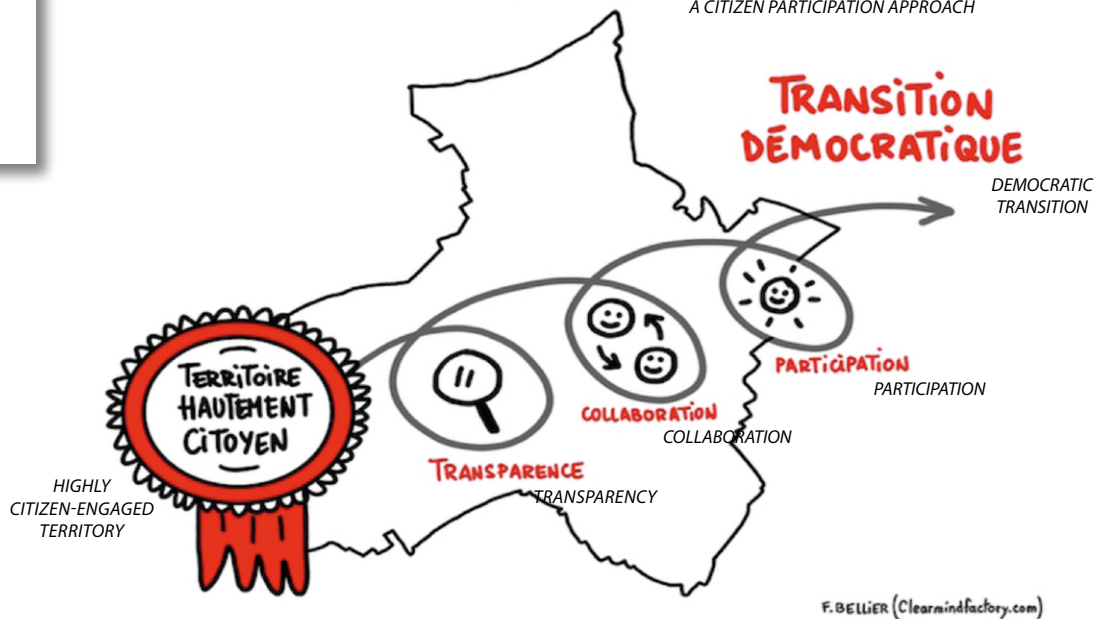


## Une démarche de participation citoyenne

A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION APPROACH



## CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AGENCY MULHOUSE

*The Citizen Participation Agency, created in June 2015, with an open Board of Directors, aims to develop participatory measures from the local authority and support citizen initiatives. It also provides specific support to the Participatory Councils. Our desire is to create a context that encourages co-building of public policies and citizen initiatives so they become more widely known and therefore to address new approaches to governing a territory.*

### Significant participatory tradition:

- 1989. *Children's City Council*
- 1990. *Senior Council*
- 1993. *District Councils*
- 2007. *«Territory of Co-responsibility» (Europe)*
- 2014. *Collaboration with the Démocratie Ouverte organisation and the «Highly Citizen-Engaged Territory» approach based on three principles:*
  - *More transparency in public action,*
  - *More participation from inhabitants,*
  - *More collaboration from local stakeholders in decision-making and the implementation of city-level public policies.*

### INNOVATIONS

- October 2014: organisation of the “**Mulhouse c’est vous**” (Mulhouse is you) citizen forum, which was a founding element of this approach, and enabled discussions with Mulhouse inhabitants on the ways in which they would like to invest in the future of their city and be involved in public decision-making.

- **Diagnosis** given for 60 democratic and participatory measures to develop the city’s governance scheme and result in a **participation guide** (to be published in December 2016).

- Creation of the **MulhouseC’Vous platform**, which provides transparency for public action and aids discussions with citizens on public projects and private initiatives.

- Experiment with **legislative theatre**, an innovative practice around co-building to meet specific needs (health, insecurity, large-scale city projects, etc.).

### KEY FIGURES

- 60 measures diagnosed
- 600 responses to the future Bike Plan survey
- 1 200 votes to select the banner on Temple St Etienne
- 200 participatory councillors
- 9 co-responsibility measures under way
- 150 people, each with 6 citizen meetings



PLACING CITIZENS AT THE HEART OF PUBLIC LIFE  
AS THEY ARE EXPERTS IN SOLUTIONS FOR THEIR CITY AND DISTRICT

## STAKEHOLDERS

- ▶ The Participation Agency, a public agency with financial autonomy and open turnover
- ▶ The Participatory Councils
- ▶ The Citizen Councils
- ▶ Voluntary partners, private partners, etc.
- ▶ All citizens who wish to become involved in the life of the city, by moving from "entitlement" to "the right to do", who agree to change stance and make proposals.

## IMPLEMENTATION

### ▶ Strong political desire

- Placing transparency and new forms of governance at the service of an exemplary, responsible city.
- Placing participatory democracy at the heart of the city's Smart City strategy.
- Implementing a progressive methodology, with tools adapted to suit the public groups.
- Putting forward a comprehensive service offering, which includes services from the local authority and private initiatives.

### ▶ Major challenges

- Enabling as many people as possible to take part and avoid always calling upon the same citizens.
- Highlighting actual achievements to create healthy competition amongst citizens around the co-building approach.
- Changing relationships with the population and restoring a political role for citizens.
- Co-building with all the smart elements of the city.



## RESULTS

- /// Close living conditions improved thanks to a participatory "works" budget jointly managed with the Participatory Councils.
- /// An annual citizen day: creation of 37 projects, participation of over 500 inhabitants in 2016.
- /// An open Financial Commission to grasp the challenges and have visibility on the monitoring indicators.
- /// Well-being and social cohesion projects in the districts, supported by groups of inhabitants (district parties, district newspapers, neighbourhood parties, etc.).



2007.  
Territory of co-responsibility

2014.  
Highly citizen-engaged territory

2015.  
Finalist for the democracy award  
Silver Territoria award  
Local authority (East)



## FINANCIAL COMPONENT OF THE OPERATION

- /// An approach that uses co-building workshops on the new services to be developed in line with the needs and constraints of the citizens. Definition of services to match the user expectations.

### KEY DATA

- 2016 Agency budget of €130,000
- A team of 10 people provided to the Agency by the local authority