

EuroPetition

PEC2 Meeting



EuroPetition

Planning to Evaluate

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eParticipation through Petitioning in Europe

 **eParticipation**

- Updates on reports
- Overview of process
- Evaluation questions
- Timeline & tasks

- E-Petitioner is just one way to petition
- Ideas for use of social media
- Finding and engaging advocates
 - Community workers
 - Campaign leaders
 - Previous petitioners

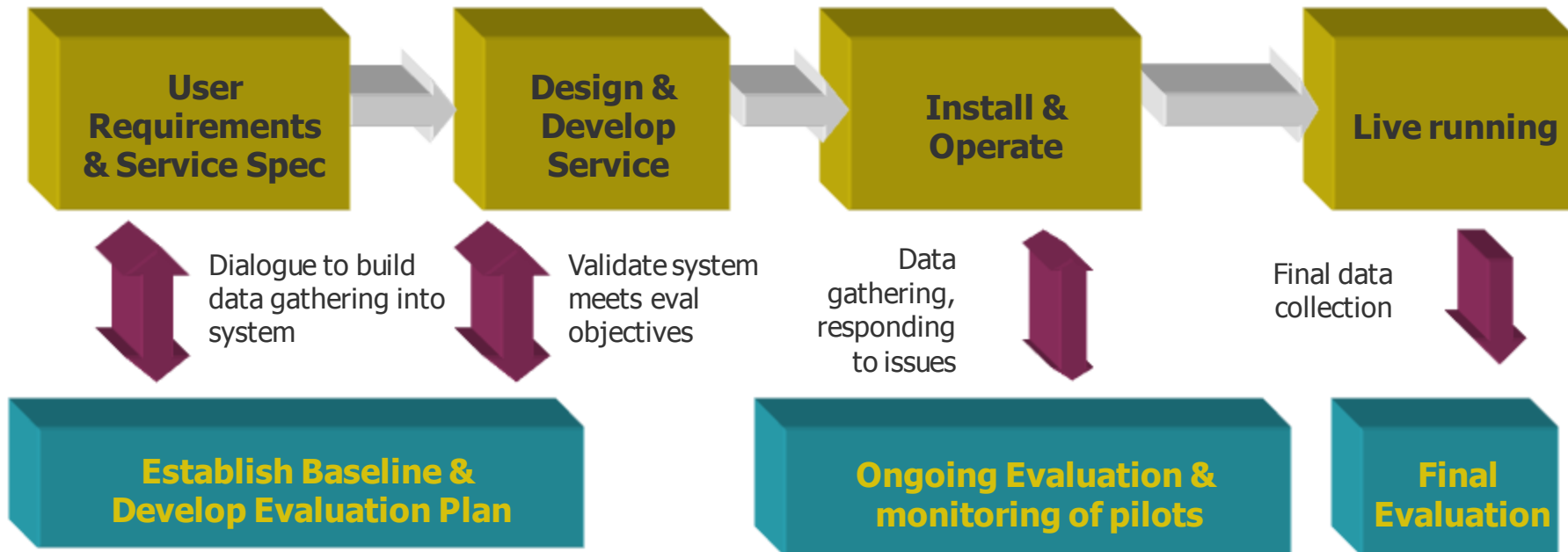
- Finding: **The links between e-participation and community empowerment are ‘surprisingly weak’**
- Petitions enable citizens and community groups to raise concerns with public authorities and give some sense of the support for the proposition amongst the wider population.
 - It is a mechanism that is understood by elected members, officers and the community alike. Petitions differ in the extent and manner in which they are connected to formal decision making processes.
 - Some petitions are not linked to a meaningful formal response mechanism from public authorities. Where citizens see no relationship between their participation and outcomes, not surprisingly, such petitions have the least impact on community empowerment and may even be considered disempowering.
 - Other petitions require a formal response from the public authority. **Where it is clear that the authority has given due weight to the proposition, the potential for empowerment increases:** the device exhibits the potential for impact on decisions, thus providing a rationale for increased political efficacy and activity amongst civic organisations.

- **Coordination of deliberation subjects and methods**
- **Coordination of engagement with stakeholders**
- Balanced coverage of Legislation Phases
- Methods, Technologies and Tools reuse
- **Open Source Components**
- Coordination of dissemination events and channels:
Towards mashing-up
- Promotion of project collaboration
- **Indicators and metrics**
 - for measuring project progress, adoption and overall impact.

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Interaction of WP2 with WP1



Baseline survey (authority-held data)
 Baseline survey (of citizens)
 Lit review
 Scenario-testing workshops

'exit' surveys
 Debate statistics
 System data
 Partner monitoring data

User FGs
 Partner/Representative/other stakeholder S/S
 Interviews

Purpose of evaluation

- Identify issues and fix them
- Measure progress against project objectives
 - Acceptability & uptake
 - Does it work
 - Do the stakeholders like it
 - Self-efficacy: do people feel able to use the system
 - Democratic impact
 - Proportion of people who have not interacted before
 - Increased engagement with formal democratic system
 - Changes to (council) agenda
 - Viability
 - Will decision makers support it using their own resources?
 - Can the system be supported across the EU?

Scope of evaluation

- Petitioning functionality only
 - Only CitizenScape and ViewFinder as far as it impacts on the petitioning process
- Napier is not covering Operation of the Regional Sites
 - Public-i are responsible for that aspect of WP2.1
 - Most of WP2.1 budget

Stages



Actors

- External
 - Petitioner
 - Citizen & NGOs
- Assembly/Parliament
 - Officer(s)
 - Representatives
- Project partners
 - In the background

- Updates on reports
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Evaluation of system

- During implementation
- Technical
 - Installation
 - How much effort
 - Who was involved
 - Testing
 - How do you know it's working?
- Organisational
 - Finding citizens
 - Identifying organisational acceptance criteria
 - Who makes the decisions?
 - Controls budget
 - Runs system

During operation

- At local and regional level
 - System (PI: What data can be logged?)
 - Online questionnaires
 - Tracking spreadsheets (if data not gathered by the system)
 - Q: How do you propose to manage the system?
- Clustering, flagging of petitions

Evaluation of system

Reporting (interim and final)

- Analysis of data
 - From application and webserver
 - From Web2.0 tools
- Feedback from
 - Petitioners
 - Citizens
 - Including who didn't take part
 - Officers
 - Operational
 - Management/Directors
 - Politicians

Evaluation of impact

- Increased participation of citizens in EU issues and/or cross-border issues among EU countries.
- 25% increase in citizen participation
 - in democratic processes
 - through participation in ePetitions
 - to their regional, cross-border and EU decision makers
- Evaluation
 - Define baselines
 - Baseline questionnaire
 - Provide tools for measuring impact

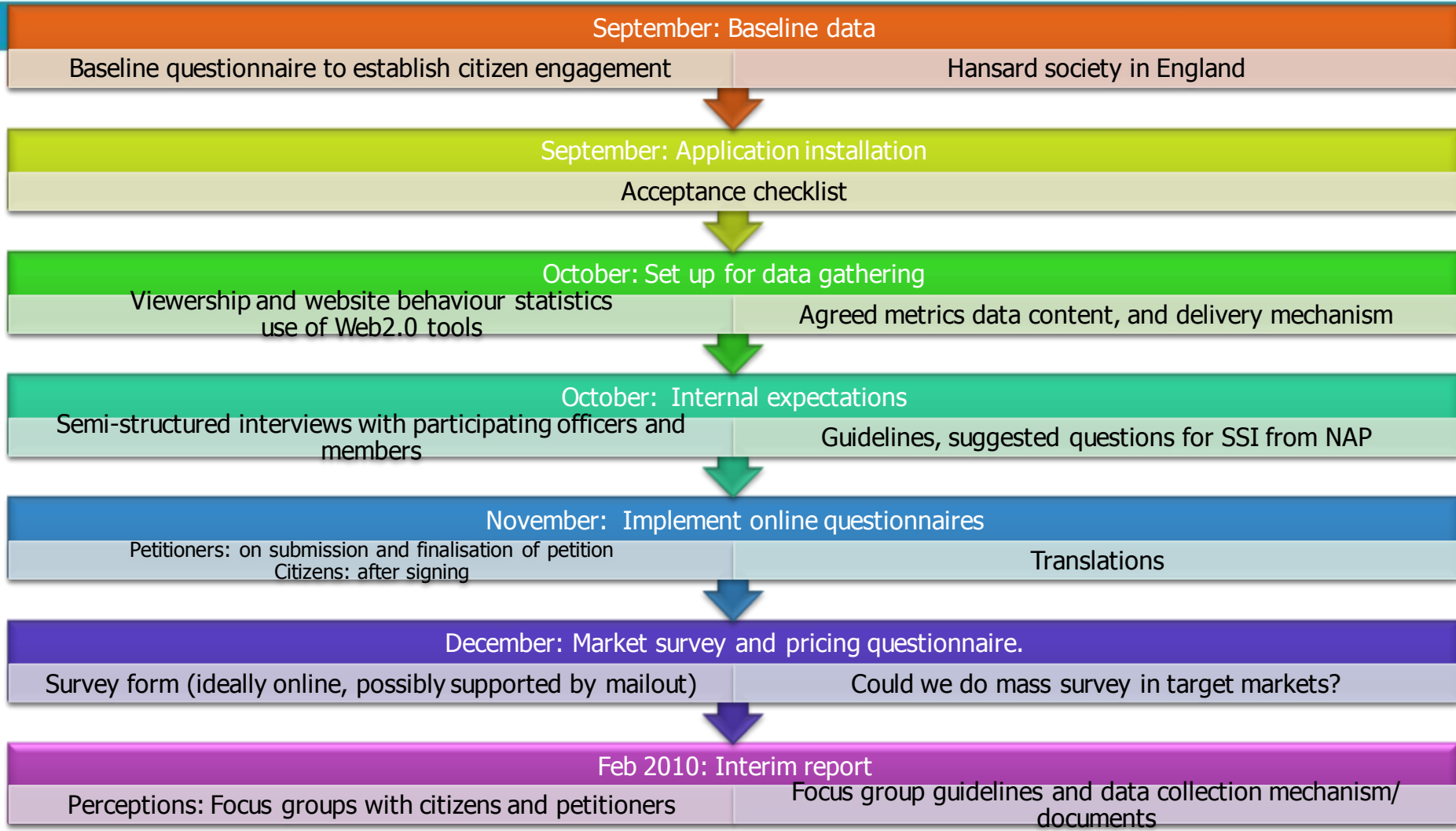
Evaluation of viability

- Viability testing
- Testing assumptions
 - Effort
 - Installation
 - Training
 - Operation
 - Management
 - Money
 - How much will user (regions/cities) pay?
 - What incentives do Business Partners need?
- Motivations of decision makers

- Updates on reports
- Overview of process
- Evaluation questions
- **Timeline & tasks**



Doing the evaluation



Key Points

- Reviewed evaluation process and your role in it
- Key inputs over the next six months:
 - Translation of questionnaires and surveys
 - guidelines too if necessary
 - Set up focus groups and citizens panels
 - Identify key actors in your organisation (names of people)
 - Want to contact people who have chosen *not* to participate
- Edinburgh Napier will provide
 - source material (in English)
 - guidelines
- Identify who will lead at regional level

Thank You



Partner feedback

Issues and problems?