

# CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



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# AGENDA

- What is citizen participation and why does it matter?
- Types of citizen participation
- Civic monitoring
- Case study: Italy's Monithon
- Combating corruption through civic participation
- Existing citizen participation channels in Bulgaria
- Your experiences

# CIVIC PARTICIPATION. WHAT IS IT? WHY DOES IT MATTER?



1) Increase government efficiency and the quality of public service delivery

2) Ensure citizen views and priorities are included in decision-making

3) Prevent maladministration

*Processes by which public concerns, needs, and values are incorporated into decision-making*

**INCREASING LEVEL OF SHARED DECISION AUTHORITY**



**Goal of Public Participation**

To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities, and/or solutions

To obtain feedback on analyses, alternatives, and/or decisions

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered

To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution

To place final decision-making in the hands of the public

# TYPES OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION

- **Indirect participation:** voting, supporting advocacy groups
- **Direct participation:** participating in protests, civic monitoring, participatory budgeting



# CIVIC MONITORING AS A CITIZEN PARTICIPATION TOOL

- Civic monitors are groups of citizen volunteers interested in a specific issue
- It consists of a range of activities:
  - Data collection
  - Research and analysis
  - Field activities, interviews and meetings
  - Producing reports and informing the public



# KEY PRINCIPLES OF CIVIC MONITORING

- Collaboration
- Active participation in public decisions
- Public accountability
- Transparency







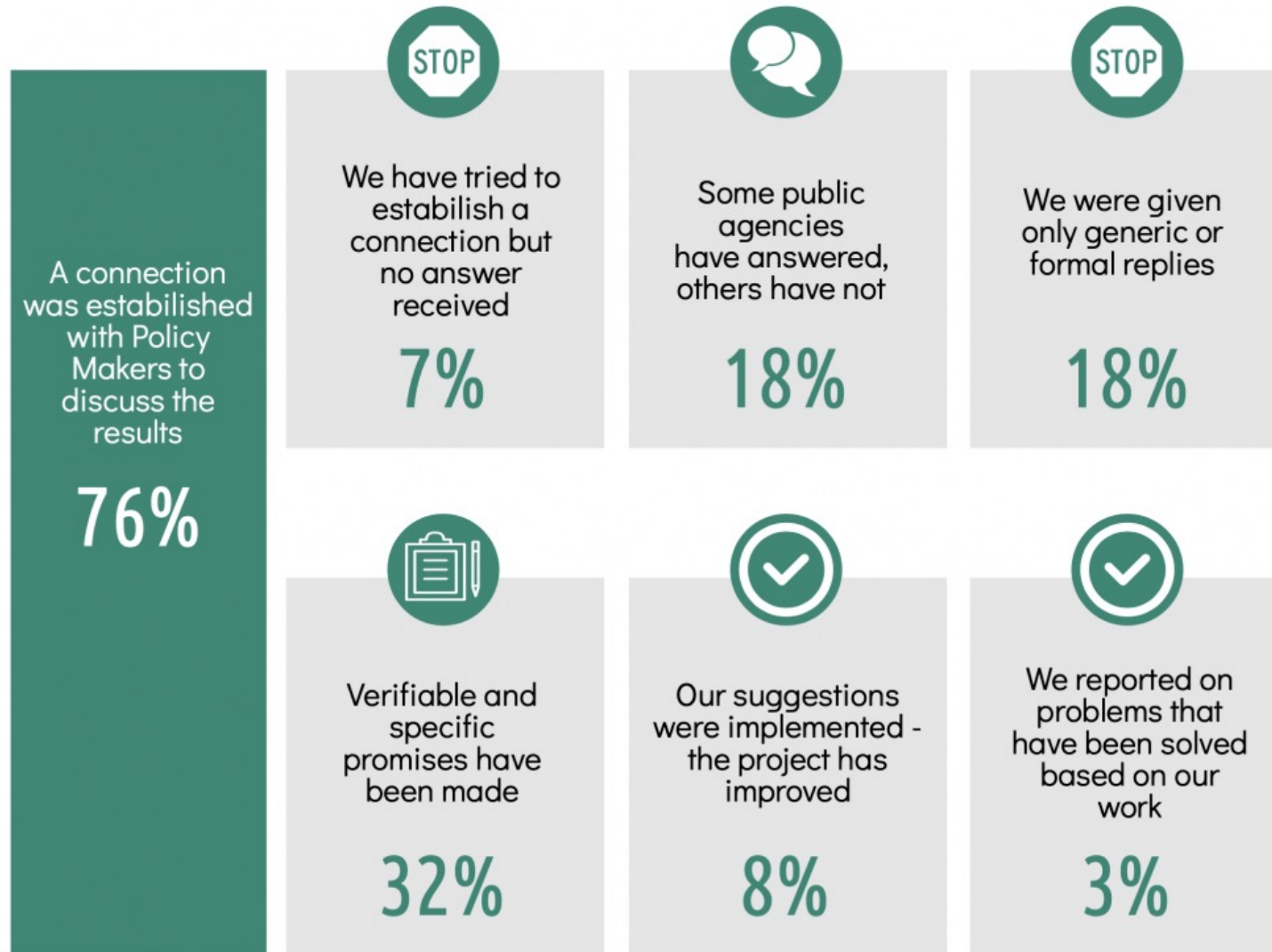
# CIVIC MONITORING CASE STUDY: MONITHON IN ITALY



# PHASES OF CIVIC MONITORING OF PUBLIC PROJECTS



# MONITHON OUTCOMES: INFLUENCING POLICY MAKERS



% Reports

# COMBATTING CORRUPTION THROUGH CIVIC PARTICIPATION







**EXISTING PARTICIPATION CHANNELS IN BULGARIA**



# EXISTING PARTICIPATION CHANNELS IN BULGARIA AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

- **Public discussions on issues relevant to:**
  - Public finance
  - Public debt
  - Territorial planning
- **Law on Local Self-Government and Administration** grants the following rights:
  - Attend municipal council sessions and sessions of its committees
  - Submit questions, opinions and proposals to the municipal council, the mayor or the municipal administration
  - Submit written proposals to the municipal council or the committees



# EXISTING PARTICIPATION CHANNELS IN BULGARIA

- **Consultations**
  - Strategy.bg allows for online consultation on institutional documents
- **Citizen initiatives**
- **Local referendum**
- **Access to Information Act**

# GROUP EXERCISE

## Monitoring reform agenda implementation

*Which sources of information are available?*

*What is the ideal frequency of monitoring each agenda item?*

*Who are the municipal POCs for this issue?*

*Who are your allies within and outside the government?*

*Who would be responsible for monitoring?*

*Which media channels would you use?*

Мониторинг на изпълнението на програма от реформи

*Кои източници на информация са налични?*

*Каква е идеалната честота за проследяване на изпълнението на всяка реформа от програмата?*

*Кои са лицата за контакт от общината по този въпрос?*

*Кои са вашите съюзници в и извън местното управление/самоуправление?*

*Кой ще отговаря за проследяването?*

*Кои медийни канали бихте използвали?*

# THANK YOU!



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