

EuroPetition

Interim Review



EuroPetition

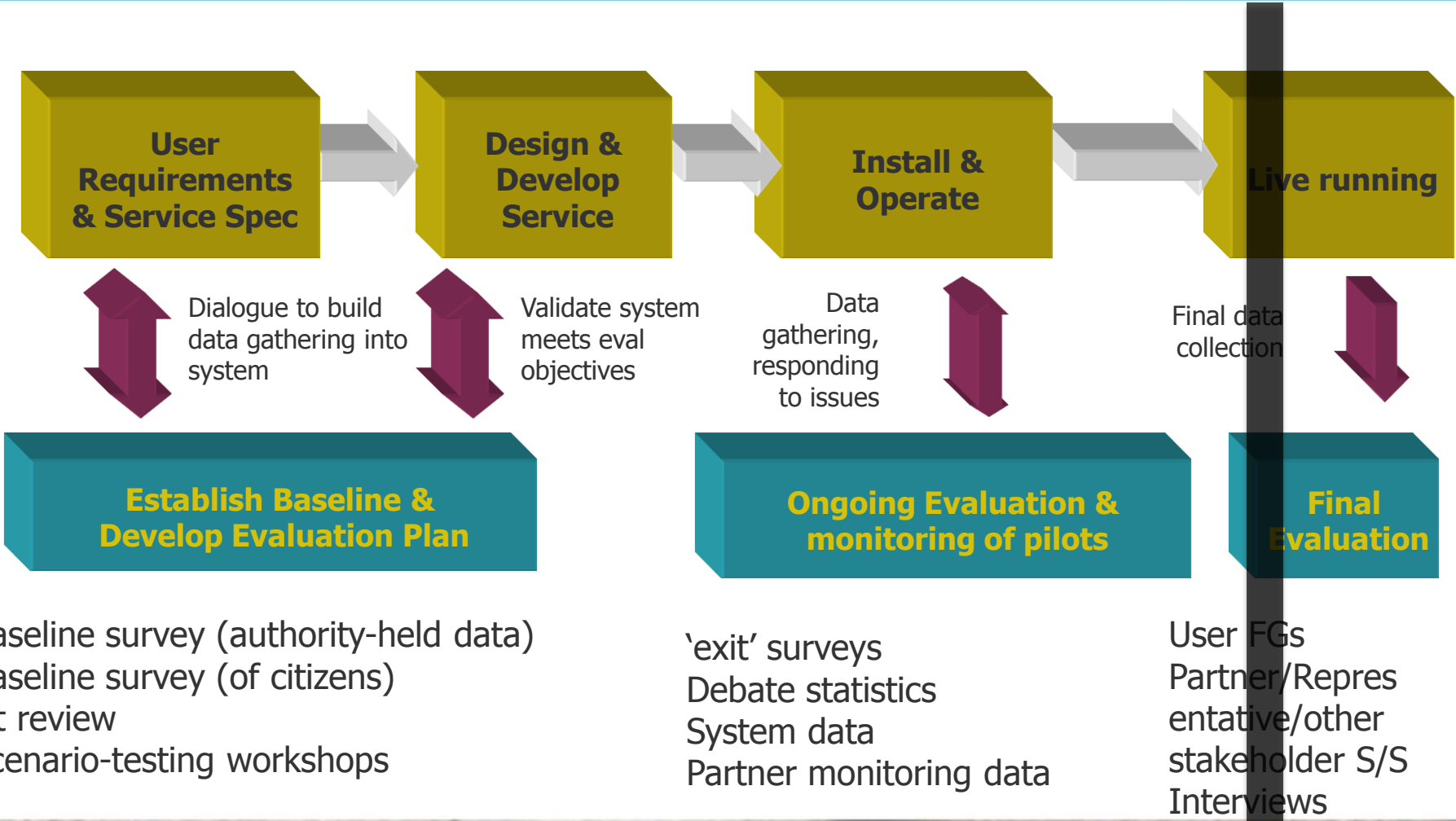
Evaluation Progress

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eParticipation through Petitioning in Europe

 **eParticipation**

Where have we got?



- **Acceptability & uptake**
 - Does it work
 - Do the stakeholders like it
 - Feelings of self-efficacy
- **Democratic impact**
 - Changes to (council) agenda
 - Proportion of people who have not interacted before
 - Increased engagement with formal democratic system
- **Viability**
 - Will decision makers support it long term?
- **At this stage: Formative approach**
 - ‘Critical friend’

- Issued and analysed
 - Baseline questionnaires
 - Installation /training questionnaires
- Conference papers
 - Petitions as tool for increasing self-efficacy
 - Transition from lurking to participation
 - Security considerations for the ECI
- Next steps
 - Viability survey
 - User surveys

Carried out by Jesper Thestrup, Director, In-Jet ApS, Denmark in February

- EuroPetition gives the opportunity to gather people from many places
- Faces challenges around clarity
 - What the EuroPetition process is
 - How the process would work
 - rejection/modification of petitions, and
 - political response once the petition was completed
 - **Maybe should have quotes from councillors/MEPs saying they support the system and take it seriously?**
- Risk: mismatch of expectations against actual experience

Baseline data

Where the responses came from

Country	Total	Top towns	Route to survey
Italy	28	Vicenza	www.comune.vicenza.it
Netherlands	31	Almere	Mostly Almere council website
Spain	131	Málaga, Córdoba, Abla	Mostly direct links or via mailshot (mail.live.com and facebook) and council websites
Sweden	467	Göteborg, Piteå	Dominated by Göteborg and Piteå's council websites
UK	98	Kingston area	Via mail-links or direct
Grand Total	755		

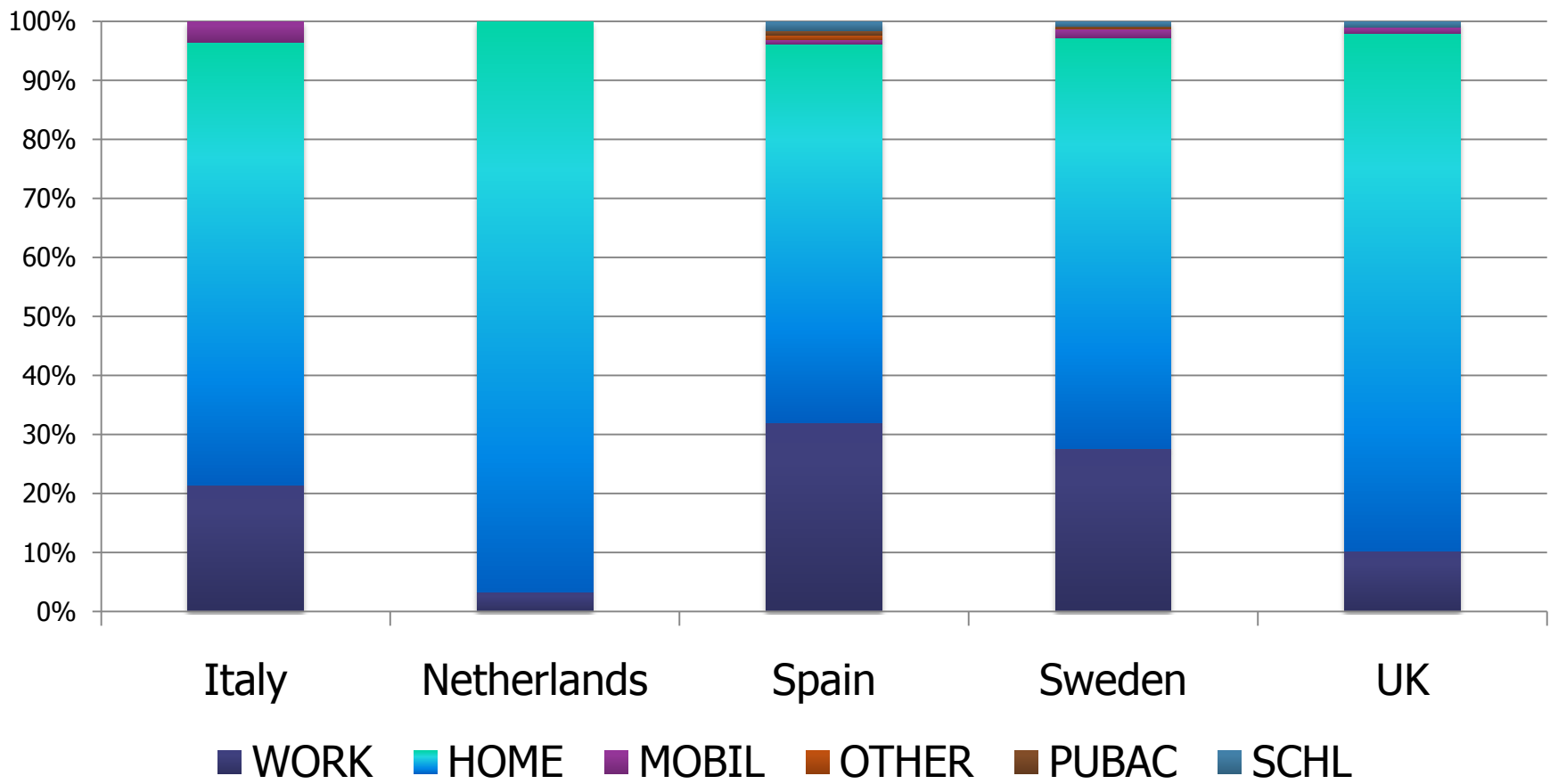
Baseline data

Pool for follow-up questions

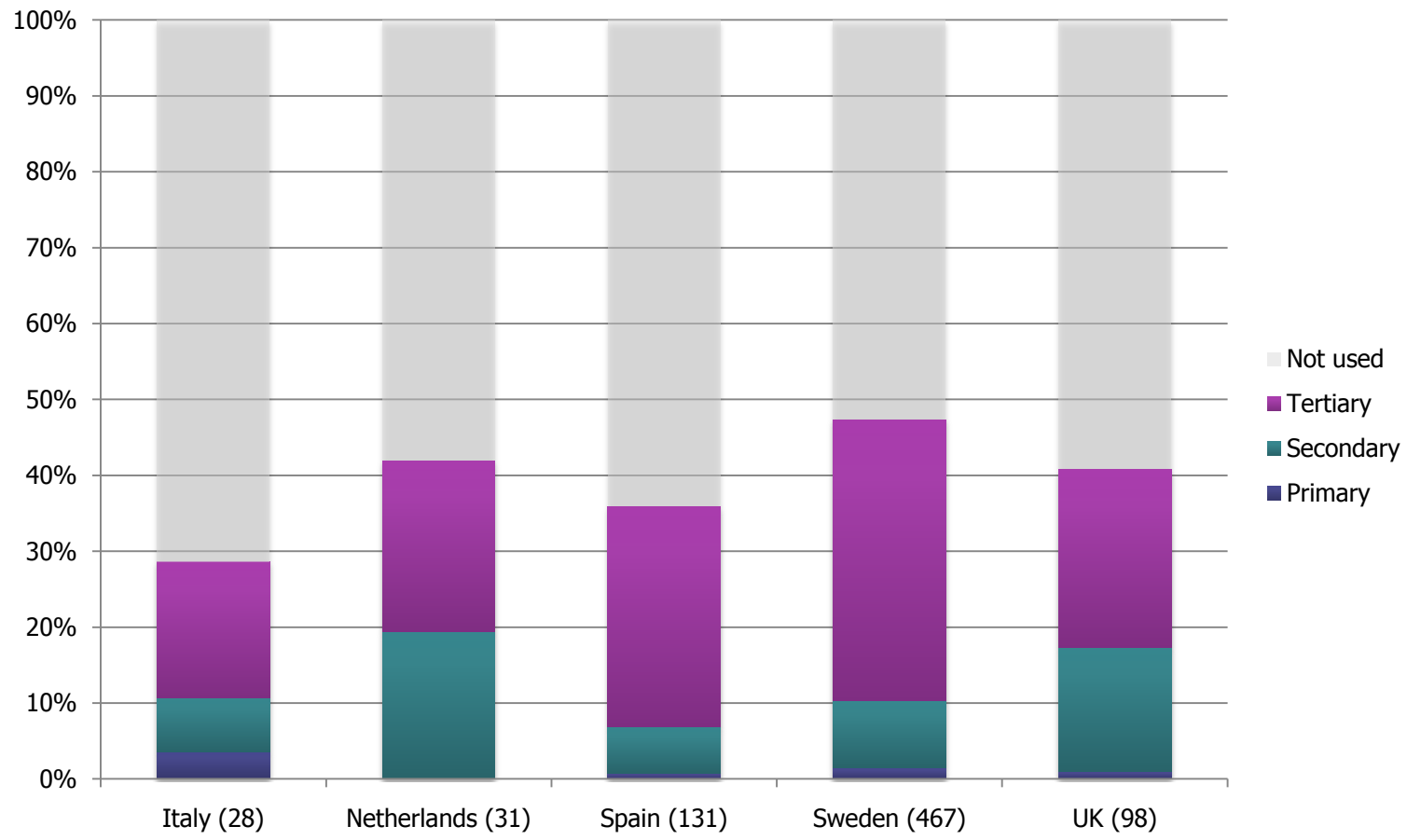
Country	Will do follow up work	Want Updates	
Italy	22	21	28
Netherlands	21	18	31
Spain	80	80	131
Sweden	227	176	467
UK	67	47	98
Grand Total	417	342	755

- I will supply contact details
- I will supply anonymised data

Main route of access: Home



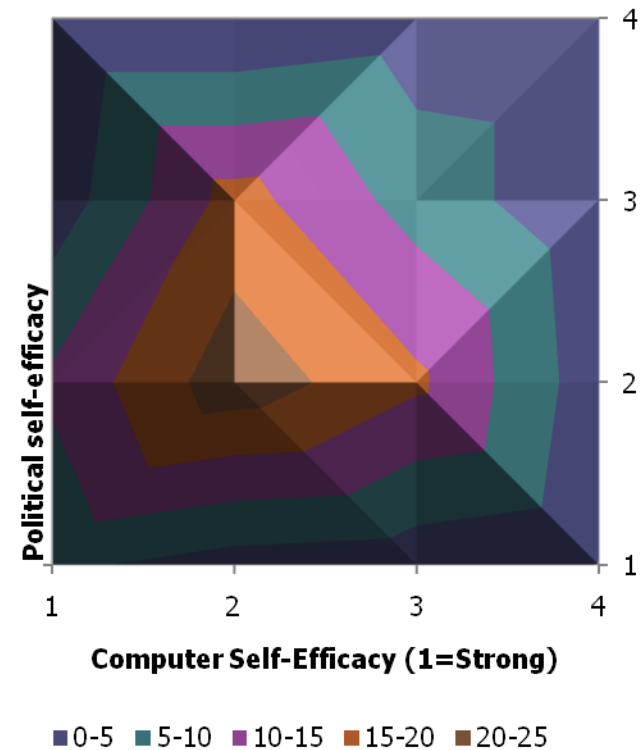
Use of mobile internet...



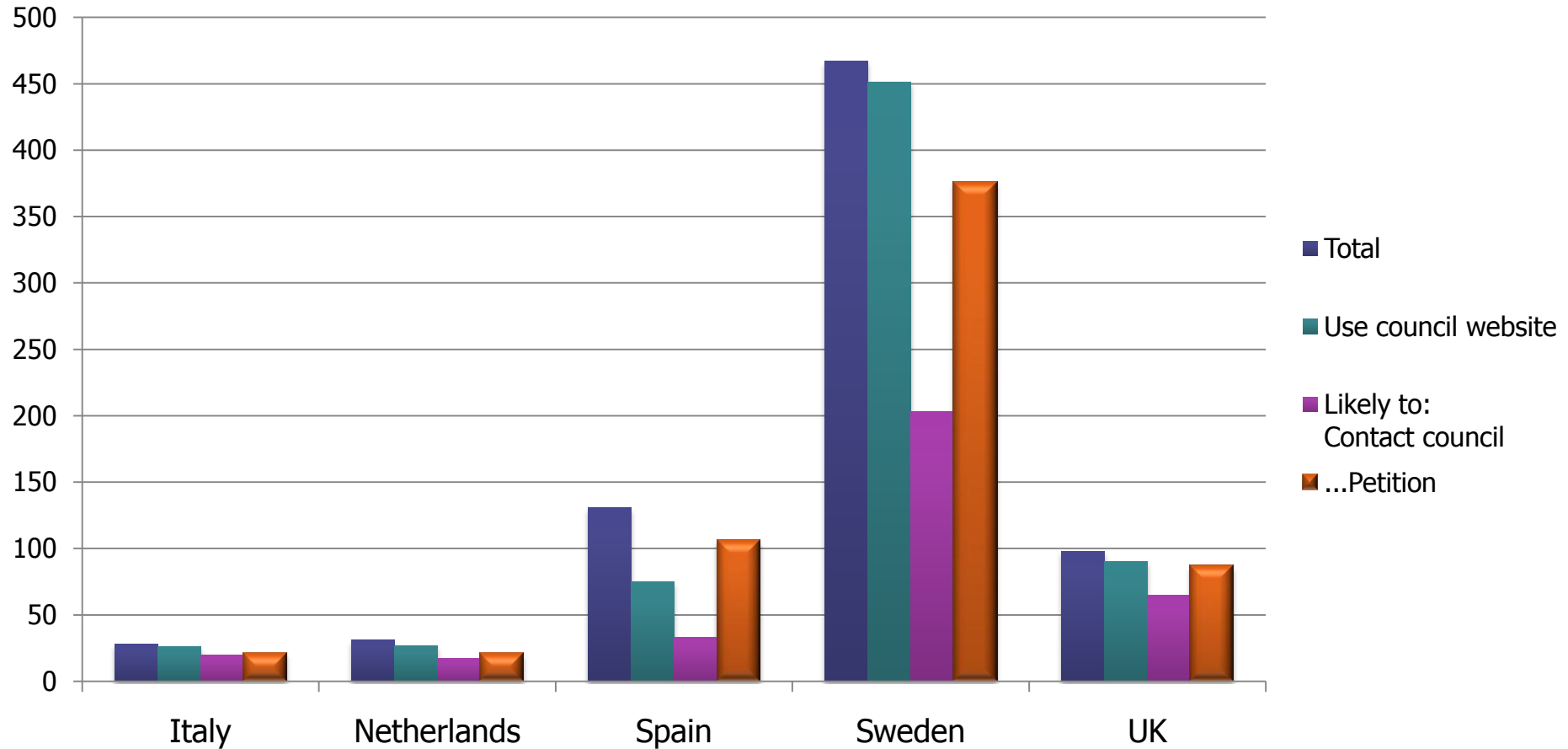
Baseline Data

Knowing our respondents

- As suspected, the people responding are confident users of both computer and political systems
- ...most also say they voted in local and European elections
 - As well as national elections
- Challenge: pro-active outreach



Petitioning as alternative to contacting the council



- Many responses show previous contact with councils
 - confirming political self-efficacy
 - International themes Iraq and Palestine
 - Local themes: building, education etc
- Question on petitioning the European Parliament
 - Show low awareness on what is possible
 - Comments cover
 - Health and education, animal rights
 - Structure of Lisbon Treaty, roles and costs of MEPs
 - Immigration, asylum seekers
 - Environment
 - Implies need to be flexible about ultimate target

Purpose

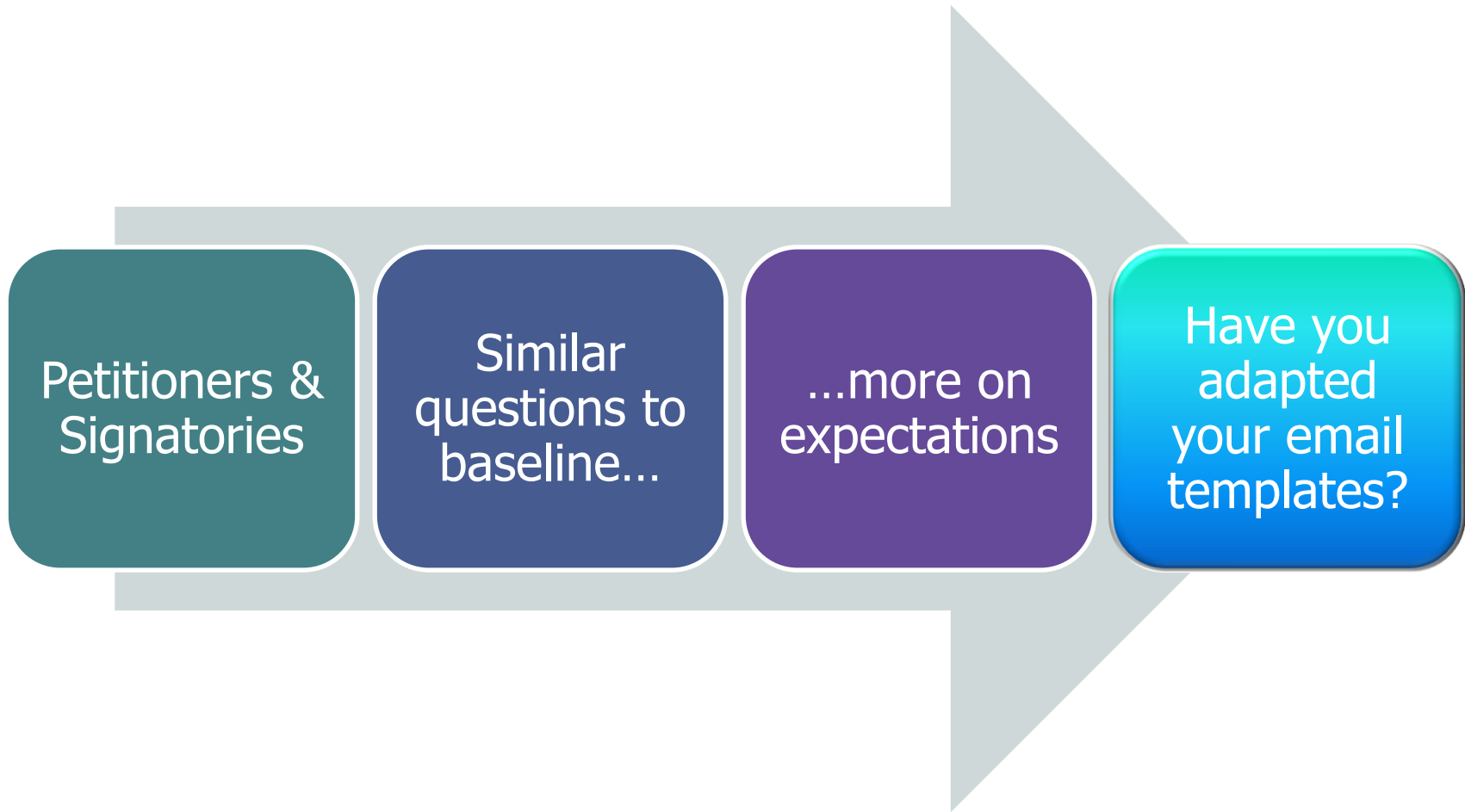
- Record clusters and councils perspective
- Helps ensure product & training meets expectations

Consists of

- Installation & configuration questionnaire
- Checklist based on feature list, to record issues and extent of testing
- Training questionnaire

Process

- Distributed to cluster leaders
- Completed as the work is done



With user panels

- Briefings
 - Explain overview of process
 - Gain consent from participants
- The workshop (one or many)
 - Based on simple scenarios / topics based on actual experience of users
 - Designed so as to ensure discussion of defined areas of the EuroPetition system
- Data collection instruments:
 - Discussion topic guide
 - Questionnaire
- Attendees will also be invited from survey respondents

Survey of potential market

- Starting with [ALDA](#)
- What e-participation activities are already underway
- What demand is there
- Who would use and/or support it

Sustainability

- Organisational engagement
 - Local workshops & questionnaires
- Licensing model
 - Exploring EUPL, commercial open source model
- Standards compliance
 - E-petitioning law in England & Wales is setting precedent
 - Data standards
 - Best practise
 - Issues around authentication, anonymity and security

- Reviewed evaluation process
- Still to do
 - Bringing in the citizens!!
 - Gather data from user expectation questionnaires
 - Set up focus groups and citizens panels
 - Want to contact people who have chosen *not* to participate
 - Sustainability
- Edinburgh Napier will be providing
 - source material (for translations)
 - guidelines

Thank You

