

MAKING-CITY: Citizen engagement strategies and tools for district approaches in the energy transition

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MAKING-CITY project overview

- **City transformation: Long-Term planning**
The City Vision
 Develop new Integrated Strategies to address the long-term urban energy system transformation towards low carbon cities, with the PED approach as the core of the urban energy transition pathway
- **PED concept: demonstration & Replication**
 Demonstrate that the PED concept is realistic and replicable through large scale demonstrations in Groningen and Oulu as pioneers in PED implementation and maximize replicability from LIGHTHOUSES to FOLLOWER cities



Methodology for Identifying Citizen Engagement Strategies in FWCs



Citizens engagement activities definition

- January 2021: Citizen Engagement Strategies Webinar based on knowledge transfer from LHCs to FWCs
- February to March 2021: 1to1 conference calls with each FWC to define the possible activities to be performed



Activities implementation

- March to May 2021 : Questionnaire elaboration with the support of LHC partners
- May to September 2021: Dissemination of the questionnaire (identified modules by each city) by the follower cities to their citizens
- Progress meetings were organized with each FWCs in July and August 2021



Results analysis and exploitation

- October to December 2021 : General results analysis
- January to June 2022 : Deep dive into each follower cities results
- June 2022 : Results restitution
- Exploitation of the results for the PED design and report on the activities

Citizens engagement activities definition



Items determined in individual discussions with the cities

- Objectives: What do you want to ask to your citizens ?
- Barriers: What are the main barriers or bottlenecks ?
- Local actors: Mapping of the local actors
- Tools to be used: Define the tools to implement
- Agenda: Define the planning for the activities
- Support/material: What do you need?
- Contact point

Activities selection

- Initially 2 options per follower cities were chosen according to their goals:
- neighbourhood meetings, physical focus group, hackathons, distributed questionnaires, online questionnaires
- Due to covid pandemic situation, we had to restrict the choice to the online questionnaire

Activities implementation



Questionnaire elaboration

- A questionnaire has been elaborated by the expert partners and adapted to each city context
- Questionnaire divided into 2 parts: one general part and 6 modules:
 1. Energy consumption
 2. Energy efficiency of the building
 3. Energy generation
 4. Energy flexibility
 5. Mobility
 6. (Local) Energy communities
- Each Follower city had to choose 1, 2 or 3 modules according their subjects of interest

Questionnaires dissemination

- Questionnaires have been conducted on an online platform (Google Form) or with physical questionnaire depending on the municipality
- Progress meetings were organized with each Follower city in July and August 2021

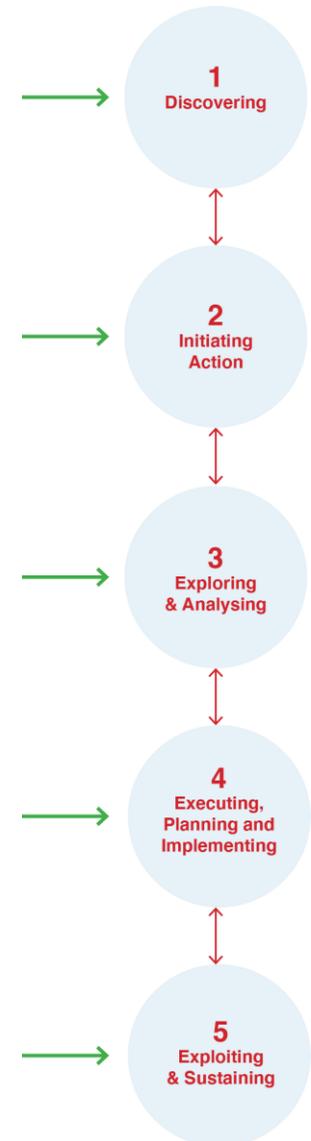
Summary of findings

In several of the follower cities, respondents...

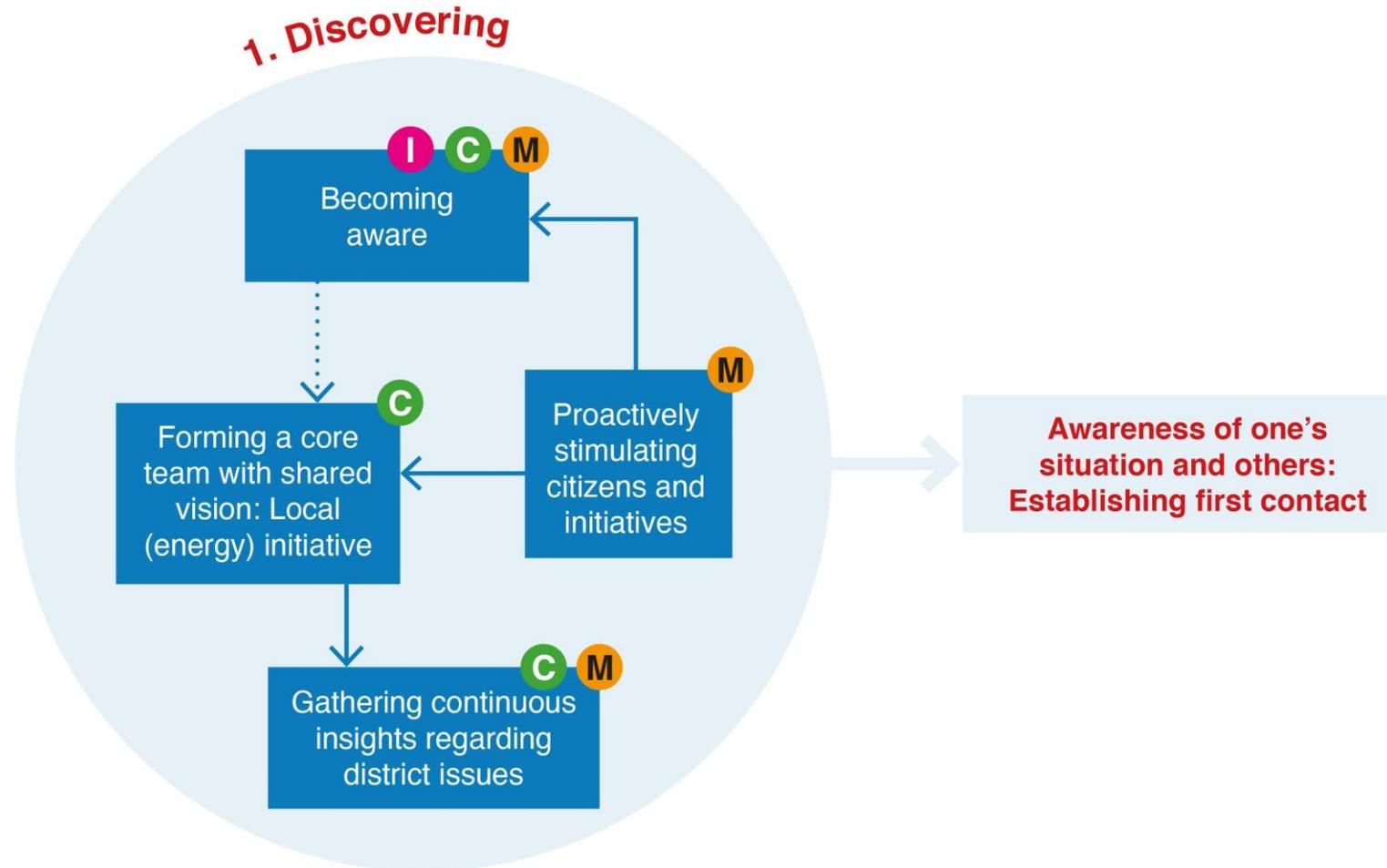
- would fall into the category of energy poverty (significant portion)
- have a high interest in energy saving measures
- expect their municipality to do more in terms of their well-being
- trust in the municipality is average to high
- knowledge of energy technology is relatively low, but interest is high
- membership of energy communities is very low

The Unified Citizen Engagement Approach (UCEA)

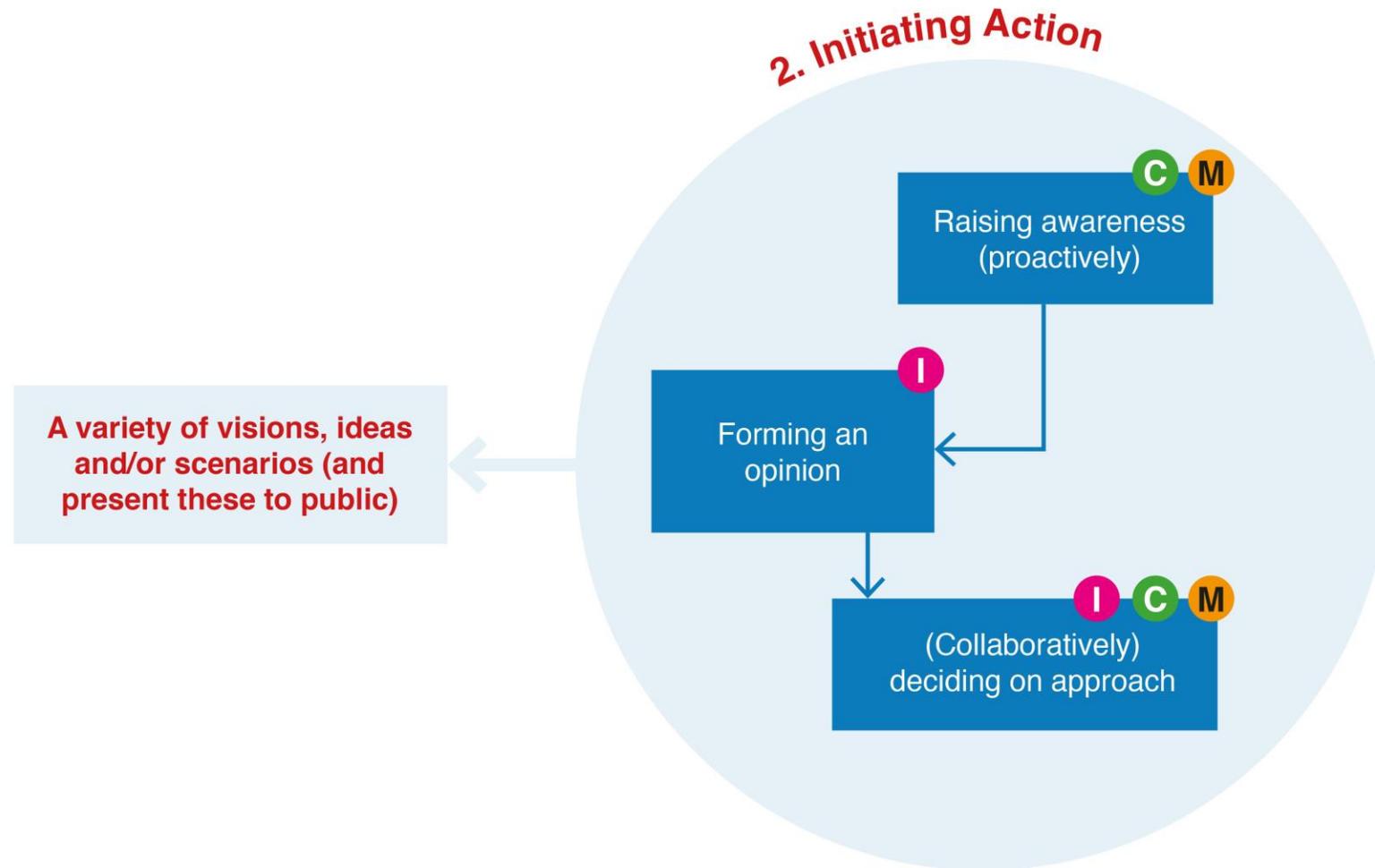
- Elements from existing approaches and citizen social research studies
- Five phases / spaces
- Three actors: Individual, Cooperative & Municipality
- Flexible, dynamic and iterative
- Tools and methods mapped onto each step



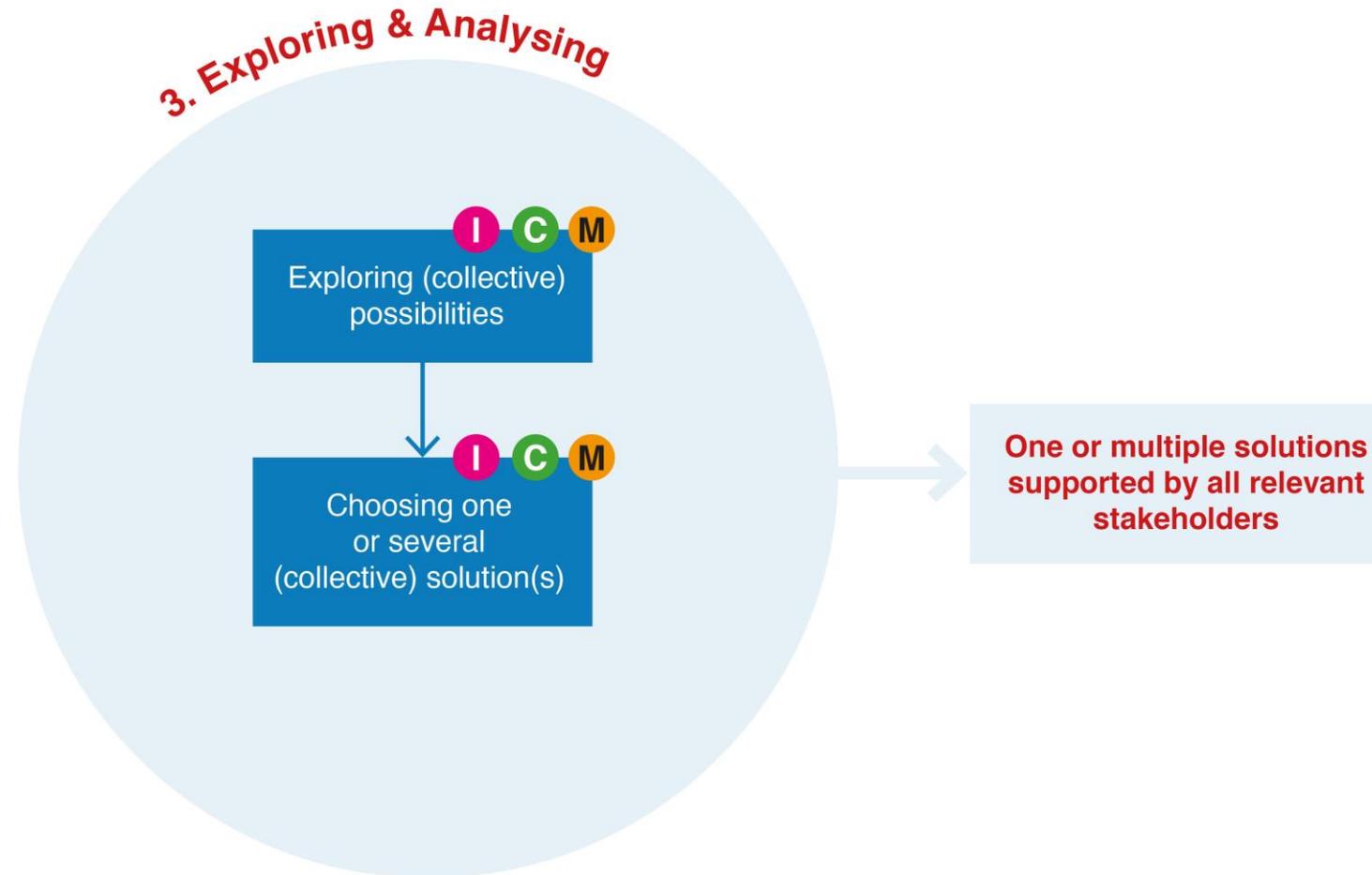
Phase 1



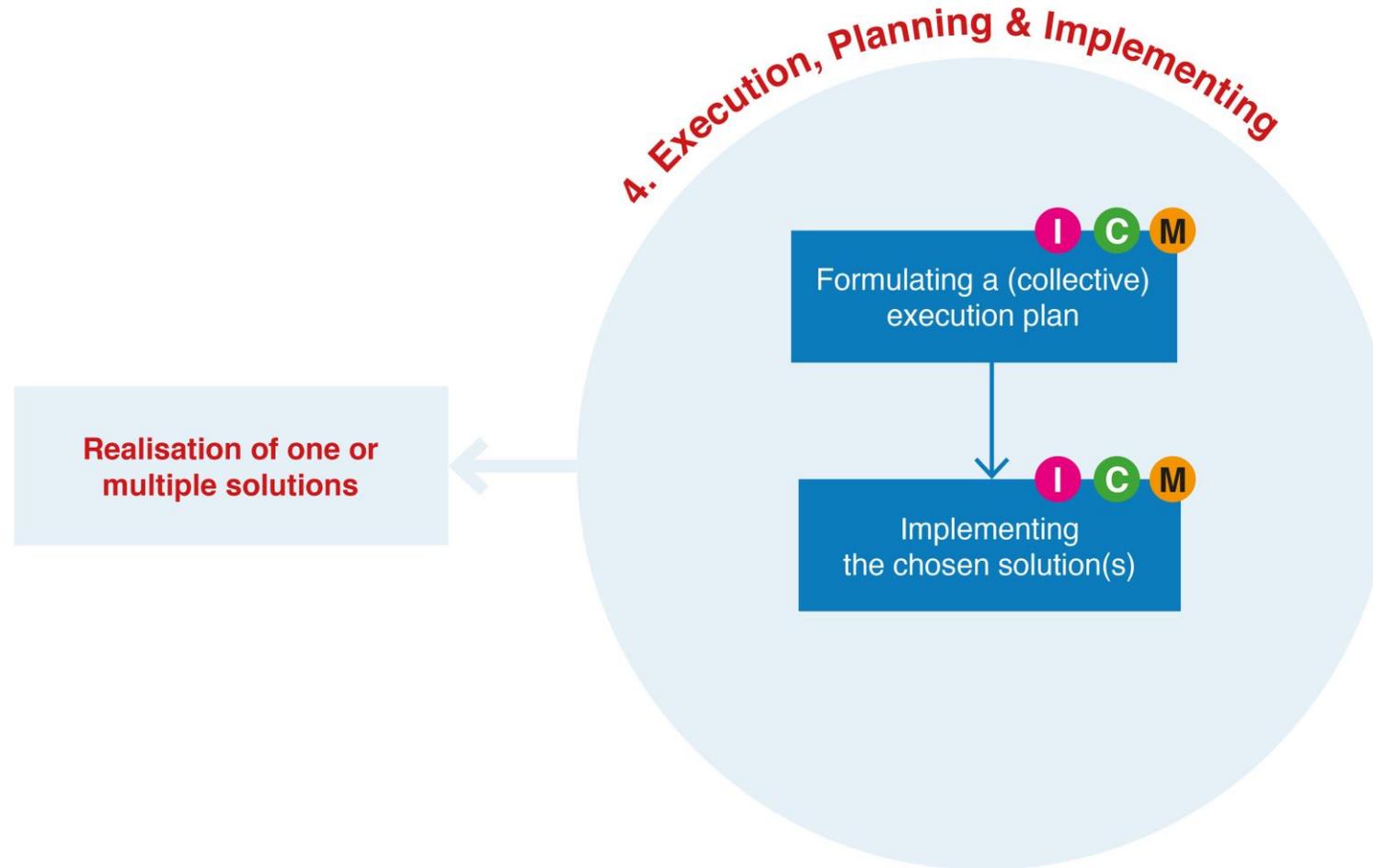
Phase 2



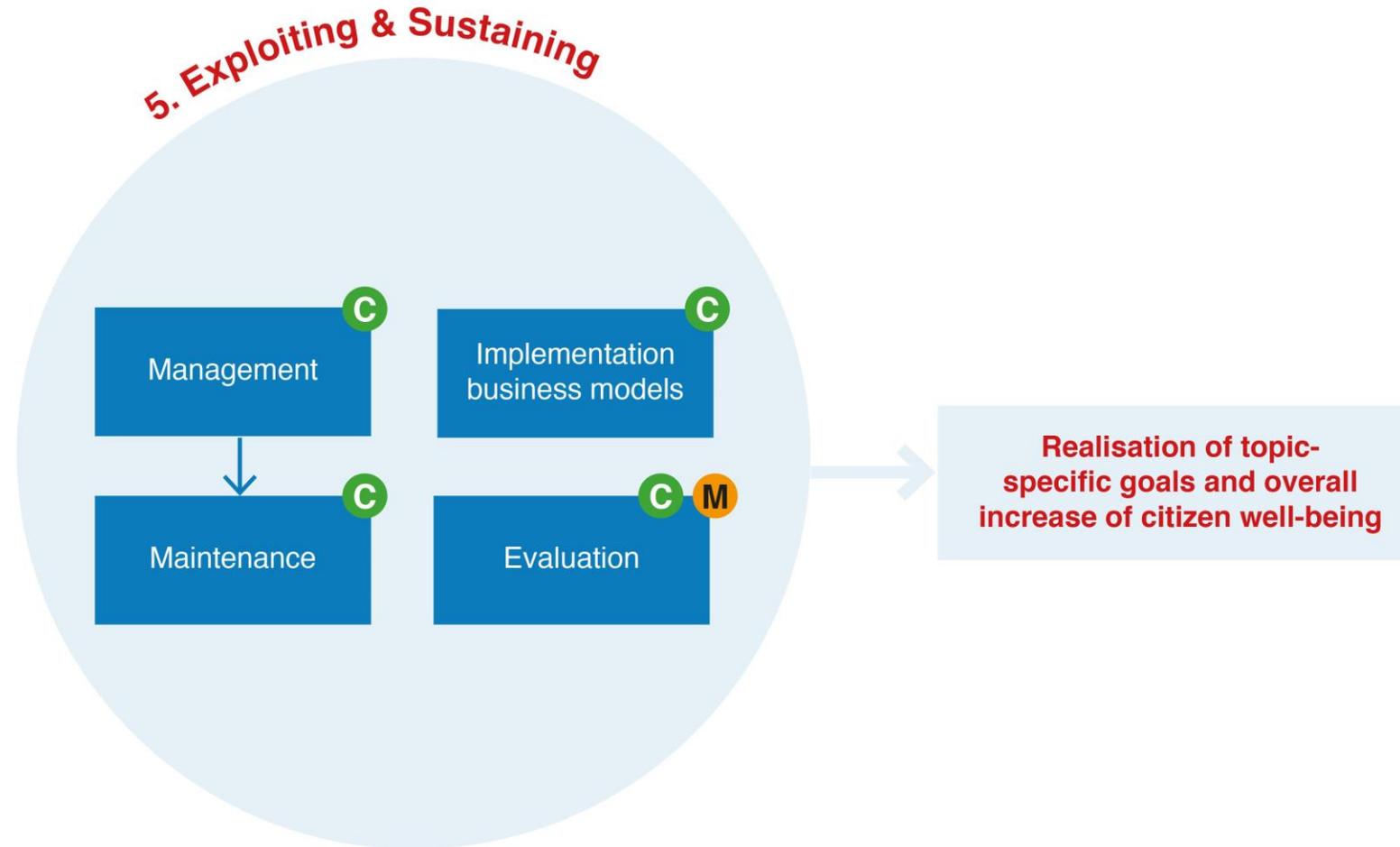
Phase 3



Phase 4



Phase 5



Current activities

- Finalising associated tools and methods
- Different pathways are being tested in neighbourhoods in Groningen (Hoogkerk, Oosterparkbuurt)
- Evaluation of what works and what doesn't

A neighbourhood's energy future (for example, constructing a heat grid) is too complex for 'ordinary' citizens. Decisions regarding these matters should be left to the municipality.

Energy communities are not representative of neighbourhoods, as they only represent a small section of (highly-educated) residents.