

# Information, participation and legitimacy: Intermediaries linking individuals with policy-making

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## Motivation and objectives of the paper

- Stakeholder involvement in modern policy-making: high uncertainty and high political stakes ( $\approx S3$ )
- Govts. face contradictory incentives to broaden stakeholder involvement: limiting participation may be a rational response
- Representativeness of the stakeholder pool is a key enabling factor
- Focus on the voiceless: individuals with no representation
- Propose a new focus and role on a type of platform and intermediaries that could improve the decision-making process both in terms of knowledge mobilisation and legitimacy (-> desirable for policy makers)

# Theoretical background

Why stakeholder involvement is so necessary?

(i) For aligning real needs, policy objectives, and means to achieve them

-> planning approach (rationality)

(ii) For tapping tacit knowledge and information in response to uncertainty

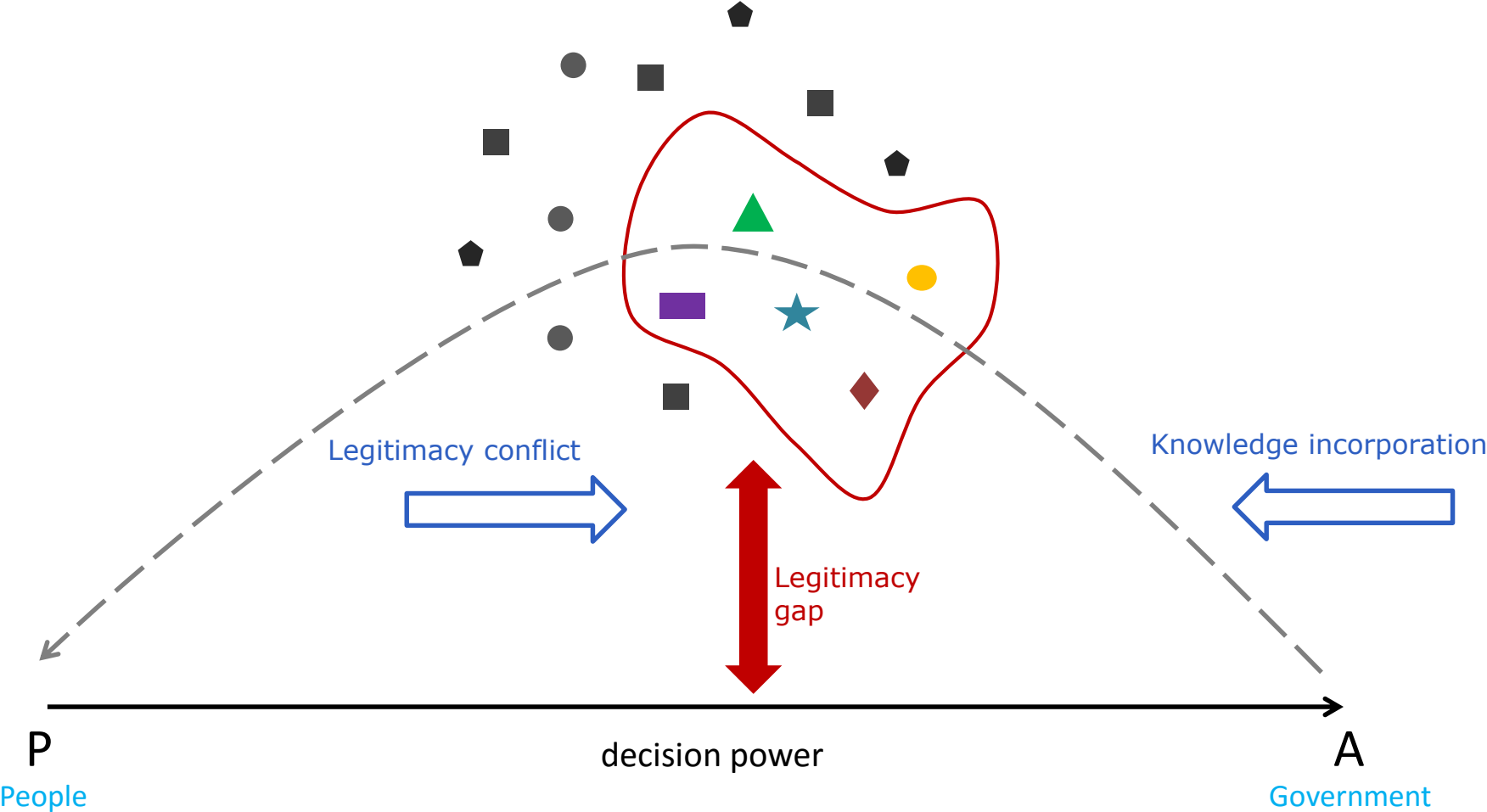
-> information processing view of govt. (bounded rationality)

**Positive incentive to stakeholder involvement:** To have more sustainable and effective policies that tackle real needs and can be implemented, govt. should open up the process to stakeholder participation

## IMPORTANT TO BE HIGHLIGHTED

- Implication is a more iterative, trial-and-error type of decision-making process
- Exemplifies S3: EDP in its recursive fashion (i.e. how it is currently understood)

# Principal – Agent revisited



## Representativeness

- How can govts. ensure representativeness of all relevant innovation actors?
- Bias towards established organised interests
- Used to involve ***professional stakeholders*** who are "paid representatives of organized interests and public officials" (Fung)
- **Normative implications:**
  - Work on **representativeness** or stakeholder participation may be limited, superficial or may even fight back
  - **Focus on the representation of the 'voiceless'** (yet-to-be entrepreneurs & potential agents of change who have not yet become visible in this role)

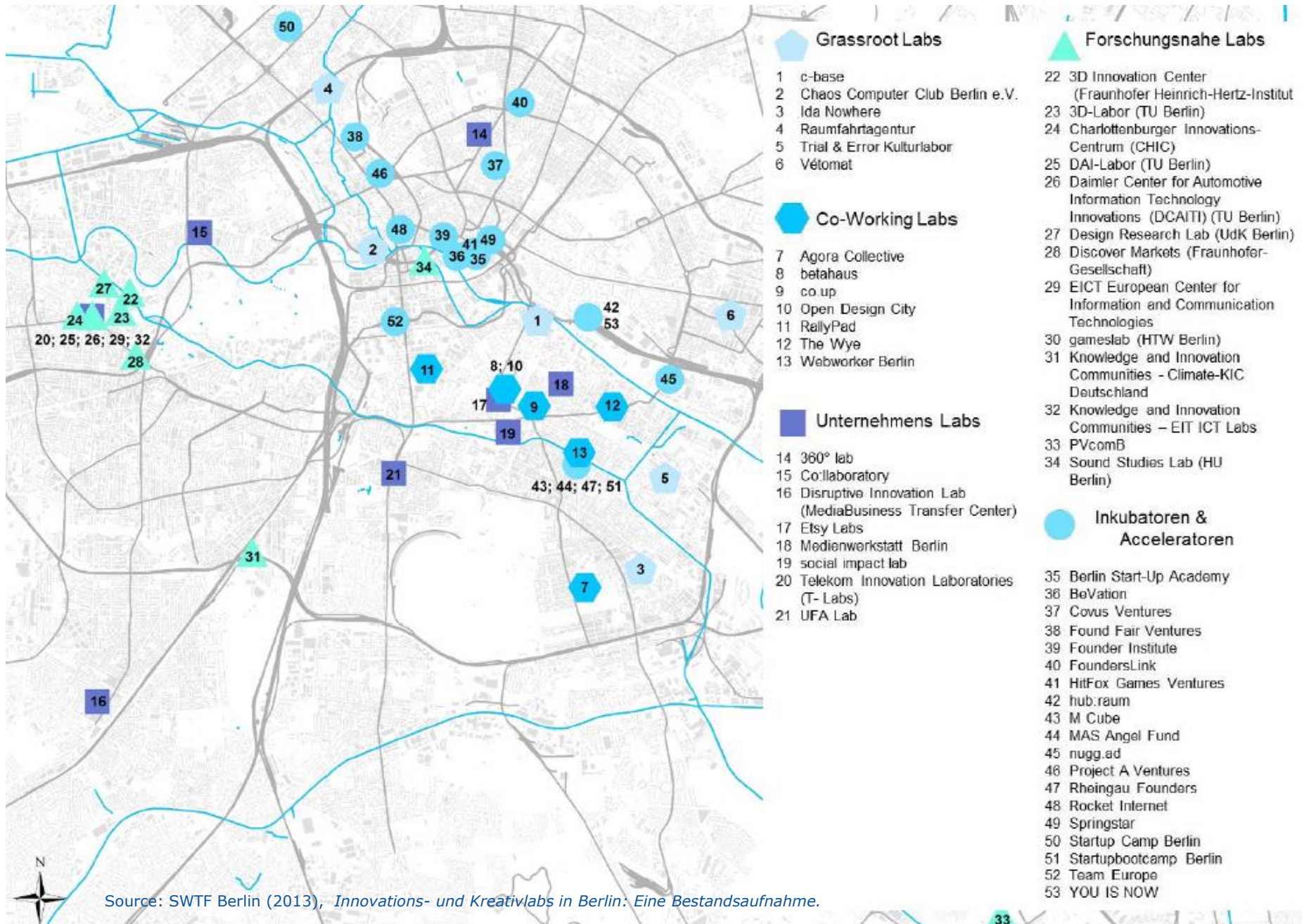
## Solutions?

- Work with an emerging range of organisations and associations = **intermediaries or platforms** gathering these voiceless individuals
    - “An organization or body that acts as an agent or broker in any aspect of the innovation process between two or more parties” (Howells 2006)
  - (i) Potentially contribute wide range of experience, practices and knowledge that are not codified and may escape from analytical nets
  - (ii) Works of perceived as sufficiently accessible to and by citizens and individuals
- ➔ decentralised network of fora for individuals to meet is where EDP happens
- ➔ S3 governance provides layer to aggregate their input



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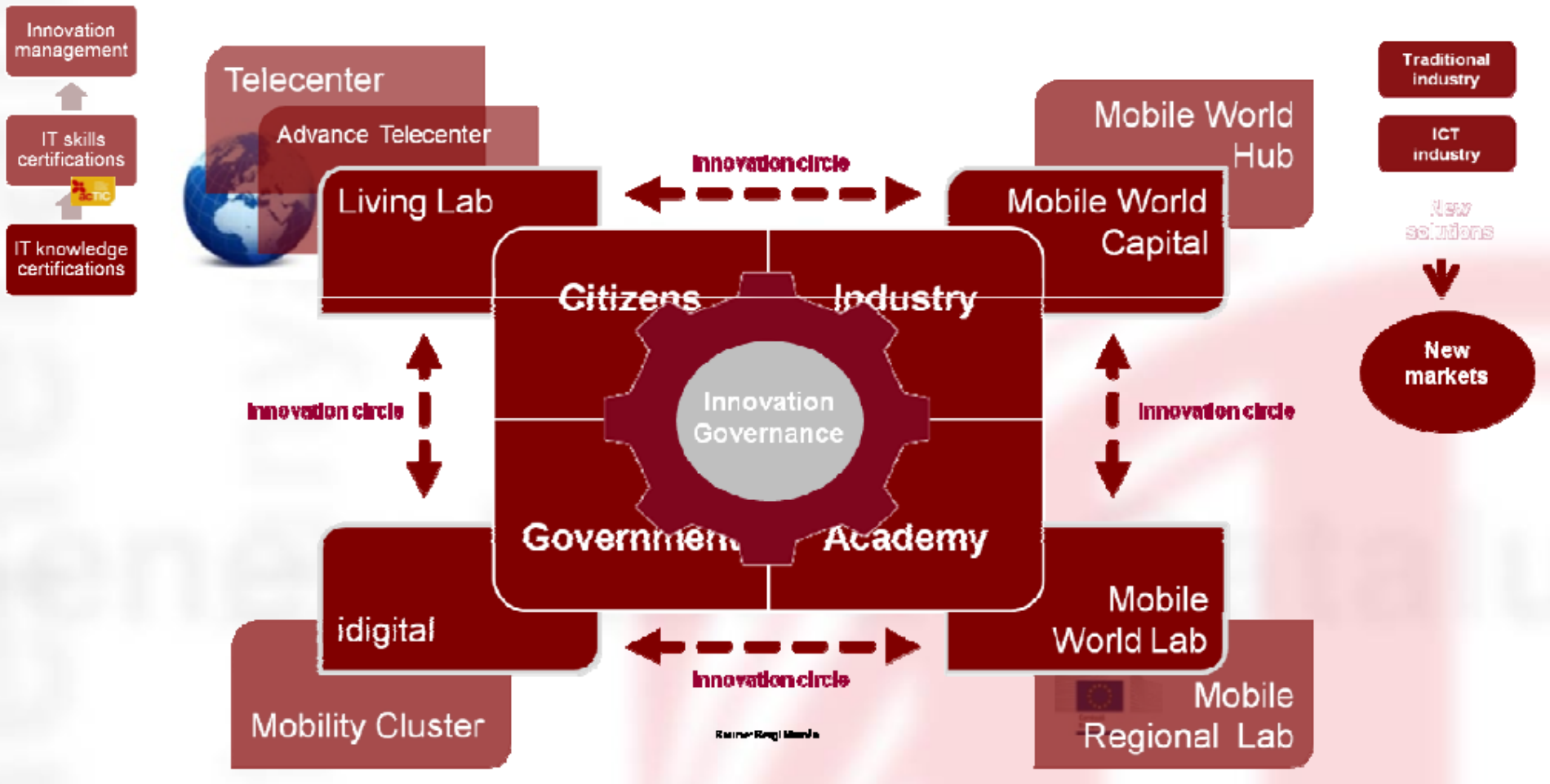
# Berlin





# Case Study

## “The Catalan Mobile Innovation Strategy based in QH”

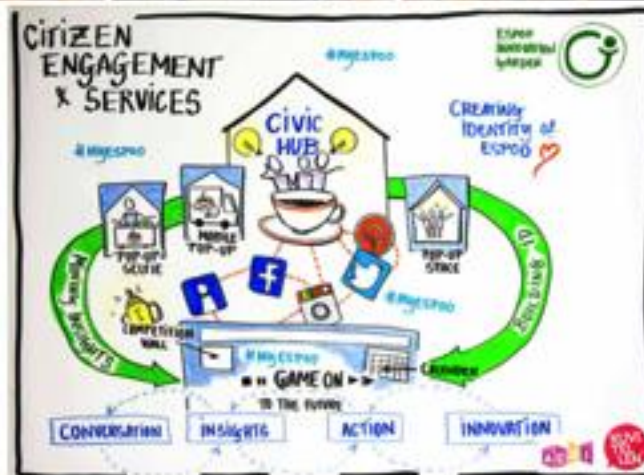


# Innovation Camps

**A tool for intermediary organisations to facilitate an i-QH?**

## CHALLENGE I

Espoo West Metro  
Corridor as an Innovation  
Implementation Zone



# Further reading

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# Thank you!

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