



Citizen involvement in urban planning

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Why is citizen involvement important?

The democratic legitimacy of urban planning

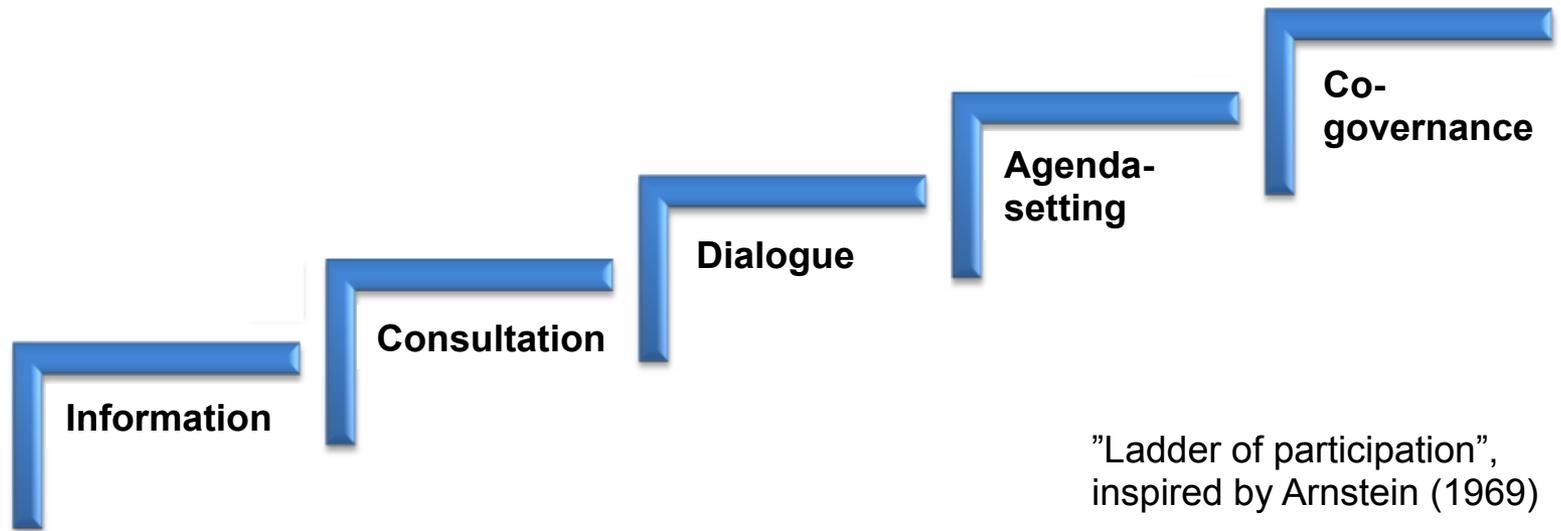
- Rests both on:
 - Top-down democracy (political steering)
 - Bottom-up democracy (citizen involvement)
- Citizen involvement increase legitimacy :
 - Citizens are able to directly influence their built environment – the places they live their everyday life
 - A broader array of voices and lifeworlds are heard
 - A broader array of interests are ensured
 - Local knowledge channeled in, better informed decisions
 - Better and more adequate results (problem solving)
 - Less protests and complaints, and more effective planning
 - A more just urban society

Why is Norway an interesting case?

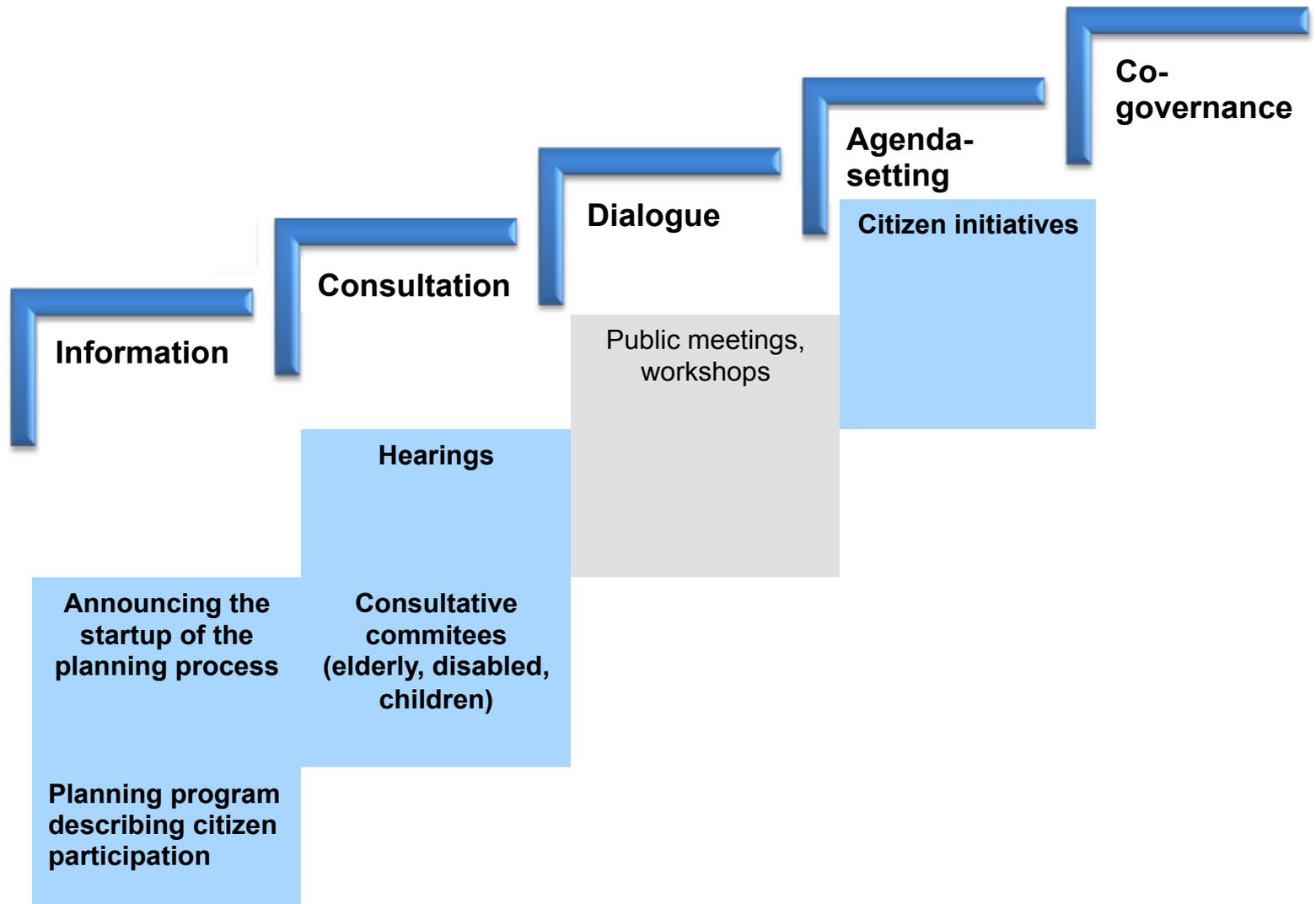
Market-oriented urban planning in Norway

- Delegation of planning initiative/ formulation to market-actors
→ Today 90% are formulated by private developers
- The Law ensures mandatory hearings, but these are held late in the process
- Private developers are gatekeepers for early citizen involvement

Different degrees of citizen involvement



Different degrees of citizen involvement

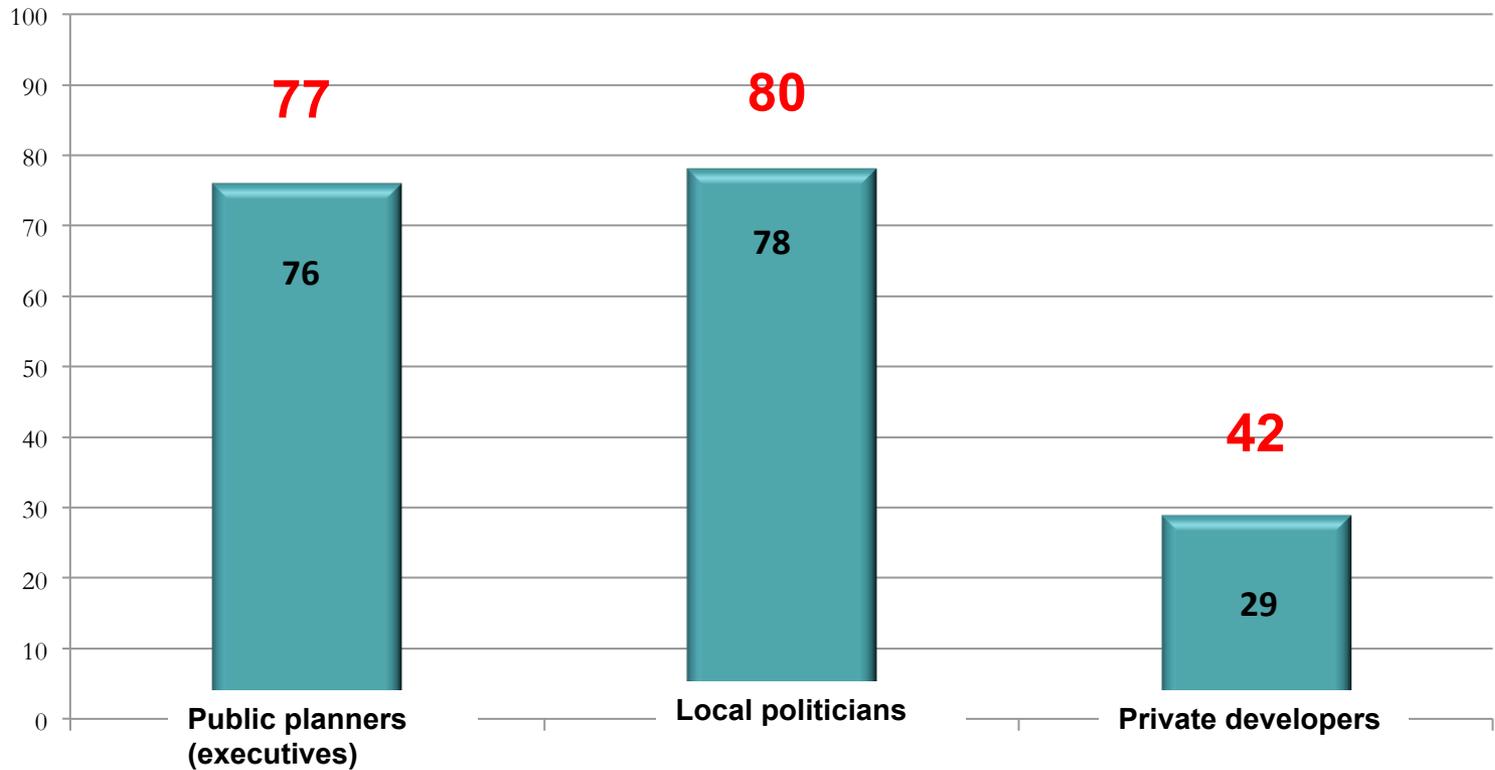


WHEN IDEALS MEET THE REAL WORLD: Are citizens able to participate and influence urban planning and their built environment?



Different attitudes towards citizen involvement

Percentages that report that citizen involvement is important in detailed urban planning



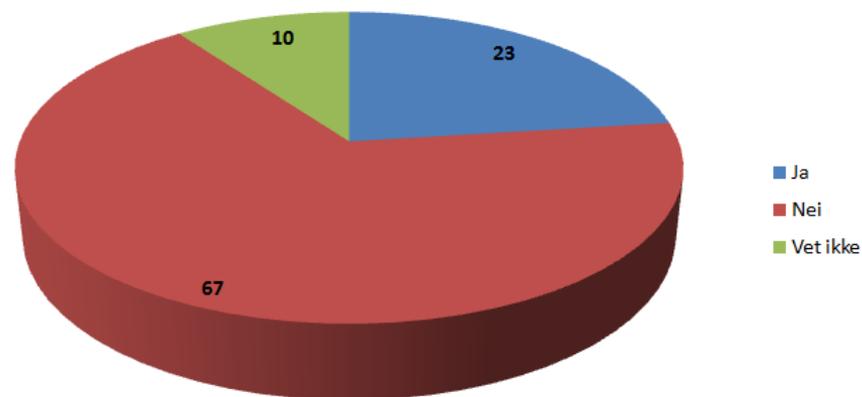
How is citizen involvement ensured - in overall planning (masterplans)?

- Citizens report about few arenas for involvement
- City authorities find it difficult to mobilize citizens and local engagement
- Most common method: huge public meetings
 - Easy to arrange
 - Many groups are alienated
 - Lack of «track-changes»- **routines**
- Successfactor - a broad spectre of participatory arrangements



How is citizen involvement ensured - in detailed planning?

- Lack of participatory arenas early in the process



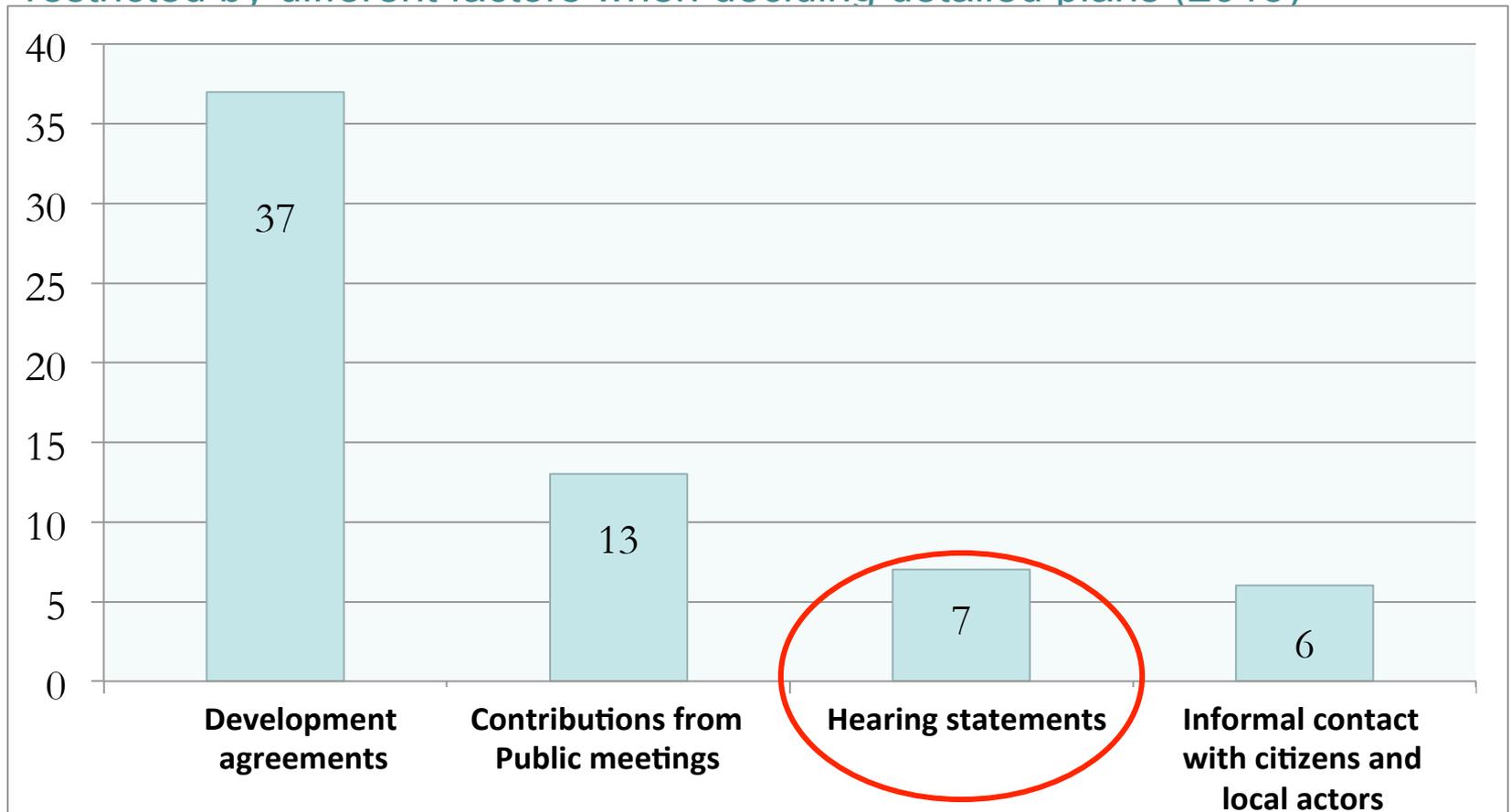
Percentages of planning executives who report that private developers usually accommodate citizen involvement early in the process (2013).

How is citizen involvement ensured - in detailed planning...

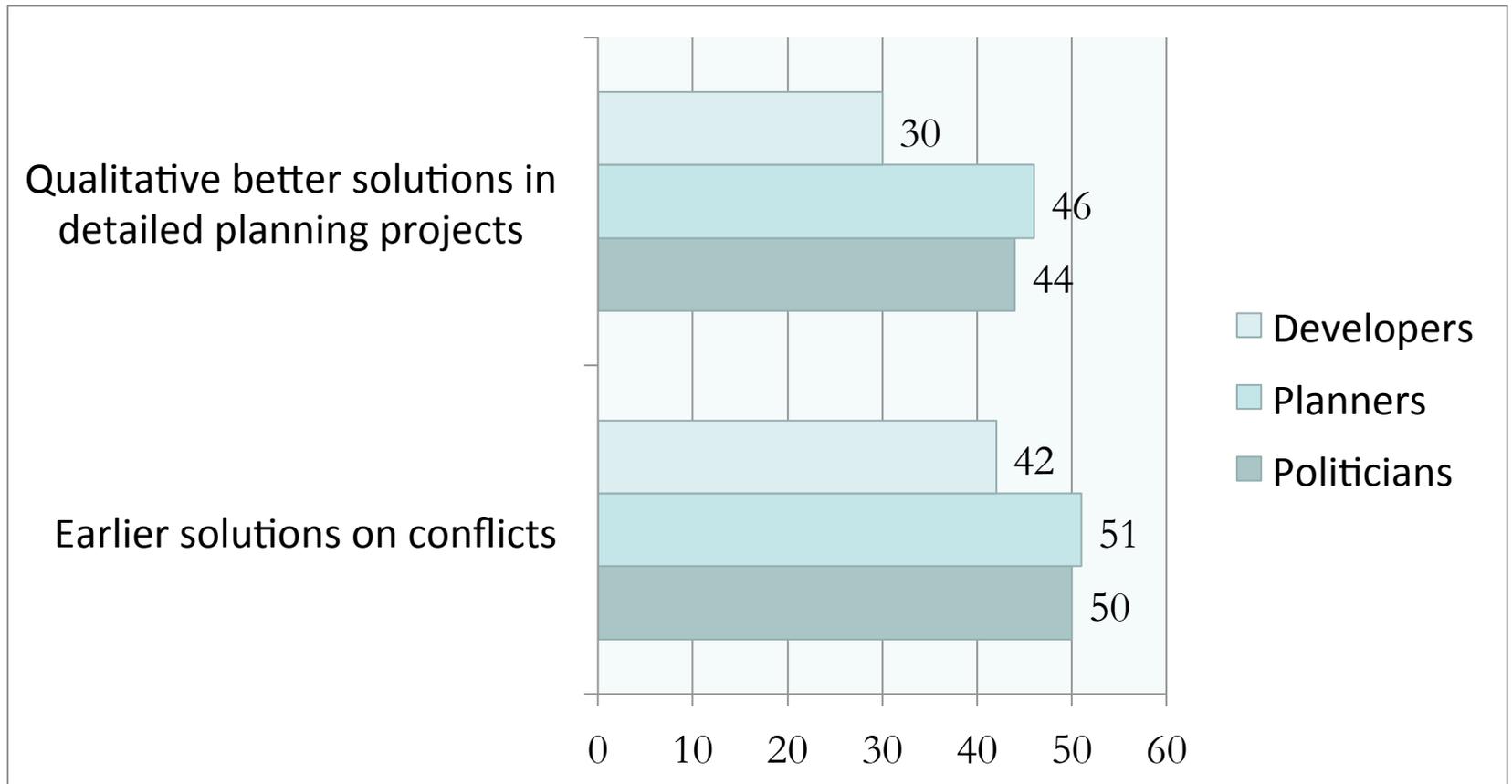
- Planning characterized by closed negotiations between developers and planning authorities
- All agree that the hearings are arranged too late in the process
- No requirements of citizen involvement in implementing the plans – for example in the shaping and design of public places

Are the politicians listening?

Percentages of politicians reporting that they consider themselves to be restricted by different factors when deciding detailed plans (2013)



Although, citizens involvement is considered to contribute to:



Conclusion: Huge gap between ideals and reality!

When mechanisms for involvement do not function...

- Disengagement and alienation
- Reduced trust in urban planning processes
- Reduced trust politicians and reduced legitimacy of local democracy

Denmark have a stronger participatory tradition – what can Norway learn?

- How to make room for participation in the complex, negotiation-processes that urban planning is characterized by today?
- How to make architects and developers conscious of the added value of participation?
- How to establish good arenas for discussion of which of all the possible future developments we – as inhabitants – want?

Thank you for the attention!
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