

Evaluating the effectiveness of public involvement in a LIFE+ project for improving the coexistence between wolves and humans in Slovenia

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Public participation (PP)

=the "*involvement of citizens in making, understanding, implementing, or evaluating management decisions **for improved wildlife management***" (Chase et al. 2001)

Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – **the Aarhus Convention**



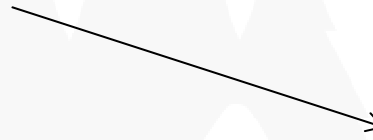
What is good PP? 8 criteria by Reed (2008)

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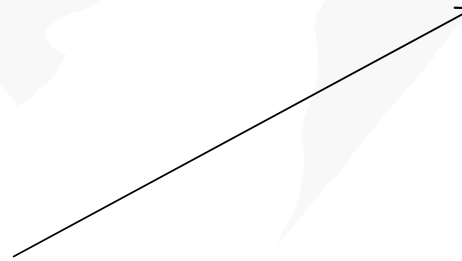
Improving the coexistence

Persuasive communication



Attitude change

(Fishbein & Ajzen 1975)



Active participation

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About the project

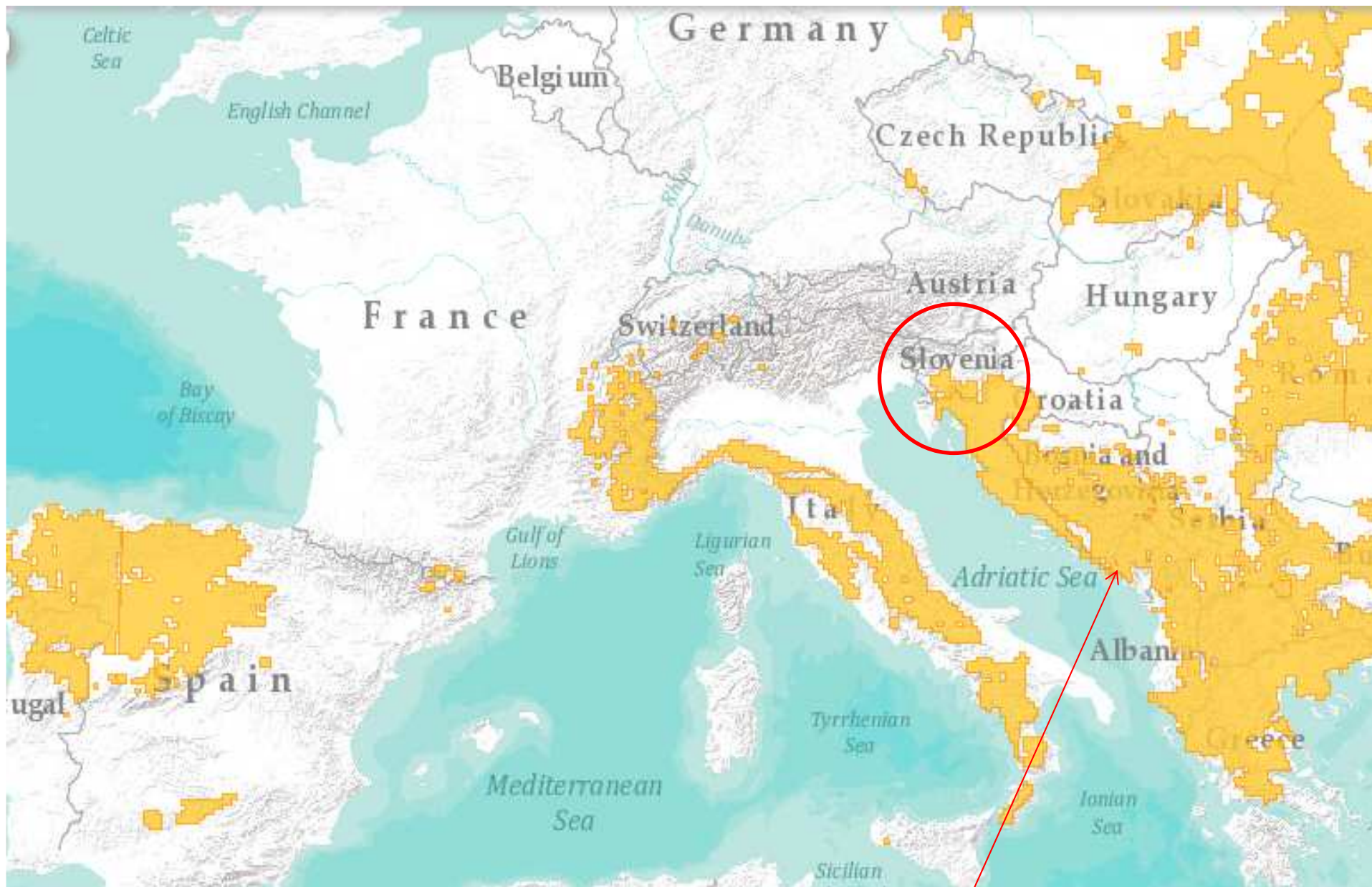


Conservation and surveillance of the conservation status of the wolf (*Canis lupus*) population in Slovenia (2010-2013) – SloWolf

Goals:

- Long-term conservation of wolves in Slovenia
- Study of biological and social aspects of wolf conservation
- Improve local public and hunters' acceptance of wolves





Dinaric-Balkan wolf population

Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Elaboration and revision of wolf population action plan	Representatives of different stakeholders



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Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Analysis of attitudes toward wolves and preparation of management recommendations	General public, hunters, sheep and goat ranchers



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Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Improvement of management of wild ungulate species	Hunters, foresters, biologists



Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Wolf population monitoring	Hunters and interested general public



Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Damage prevention measures	Agriculture advisory service employees



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Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Best practice demonstration of damage prevention measures at selected wolf damage hot-spots	Sheep and goat ranchers



Public and stakeholder involvement



Title of the action	Interest groups
Public awareness and dissemination of results	General public, school children, farmers, hunters



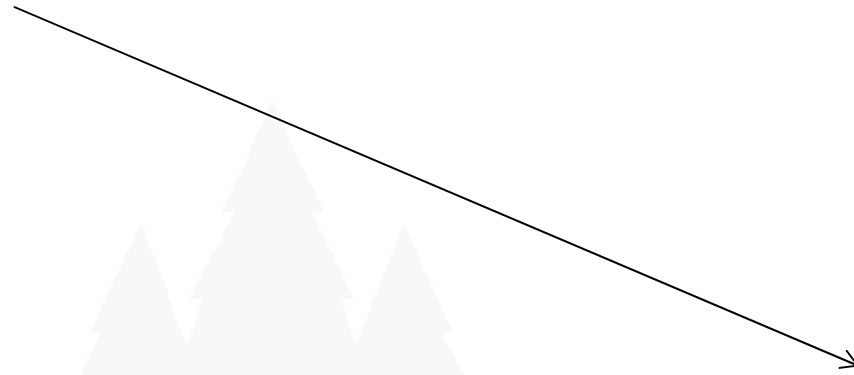
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Evaluating public involvement



...the **impact** of PP



...the **process** of PP

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Methods- evalutaing the process

- Document analysis & in-depth interview with project coordinator
- In-depth interviews with participants
- Quantitative item: attitude change

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Action A2: Elaboration and revision of wolf action plan...goals

Expected results

- Action plan elaborated and presented to the wider public.
- Competent authority accepts the action plan.
- 1000 copies of the action plan printed and distributed to the authorities, managers, stakeholders.

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Action A2: Elaboration and revision of wolf action plan...the process

- Stakeholder analysis
- 47 invitations- 55 participants
- 5 facilitated meetings
- Action plan proposal

COMPLETED

- Government accepts action plan
- Action plan revision

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Action A2: participants

	N of participants	N of interviews
Experts	15	2
Stakeholders	15	3
Government organisations	19	5
Representatives from Croatia	6	2

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Reed's (2008) Criteria	Present	Evidence for	Evidence against
1 philosophy that emphasises empowerment, equity, trust and learning	✓	D✓ C✓ P✓	Do Co Po
2 Early as possible and throughout the process	●	Do C✓ P●	Dx Co Po
3 Relevant stakeholders need to be analysed and represented systematically	✓	D✓ C● P✓	Dx Co Po
4 Clear objectives agreed among stakeholders at the outset	✓	D✓ C● P✓	Dx Cx Po
5 Methods should be selected and tailored to the decision-making context	✓	D● C✓ P✓	Dx Co Po
6 Highly skilled facilitation	●	Dx C✓ P✓	Dx Co Po
7 Integration of local and scientific knowledge	●	D✓ C✓ P✓	Dx Cx Po
8 Institutionalisation of participation	○	Do C● Po	Dx Co Po

✓ a lot ● medium ○ little x not present

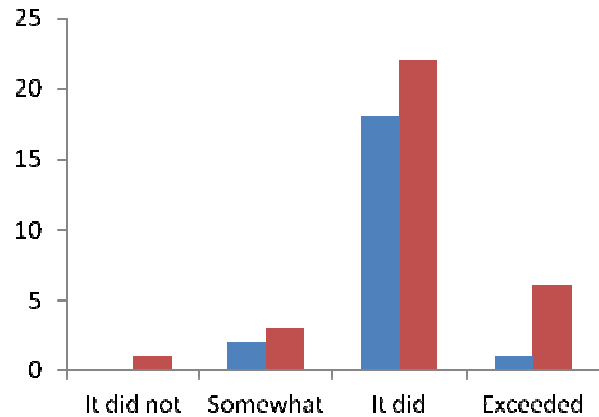
D documents:

action plan, workshop reports, invitation letter, project application

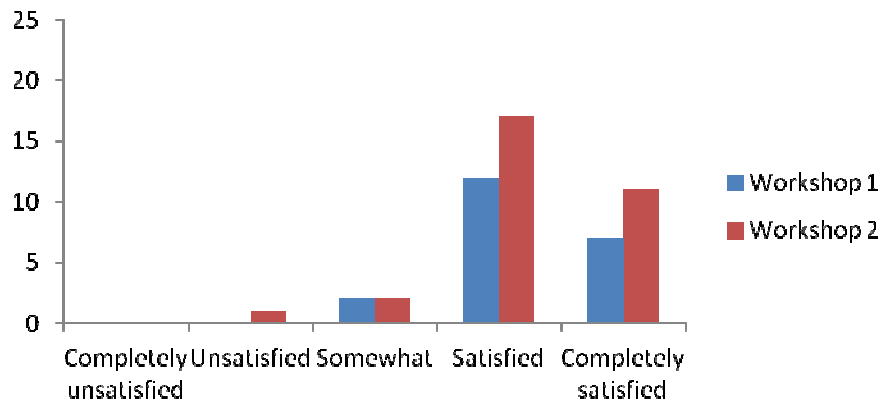
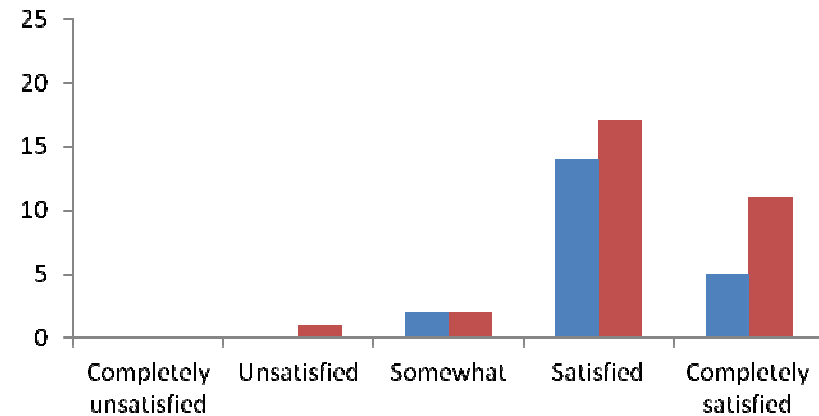
C project coordinator

P participants

How satisfied were you...



... with the presentations in the beginning?



...with the working process?

Lessons learned

- No big differences in perceptions of good PP between experts and stakeholders
- Consensus vs. Compromise- lack of understanding
- **Quality of the PP proces matters!** However, if the outcomes are delayed, this might degrade the perception of the quality of the process.
- Limitations of wolf conservation projects in ensuring good PP

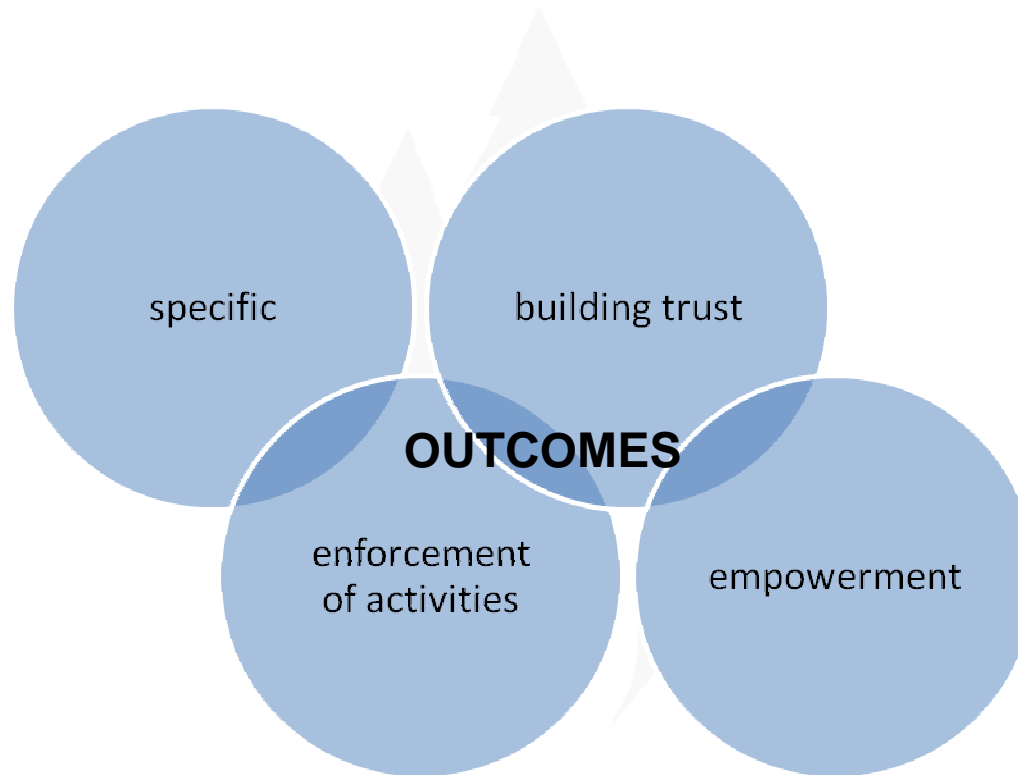
Thank you for your attention!



Questions?



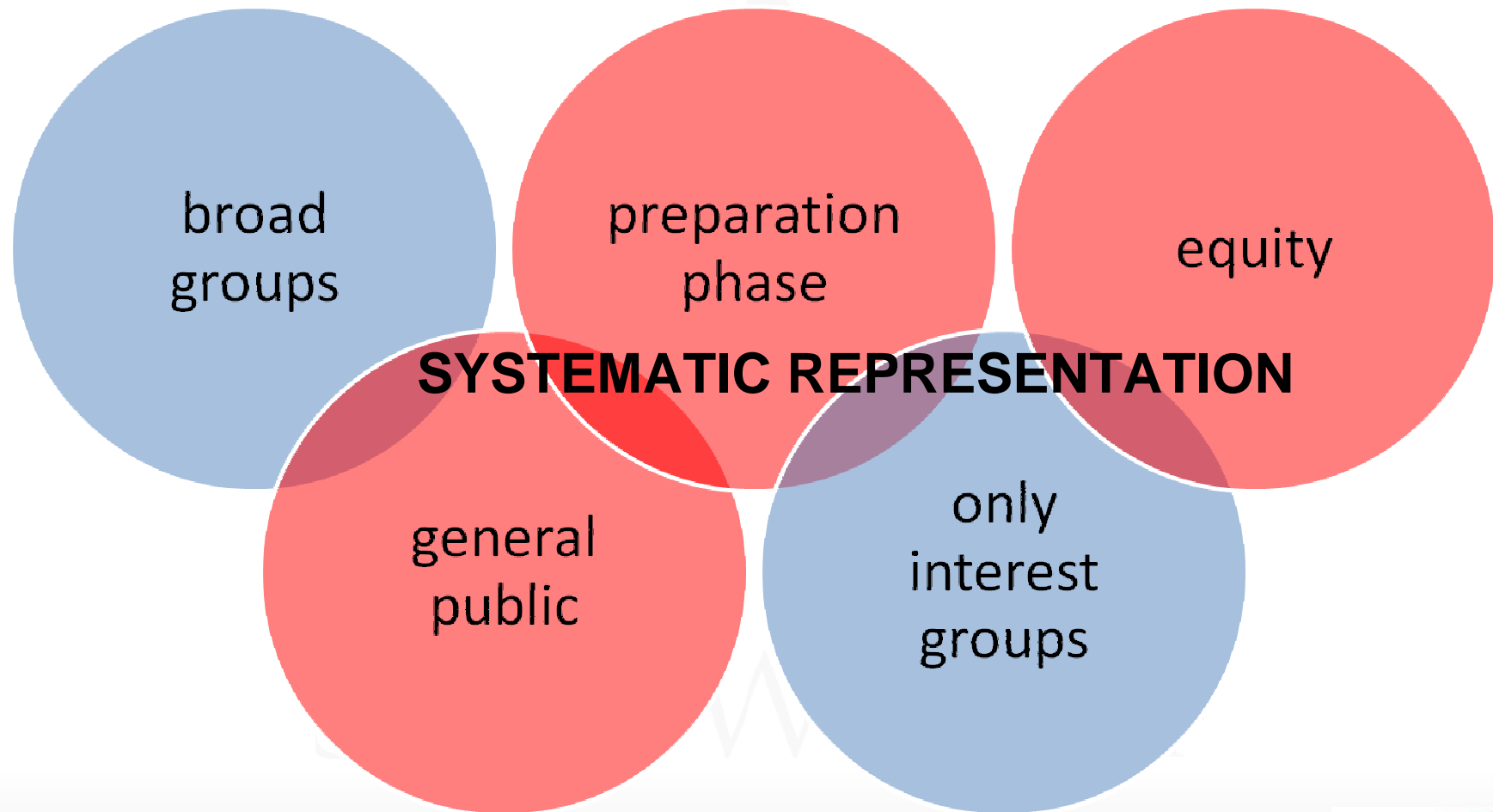
How do participants envision a good PP process?



„If the process is good, then the oucomes are good.“

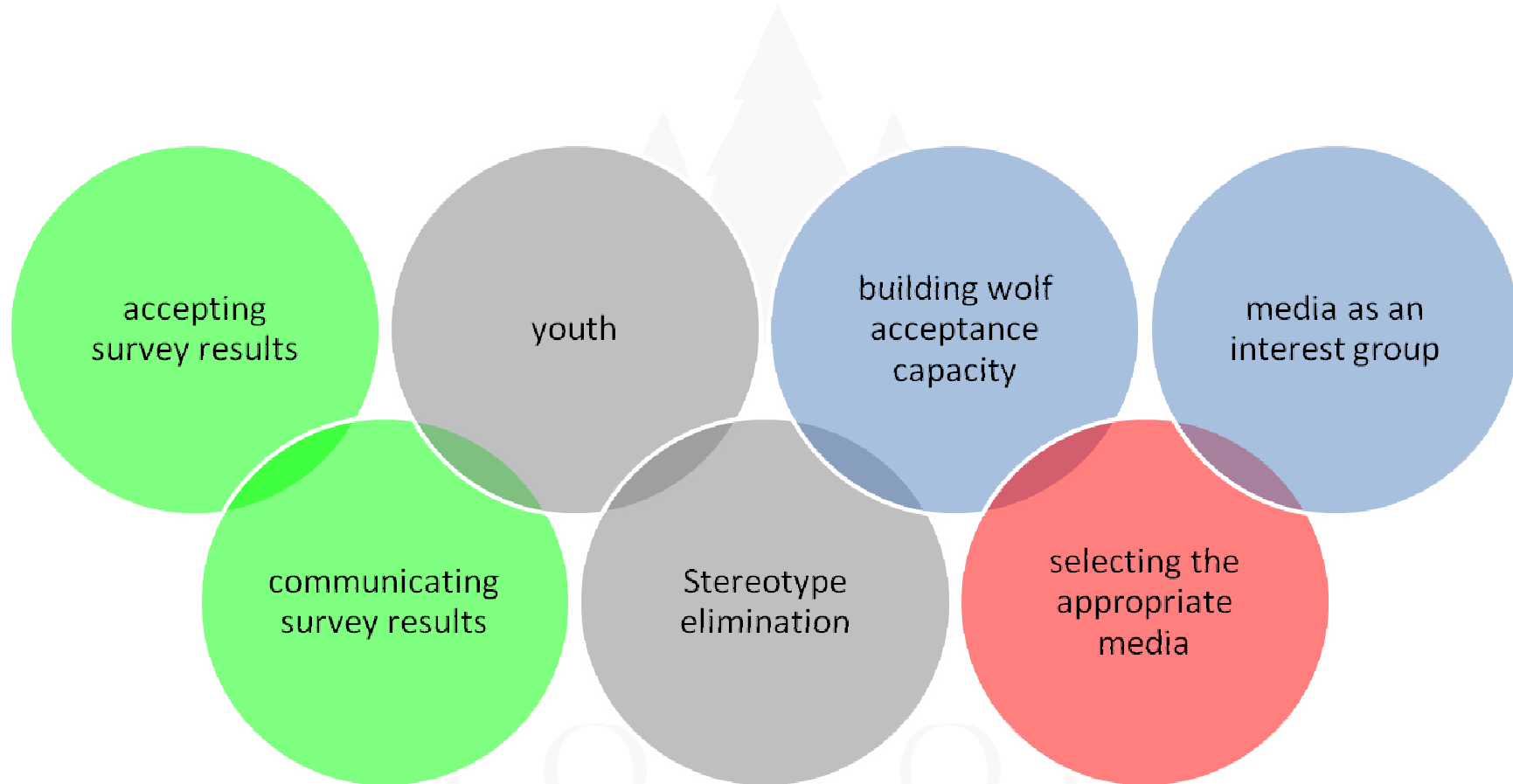
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„We shouldn't be afraid of those, who think differently, but invite them to join.“



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GENERAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



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