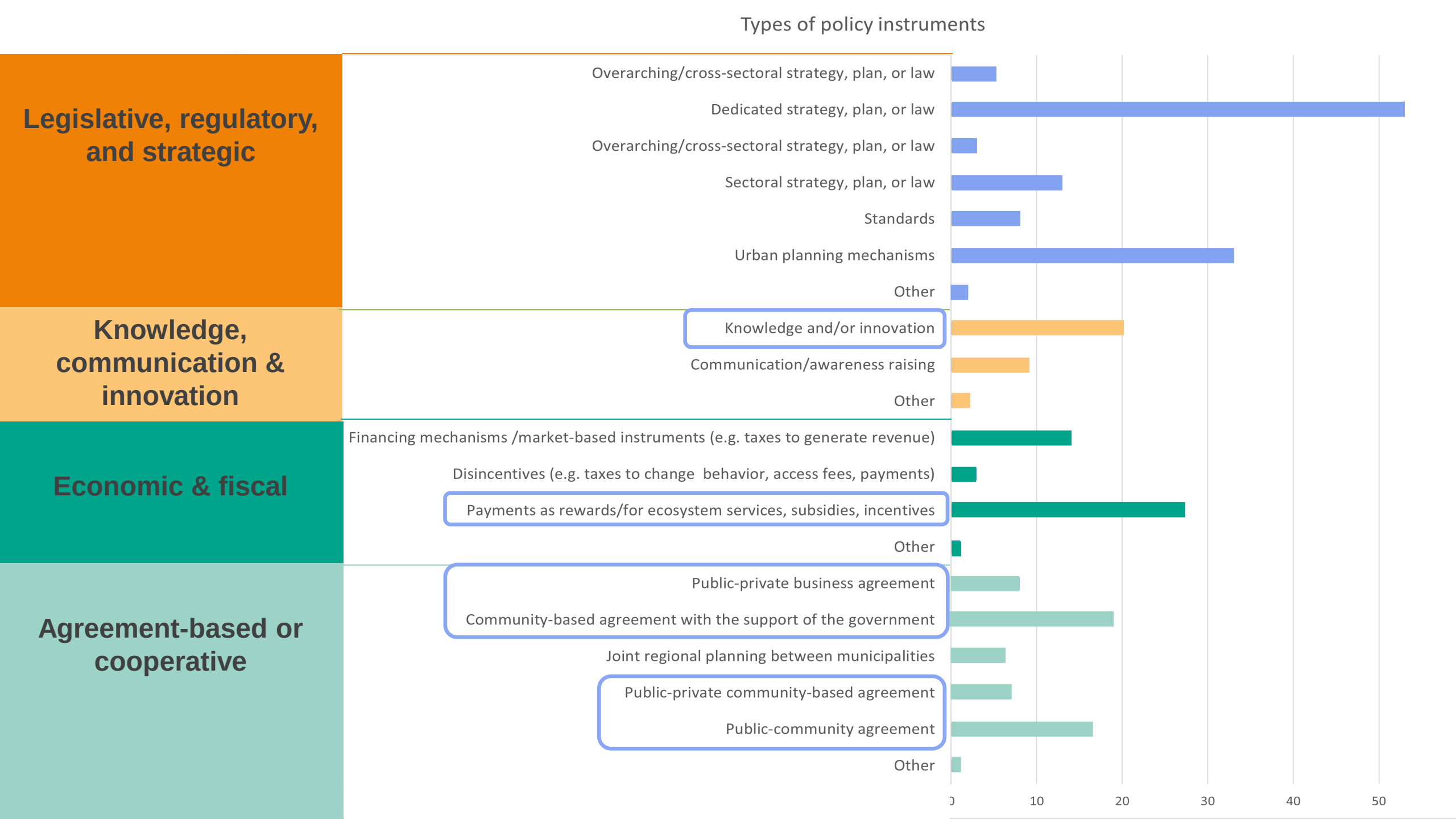
Legislative, regulatory, strategic:

usually binding laws and regulations as well as strategies that set visions and strategic goals – overall: 47% of all instruments

Economic and fiscal:

instruments that influence market mechanisms through for instance disincentives, incentives, payments, subsidies, financing mechanisms and market-based instruments – overall: 18% of all instruments




Types of policy instruments
Legislative, regulatory, and strategic
Knowledge, communication & innovation
Economic & fiscal
Agreement-based or cooperative
Overarching/cross-sectoral strategy, plan, or law
Dedicated strategy, plan, or law
Overarching/cross-sectoral strategy, plan, or law
Sectoral strategy, plan, or law
Standards
Urban planning mechanisms
Other
Knowledge and/or innovation
Communication/awareness raising
Other
Financing mechanisms /market-based instruments (e.g. taxes to generate revenue)
Disincentives (e.g. taxes to change behavior, access fees, payments)
Payments as rewards/for ecosystem services, subsidies, incentives
Other
Public-private business agreement
Community-based agreement with the support of the government
Joint regional planning between municipalities
Public-private community-based agreement
Public-community agreement
Other
0
10
20
30
40
50

Examples of instruments supporting participation and/or co-governance

Legislative, regulatory, and strategic

Blue Deal - Flanders

The Blue Deal is a voluntary action plan of the Flemish government in Belgium to combat water scarcity and drought. The main objective is...

Economic & fiscal

Participatory Budget - Wrocław

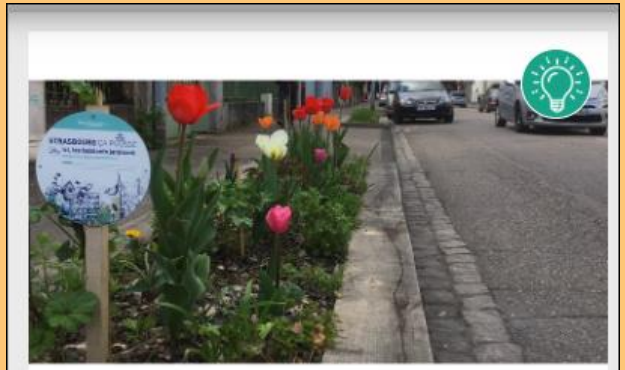
The city of Wrocław, Poland has been running a participatory budgeting program (Wrocławski Budżet Obywatelski) since 2013. Participatory...

Agreement-based or cooperative

Citizen panel 'Friends of the Stiemer' - Genk

'Friends of the Stiemer' is a citizen panel initiated in 2019 that is involved in supporting the Stiemer Valley (Genk, Belgium)...

Knowledge, communication & innovation



"Strasbourg grows" educational materials and awareness raising - Strasbourg

Launched in 2017, the "Strasbourg grows" programme ("Strasbourg ça pousse") supports residents in urban greening/...

How does theory translate into action?

What inspiration does the Urban Governance Atlas offer around participation in policy design/implementation and co-governance?

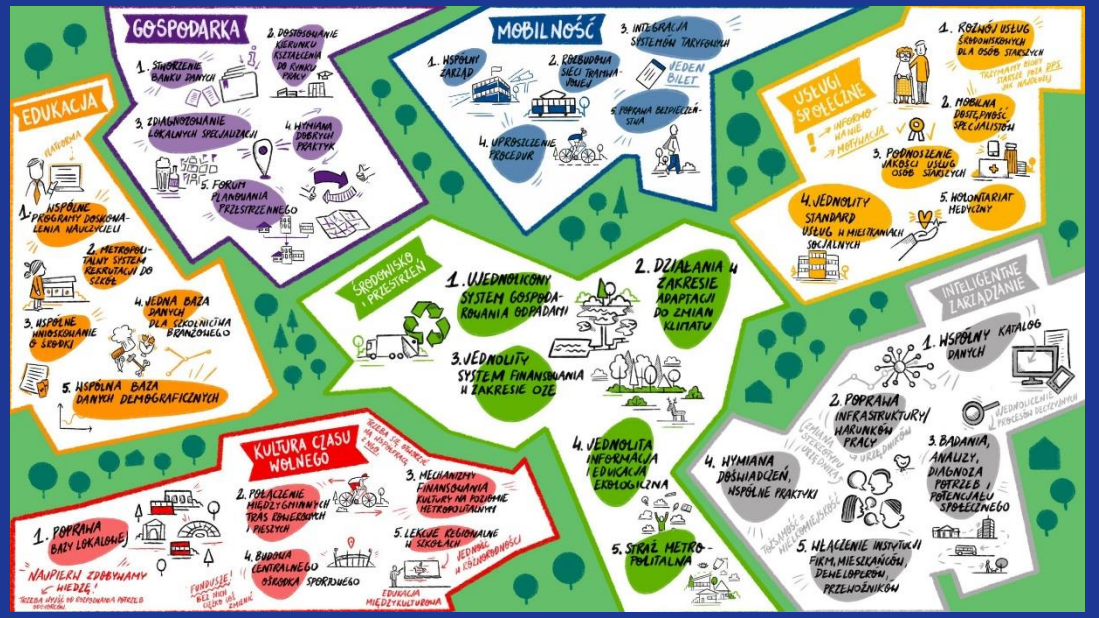
A few initial findings …

(stay tuned for an upcoming article with additional insights)

Citizen and stakeholder engagement to promote inclusivity and locally appropriate NbS

- Participatory design workshops
- Platforms for ongoing dialogue, such as community forums and digital spaces
- Tailored outreach programs for vulnerable groups
- Citizen surveys and feedback mechanisms
- Integrate local knowledge into policy development through community-led initiatives
- Frameworks for cooperation among civil society organizations, local politics, and public administration

Krakow Metropolis 2030 Srategy



Lisbon Urban Allotment Garden Programme

New and innovative forms of collaboration for innovative and effective policy implementation

- Citizen science projects, providing training and resources.
- Integrate artistic and cultural events into NbS awareness campaigns
- Public-private partnerships with clear frameworks
- Educational programs and citizen laboratories in schools and community centers
- Citizen-led monitoring groups with training and support

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Thank you!

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