

CITIES AS ARENAS OF POLITICAL INNOVATION IN THE STRENGTHENING OF DELIBERATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

# Welcome to the EUARENAS project - and to our first newsletter!



As different forms of citizen participation have started to transform their governance cultures, cities have emerged as vital political arenas and laboratories for the development of European political life and public sphere and the promotion of inclusion, social agendas and active citizenship. Cities have also emerged as promoters of social agendas neglected or marginalised by national and international politics.

Against this background, EUARENAS investigates the ways in which social movements coupled with local government reform initiatives, manifesting themselves in local-level experiments, create momentum for political change that include more inclusive and participatory forms of governance.

In other words, EUARENAS responds to a major European challenge the need to strengthen legitimacy, identification and engagement within the democratic public sphere.



## A year of EUARENAS





### First face-to-face meeting in Helsinki

Earlier in November, we were thrilled to finally welcome the partners to the first in-person meeting in Helsinki.

The three-day workshop was a welcome occasion for the consortium to convene, reflect on progress, and brainstorm about future activities.

The systemic approach to deliberative democracy

The systemic turn in deliberative theory – while broadly accepted – is rarely empirically tested and discussed to identify its strengths and weaknesses.

We find in our project a perfect space for asking such questions.

# Community Reporting in training

Partners got to grips with storytelling techniques such as dialogue interviewing and curation processes that support researchers to understand the insights that can be found in people's stories.

#### **Check out our Deliverables**



**Conceptual Framework** 

by SWPS University of Social Sciences and Humanities for Work Package 1

The Framework identify potential conceptual ambiguities within the scope of our project, and offers several topics and potentially inspiring debates within the fields of discourse studies, argumentative public policy, radical democracy, populism, leadership.



Media Discourse Foresight Guide

by People's Voice Media for Work Package  $\ensuremath{\overset{5}{5}}$ 

Through a series of practical activities and step-by-step instructions, the Guide enables practitioners from different sectors to use media discourses as source material for signals about our future and to explore the drivers of change in society.

## Get your EUARENAS postcard here!





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## **EUARENAS**

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