



## PROJECT 101055705 — DIALOG CITY

### DELIVERABLE 3.12 METHODOLOGY TESTING MEETING

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Deliverable number:  | 3.12                            |
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| Work Package:        | 3                               |
| Lead Beneficiary:    | CulturePolis                    |



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## Introduction

The **Dialog City Methodology Testing Session** took place on **31 October 2025**, as part of the online networking event *Our Common Future – Prototyping Urban Futures*, organized by **CulturePolis** under the auspices of the [UN World Cities Day and the Urban October initiative of UN-Habitat](#). The event brought together municipal and regional authorities, cultural and educational professionals, urban planners, futurists, artists, and civic leaders from across Europe to reflect on the role of culture and participation in shaping the cities of tomorrow.

This dedicated session was designed to **test and validate the concept of the Dialog City methodology**; a prototype framework developed throughout the four-year project. The methodology aims to generate creative ideas and participatory processes that can transform the way citizens imagine, understand, and engage with future cities — particularly in an era defined by rapid technological change, environmental challenges, and social complexity.

The testing came at a strategic point in the project's timeline, following the completion of all major activities — the Citizen Archive Platform, Hybrid Festivals, and Futures Literacy Workshops — which together form the three pillars of the Dialog City approach. Presenting the methodology at this stage allowed the project team to gather **structured feedback from stakeholders** on its clarity, relevance, and adaptability before finalizing it into a transferable model for wider European use.

Positioned within the broader context of World Cities Day, the session emphasized the importance of cultural and imaginative tools in urban governance and sustainability. It invited participants to explore how Dialog City's integrated, people-centered approach could be applied or adapted to their own local realities, reinforcing the project's commitment to openness, collaboration, and long-term impact.

## Presentation Overview

Speaker: Maria-Louiza Laopodi, Operations Expert, CulturePolis

Duration: 15:40–16:00 CET

Session: **DIALOG CITY Methodology**

Presentation of the Methodology Manual

Discussion on potential adaptability with participants

The methodology testing session was led by Maria-Louiza Laopodi on behalf of CulturePolis, the coordinating partner of the Work Package 3 and the current deliverable. The presentation introduced participants to the concept and scope of the Dialog City methodology – a prototype framework designed to support citizen-centered innovation in urban environments through the integration of cultural participation, artistic practice, and anticipatory thinking.



At its core, the methodology represents a systemic approach that connects artistic and civic engagement with policy innovation. It is not a static toolkit but a living process that evolves through practice, feedback, and co-creation. The purpose of presenting it at this stage of the project was to validate its internal logic, practical applicability, and potential for replication in diverse European contexts.

The presentation was structured around the three methodological pillars that underpin the Dialog City framework:

1. Citizen Archive Platform – a digital participatory tool that collects and curates citizens' stories, memories, and experiences to reveal local perspectives on urban transformation. The platform functions as both a community archive and a mechanism for knowledge exchange between citizens and decision-makers.
2. Hybrid Festivals – public cultural events combining online and onsite activities where citizens, artists, and policymakers collaborate to imagine and prototype new urban futures. The festivals serve as

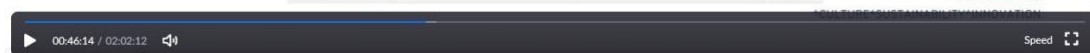
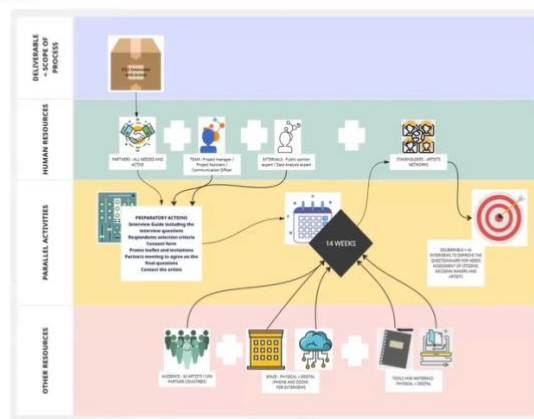
testing grounds for creative engagement, reinforcing the social dimension of smart cities.

3. Futures Literacy Workshops – inspired by the UNESCO-recognized framework, these workshops use futures thinking as a civic skill, helping participants explore multiple possible futures, reflect on change, and reimagine local development strategies through creativity and collaboration.

To help participants visualize how these three pillars interact, the speaker presented a series of process diagrams developed within the project. These illustrated the step-by-step logic of each component — from community engagement and data collection to reflection, learning, and application in local contexts. The visuals emphasized the circular and iterative nature of the methodology, highlighting feedback loops between citizens, artists, and decision-makers.

## DIALOG CITY Methodology

Our approach



The presentation concluded with an open call for feedback. Participants were invited to reflect on three guiding questions:

**Clarity:** Is the methodology's structure and purpose easily understood?

**Adaptability:** Can this approach be applied within your city, institution, or community context?

**Usability:** What would make it easier for you to engage with or implement it locally?

These questions set the foundation for the discussion and for collecting valuable input from municipal representatives, cultural actors, and other stakeholders during the remainder of the event.



## DIALOG CITY Methodology



### What We're Testing Today

- 💡 Clarity: Does the process make sense?
- 🌱 Adaptability: How could it evolve to fit different contexts?
- 🍀 Relevance: Could it work for your city or sector?

\*Use the chat to share your opinion



## Participation

The Methodology Testing Session brought together a diverse and international group of participants representing the various stakeholder groups targeted by the Dialog City project. The event had 51 registrations and in total, **more than 25 attendees** joined the session online, including representatives from municipal and regional authorities, cultural and educational institutions, artists, researchers, urban planners, and civil society organizations.

Among the municipal participants were officials from partner and collaborating cities such as Aschaffenburg (Germany) and Mondovì (Italy), along with delegates from other European municipalities interested in learning about participatory and culture-driven approaches to urban transformation. Their presence ensured that the feedback collected reflected both the policy and practitioner perspectives central to the Dialog City vision.

The event also attracted members of the artistic community who had previously participated in the Dialog City Hybrid Festivals and Futures Literacy workshops.

This diverse mix of participants ensured a multidisciplinary exchange, reinforcing the cross-sectoral spirit of the project and the inclusiveness of the methodology under review.

A full list of registrations and countries of the registered participants is provided in Annex 4 of this report. in [Annex 4](#) of this report.

### Key Feedback and Observations

The methodology testing session was designed as an open and interactive exchange, inviting participants to comment on the clarity, relevance, and adaptability of the proposed Dialog City methodology. Feedback was gathered both verbally during the discussion and through written comments submitted via email after the event.

Overall, participants welcomed the methodology as a valuable and innovative framework for connecting artistic and civic engagement with local governance. The presentation was perceived as clear and conceptually strong, while participants also shared constructive recommendations on how the model could evolve into a more practical and transferable tool for diverse urban contexts.

The main feedback can be grouped into three thematic clusters:

#### A. Clarity: Understanding the Framework

Participants generally found the methodology's structure and logic easy to follow. The visualization of the three pillars — *Citizen Archive Platform*, *Hybrid Festivals*, and *Futures Literacy Workshops* — helped make the abstract concept tangible. Several participants appreciated the way Dialog City combines *technological innovation* with *cultural participation*, seeing this as a bridge between digital transformation and social inclusion.

However, some attendees suggested that the methodology could benefit from clearer definitions of key concepts (e.g., what constitutes a “prototype,” or how “futures literacy” translates into actionable results for municipalities). Simplifying terminology and offering examples of practical applications in local settings were seen as essential for ensuring accessibility to non-expert audiences such as local administrators or small cultural organizations.

#### B. Relevance: Perceived Usefulness and Impact

Feedback from municipal and institutional representatives highlighted the relevance of the methodology to current urban challenges. Many participants recognized its potential to enhance citizen engagement in planning and policy-making, especially in smaller or mid-sized cities that often lack participatory frameworks.

At the same time, participants underlined the importance of contextual flexibility. Each city operates within different administrative, cultural, and technological environments. Therefore, the Dialog City methodology should include guidelines for adaptation to various governance scales, policy frameworks, and levels of digital readiness.

### C. Adaptability: Future Applications and Transferability

It is too soon to gather wide interest of the methodology as it has not been presented in its entirety to a professional audience.

Nonetheless, some participants expressed strong interest in investigating further applying or adapting the methodology beyond the project's partner network. To support this potential, participants recommended that the final version of the methodology include:

- A modular format, allowing users to implement one or more pillars independently.
- Step-by-step guidance with visual flowcharts and case examples.
- Practical templates and evaluation tools, to help users measure the social impact of cultural interventions.
- Training opportunities (e.g., webinars or short courses) to help practitioners become familiar with futures literacy and participatory methods.

Those parts are part of the Dialog City deliverables and will be made available after the completion of the project on the project's website at <http://dialogcity.eu>.

### Conclusions & Next Steps

The Dialog City Methodology Testing Session provided valuable confirmation that the project's integrated approach — connecting digital participation, cultural engagement, and futures thinking — holds significant potential for use in diverse European urban contexts. Participants from municipalities, cultural institutions, and civil society highlighted the clarity, relevance, and

adaptability of the methodology, while also contributing practical suggestions to improve its clarity and usability.

The feedback gathered during the session will inform the final refinement of the methodology, ensuring it is more accessible, modular, and actionable for future adopters. In particular, the project team will work toward:

- Developing clearer definitions and a common terminology for practitioners and policymakers.
- Expanding visual materials and case-based examples to illustrate each process step.

These next steps will lead to the publication of the Dialog City Methodology Manual in 2026, which will synthesize the project's outcomes and serve as an open-source reference for cities, networks, and cultural organizations interested in applying creative and participatory approaches to urban transformation.

The session also marked a symbolic transition for the project — from testing to sustainability. By engaging a European community of municipal representatives, artists, and visionaries in this process, Dialog City has taken an important step toward becoming a replicable model for cultural innovation in urban governance.

## ANNEXES

### 1. Agenda

#### **OUR COMMON FUTURE – Prototyping Urban Futures** **An Online Networking Event Celebrating UN World Cities Day**

 **Date:** 31 October 2025

 **Time:** 15:00–17:30 CET / 16:00–18:30 EET

 **Platform:** Online (Zoom)

 **Participants:** European municipalities, cultural institutions, civic actors, and urban futures thinkers

#### **Agenda**

Moderator: Maria-Louiza Laopodi, CulturePolis

#### **15:00–15:20 | Opening & Welcome**

- What is the UN World Cities Day and Urban October, CulturePolis
- Welcome by Mayor of the city of Aschaffenburg, Eric Leiderer
- Presentation of the [DIALOG CITY project](#), Dr. Vaios Kalogrias, Deputy Archive Director and Historian & David Reis, Deputy department operator, Database-expert, Stadt- und Stiftsarchiv Aschaffenburg

#### **15:20–15:40 | Keynote: “The Future of Cities is Cultural”**

- Exploring the cultural dimension of urban transformation, Romain Minod, Director, Quatorze

#### **15:40–16:00 | [DIALOG CITY](#) Methodology**

- Presentation of the Methodology Manual, Maria-Louiza Laopodi, CulturePolis
- Discussion on potential adaptability with participants

#### **16:00–16:20 | Presenting the Prototype: OUR COMMON FUTURE**

- Overview of the Futures Literacy workshops and use of the methodology by trained artists, Laura Cassardo, Faculty Manager, Consorzio Interaziendale Canavesano per la Formazione Professionale CIAC

- Short presentation of the Training Guidebook & Toolkit, Lucilla Stenca, Erasmus Coordinator, Centro Formazione Professionale Cebane Monregalese
- Results and feedback from participants

### **16:20–16:40 | Voices from the Cities**

- Reflections from pilot municipalities
  - From the Municipality of Aschaffenburg, Germany by Dr. Vaios Kalogrias, Deputy Archive Director and Historian
  - From the Municipality of Mondovi, Italy by Dr. Diego Sgarlato, Head of the Department of Education, Culture, Sport, Welfare, and Leisure
- A cross-sector dialogue on participatory future-making in cities

### **16:40–17:00 | Sustainability & Next Steps**

- Future of the project and opportunities to engage, Stefan Horn, Artistic Director, Dialog City

### **17:00–17:30 | Closing Remarks**

## **2. List of dissemination activities**

- [CulturePolis website post](#)
- [Dialog City project page post](#)
- Social media posts in CulturePolis's channels ([FB event](#), [LinkedIn event](#), Instagram [posts](#))
- Email invitations
- Newsletter CulturePolis
- Advertising of social media events throughout October 2025

## **3. Video of the recording of the event**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/aStU9fobZMb3OCuHeXu\\_0b6wHzp8Os\\_e37UvnCh3etpzdqwDT6M1dMdosx7CgDQdW.VuG1r38\\_fmzUfw21?startTime=1761919352000](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/aStU9fobZMb3OCuHeXu_0b6wHzp8Os_e37UvnCh3etpzdqwDT6M1dMdosx7CgDQdW.VuG1r38_fmzUfw21?startTime=1761919352000)

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#### 4. List of registrations and countries

We had 51 participants registered from the following countries:

1. Austria
2. Belgium
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina
4. Bulgaria
5. Cyprus
6. Denmark
7. Estonia
8. France
9. Germany
10. Greece
11. Hungary
12. Italy
13. Lithuania
14. Malta
15. North Macedonia
16. Poland
17. Portugal
18. Romania
19. Serbia
20. Ukraine
21. Vietnam

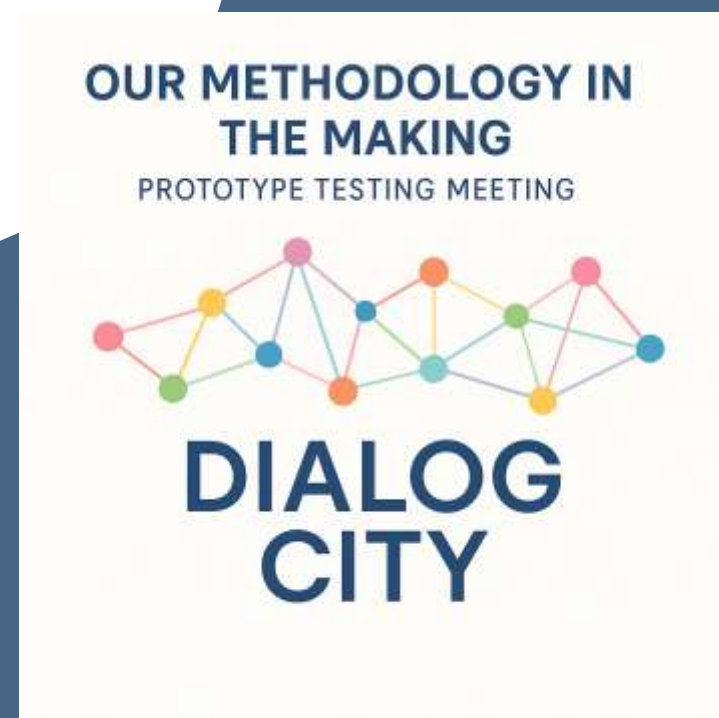
33 identified as female, 18 as male.

In terms of age groups, here are the registered data:

- 1 person aged 18 to 15 years old
- 2 persons aged 26 to 30 years old
- 15 persons aged 31 to 40 years old
- 18 persons aged 41 to 50 years old
- 12 persons aged 51 to 60 years old
- 2 persons aged 61 to 70 years old
- 1 person aged 70+ years old

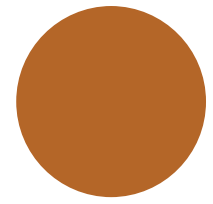
## 5. The PPT presentation

# Prototyping participatory futures for cities in transition



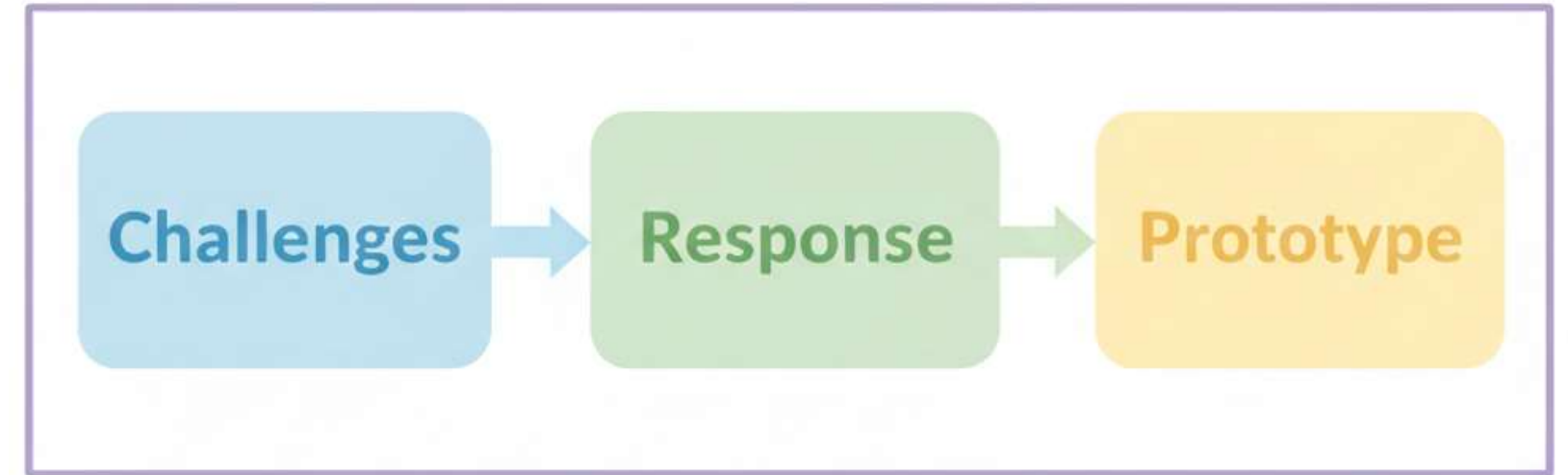
October 2025

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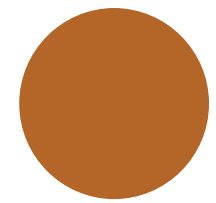


# DIALOG CITY Methodology

Why a Methodology?



- Challenges: rapid tech change, crises, urban complexity
- Response: citizens need cultural tools to navigate the future
- Prototype: a living methodology that blends art, tech, participation & foresight



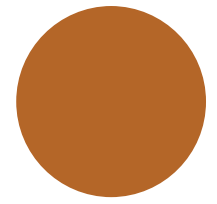
# DIALOG CITY Methodology

## The Three Pillars of Dialog City



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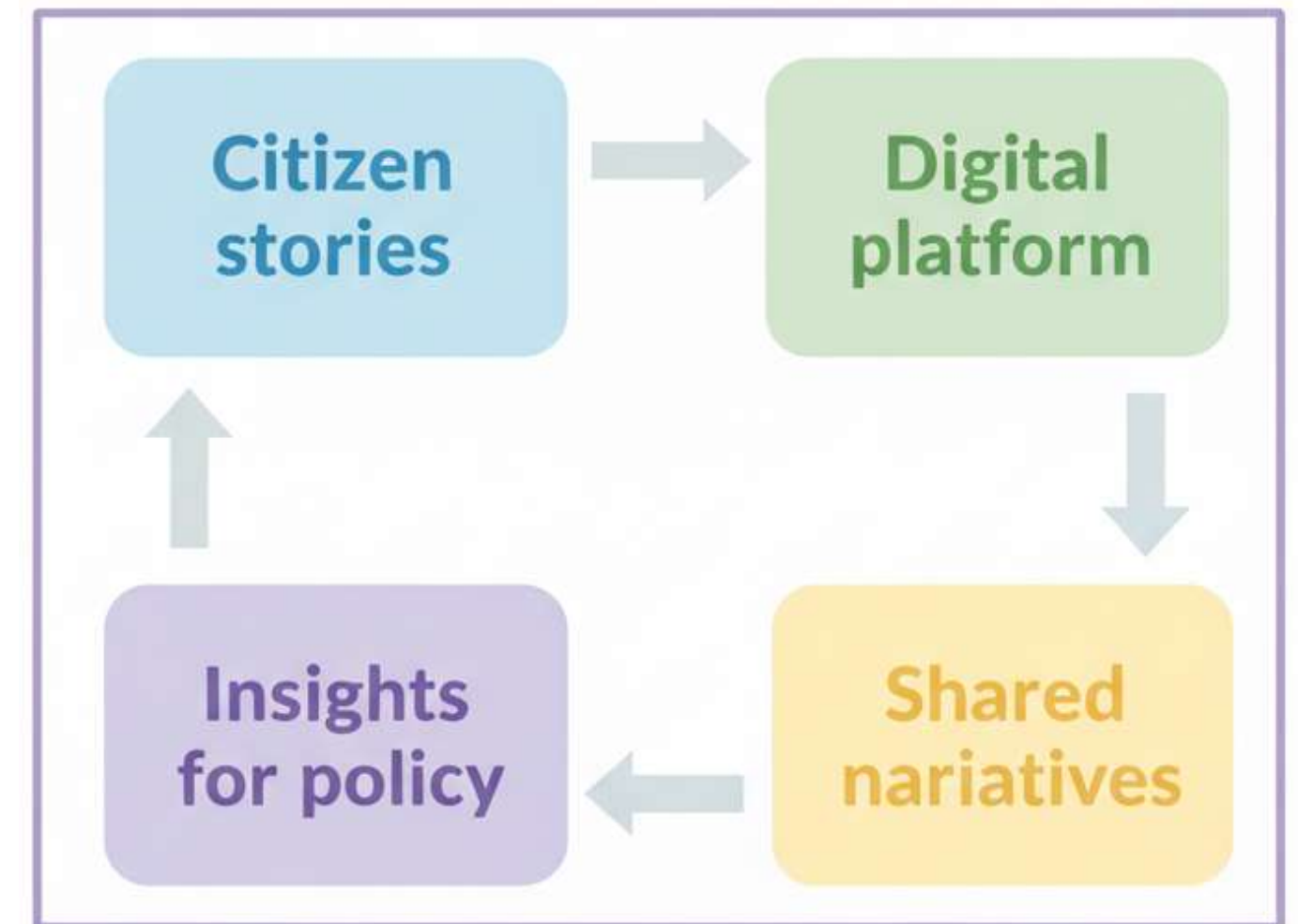
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# DIALOG CITY Methodology

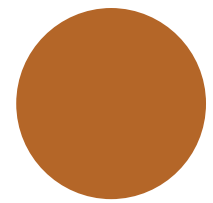
## Pillar 1: Archiving our city: Citizen Archiving Platform

= Memory  $\times$  Digital Participation



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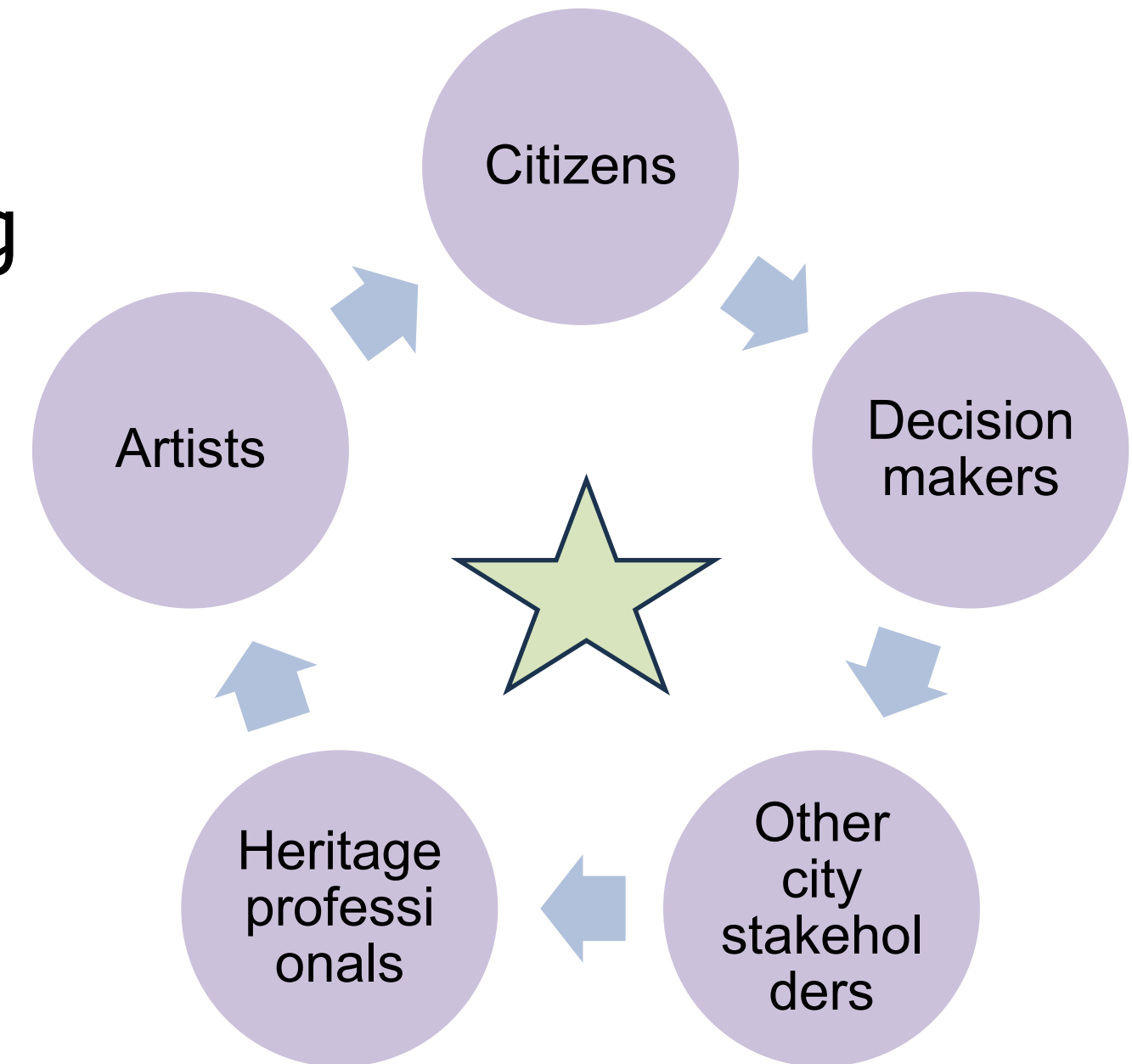
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# DIALOG CITY Methodology

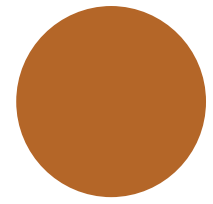
Pillar 2: Hybrid Events Art for Public:  
Digital-Analog Festivals

= Encounter  $\times$  Cultural Prototyping



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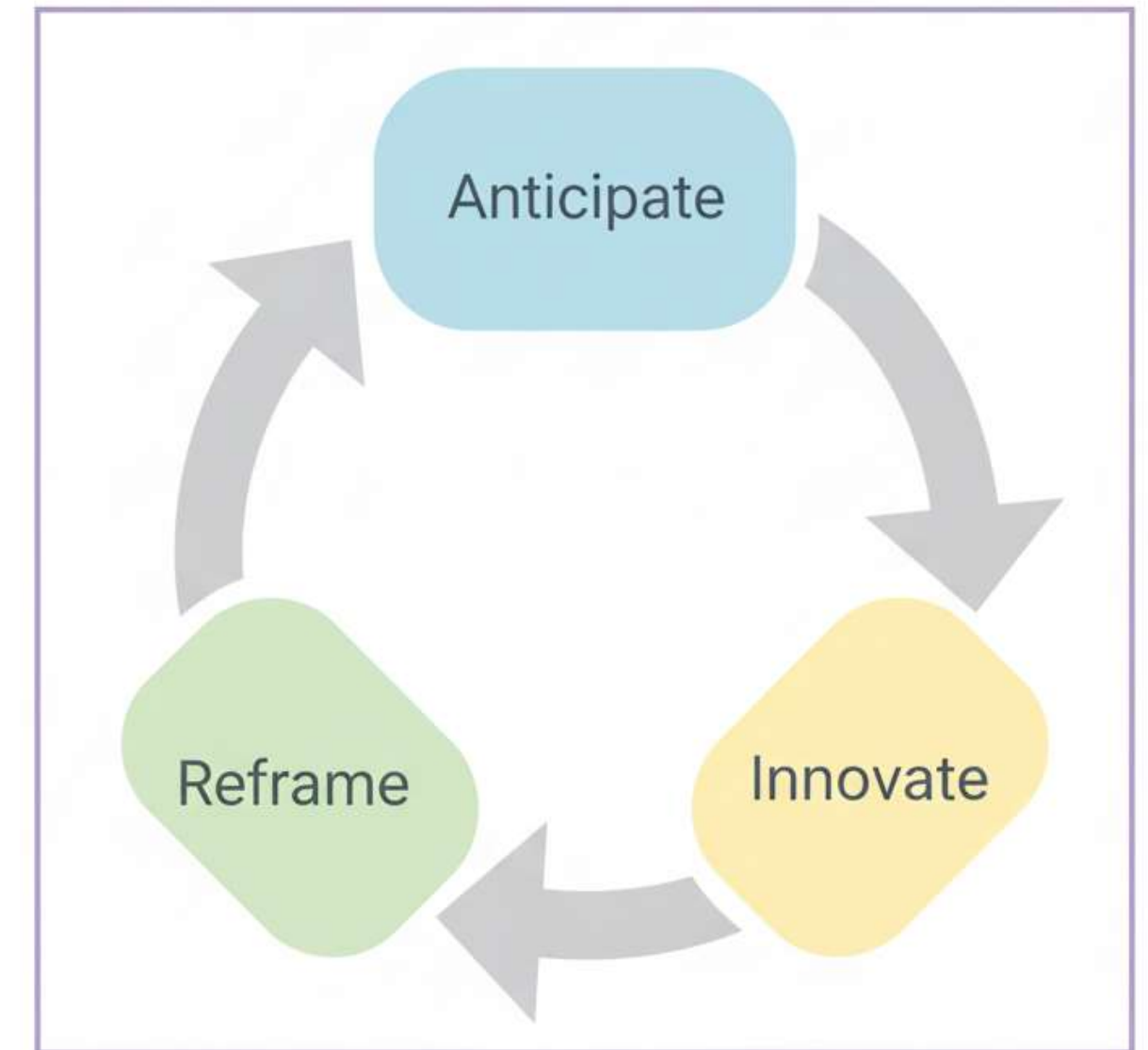
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# DIALOG CITY Methodology

Pillar 3: Our Common Future:  
Futures Literacy Workshops

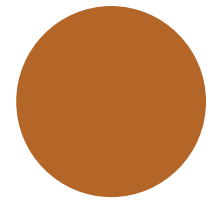
= Imagination  $\times$  Skill



UNESCO adapted  
Model

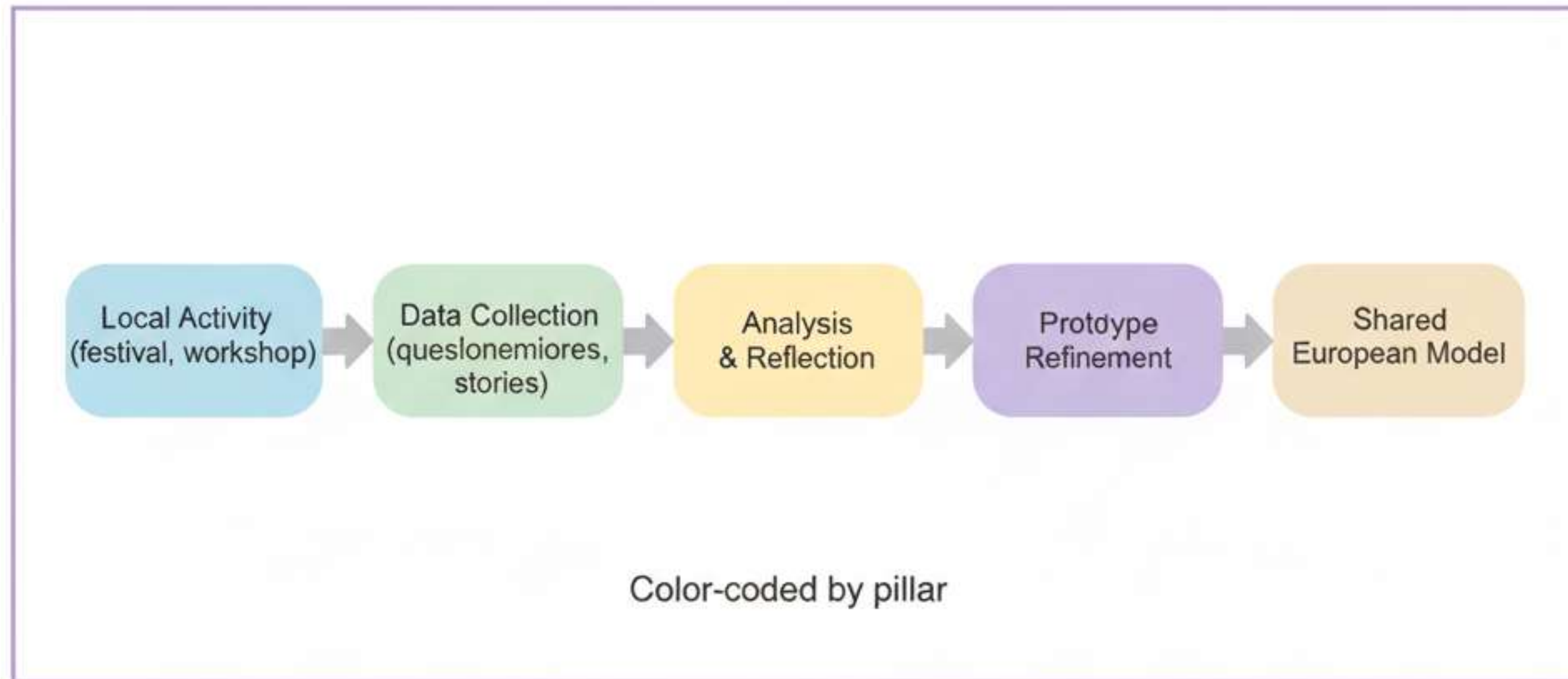
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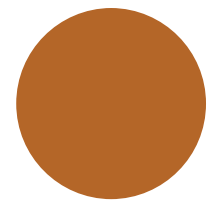
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# DIALOG CITY Methodology

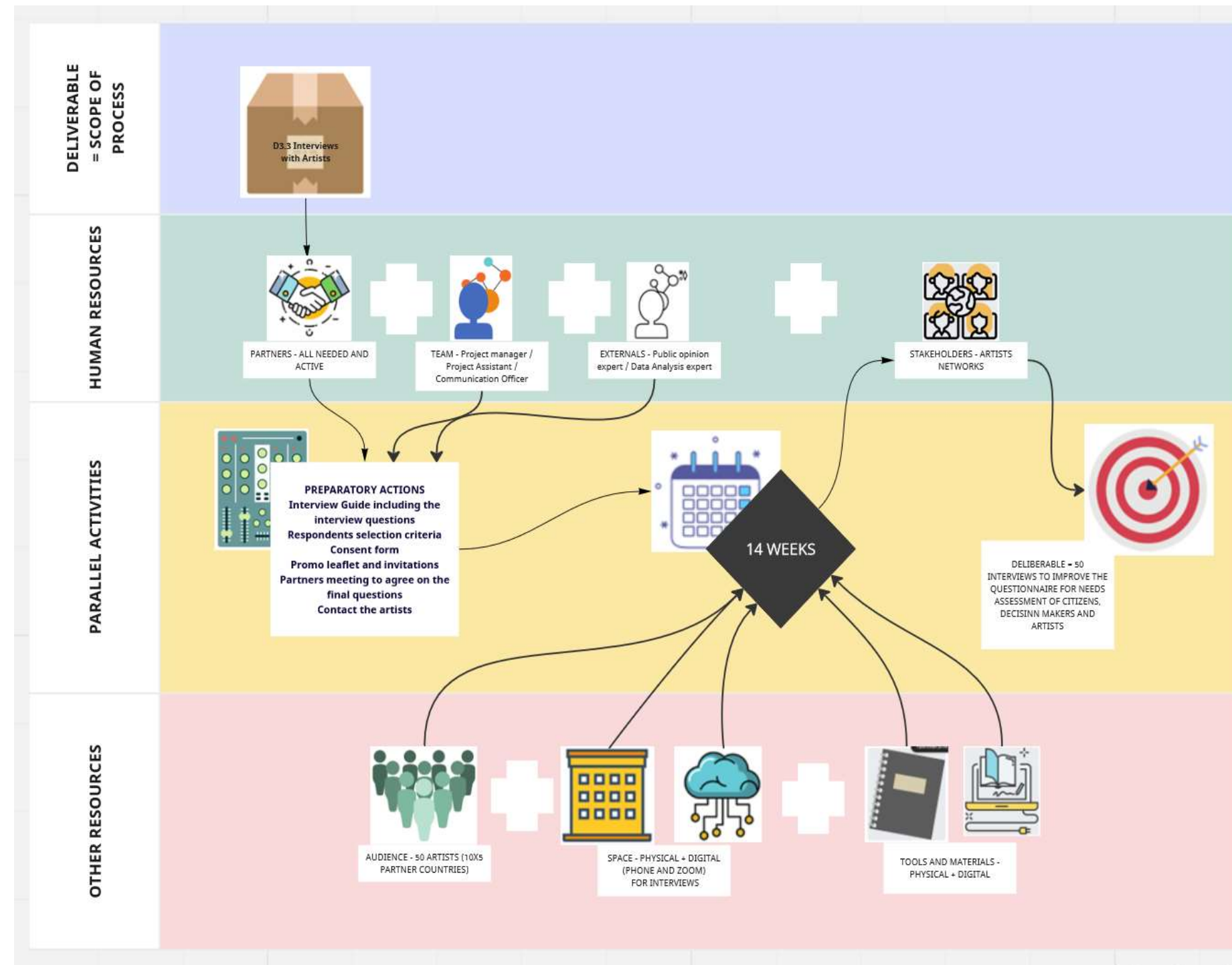
## The Dialog City Process Map





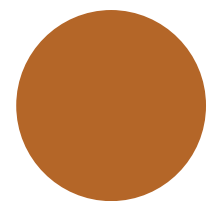
# DIALOG CITY Methodology

## Our approach



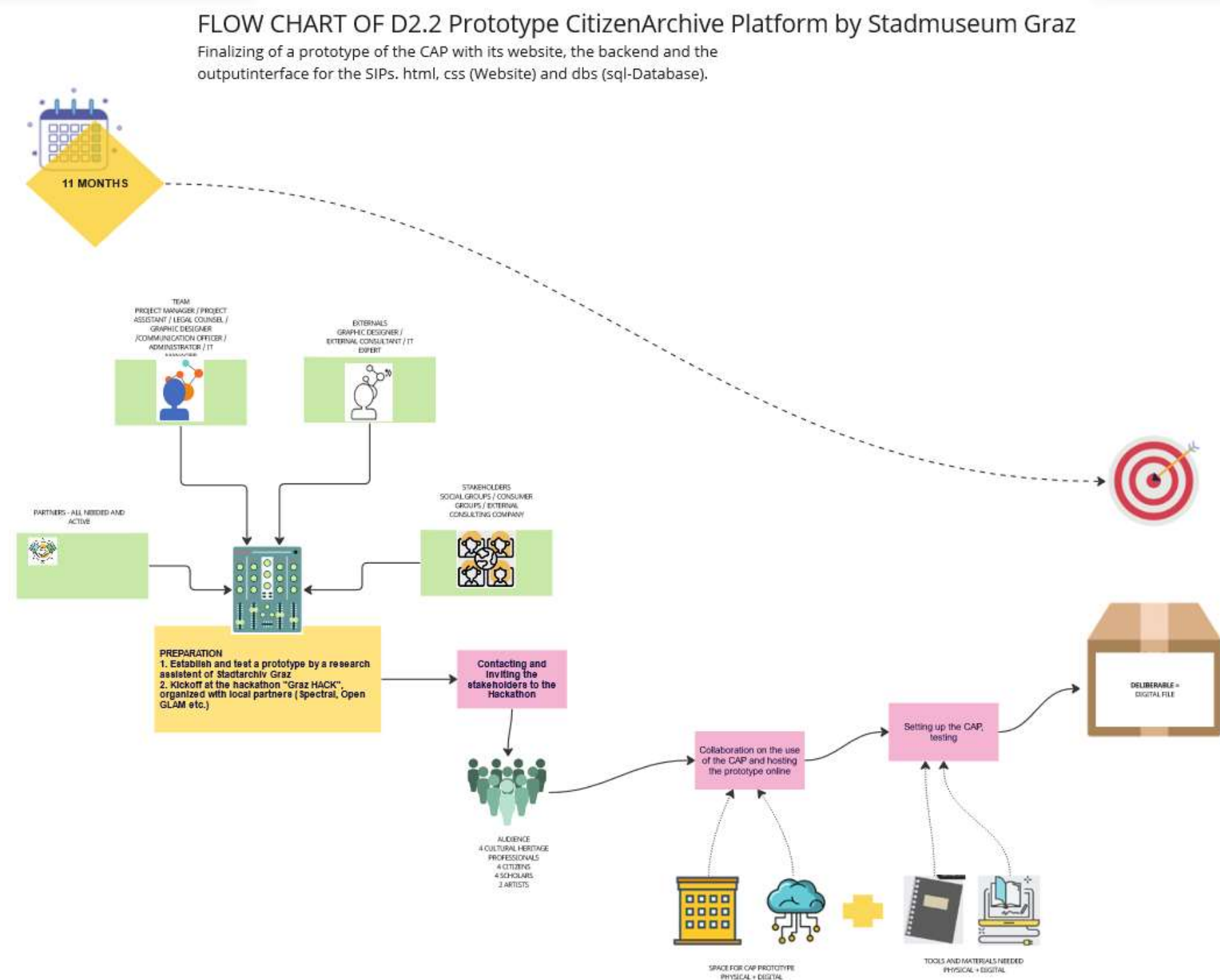
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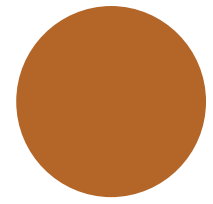
# DIALOG CITY Methodology

## Sample Visualization of Processes: Prototype Citizen Archive Platform by Stadtmuseum Graz



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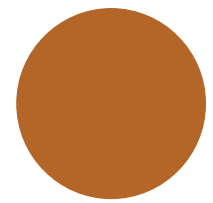


# DIALOG CITY Methodology

## What We're Testing Today

- 💡 Clarity: Does the process make sense?
- 🌱 Adaptability: How could it evolve to fit different contexts?
- 🌿 Relevance: Could it work for your city or sector?

\*Use the chat to share your opinion



# DIALOG CITY Methodology

From Prototype to Practice: Next Steps

Testing → Refinement → 2026:  
Final Methodology Manual → Transfer to New Cities

Help us co-design a framework for participatory, cultural,  
and sustainable urban futures.



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