

Civic action in the digital era – opportunities and challenges for collaborative governance

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The civil society has changed

- Digitalization has brought people multiple opportunities to start developing their societies directly by themselves
Internet + social media → actor networks
- Collaborative consumption, sharing
- Disappointment with traditional channels for influencing

Activism for influencing policy on unemployment



Activism for tackling social problems

 Apua ja iloa vähävaraisille lapsiperheille (KOKO SUOMI) 

 Maija Etusivu Luo    

Apua ja iloa vähävaraisille lapsiperheille (KOKO SUOMI)

 Suljettu ryhmä



[+ Liity ryhmään](#) [... Lisää](#) Liity ryhmään, jotta voit nähdä keskustelun, julkaista ja kommentoida.

Tietoja ryhmästä

Kuvaus

Ryhmä haluaa auttaa Suomessa asuvia vähävaraisia lapsiperheitä mahdollistamalla heille lahjoitusvaroin perheen yksilöllisiin tarpeisiin kohdennettua apua. Tällä mahdollistetaan perheen yksilöllisen avuntarpeen huomiointi ja n... [Katso lisää](#)

Ryhmän tyyppi

Tuki

HISTORIA

 Ryhmä luotiin 14. joulukuuta 2017

 Nimi muutettu viimeksi 8. huhtikuuta 2018

[Näytä lisää](#)

LUO UUSIA RYHMIÄ

Ryhmien ansiosta jakaminen kavereille, perheenjäsenille ja tiimin jäsenille on helpompaa

[Luo ryhmä](#)

Activism for tackling biodiversity loss



The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Villi vyöhyke / Wild Zone' website. The header is green with white text for the site name and navigation links: 'TOIMINTA' (red), 'YHDISTYS', 'BLOGI', and a search icon. The main image is a photograph of a guerrilla nature project where pink flowers are growing from a concrete base in a city street. Overlaid on the image is the text 'GUERRILLA NATURE – SISSINIITYT'. Below the image, on a black background, is the title 'Kaupunkisissit ja omatoiminen luonnonhoito' and a paragraph of text in Finnish.

Villi vyöhyke | Wild Zone

TOIMINTA YHDISTYS BLOGI 🔍

GUERRILLA NATURE – SISSINIITYT

Kaupunkisissit ja omatoiminen luonnonhoito

Suomen nykyisten kaupunkien ympäristö ei ylläpidä luonnon monimuotoisuutta kaikkien mahdollisuuksiensa mukaan. Rakennettujen alueiden lomaan jää vyöhykkeitä, joiden ympäristöä voisi kehittää monimuotoisemmaksi. Myös rakennettujen viheralueiden kuten puistojen luonto voisi olla nykyistä monipuolisempaa.

Activism for tackling climate change



CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK International



About CAN

Policy

Campaigns

Media

CAN in Action

ECO

Members' Center

Implementing Low Carbon Development

Implementing Low Carbon Development

Providing sustainable development for all and fighting climate change – these are two major challenges the world faces today.



National action on climate change and the international negotiations are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. The international negotiations in the past five years have stimulated national action especially on 'Low Carbon Development' meaning development with minimal output of greenhouse gas emissions.

If the full social costs and benefits are taken into account, in most cases low carbon development trumps carbon-

Happening now

PRESS RELEASE: Message from the Board of Directors of Climate Action Network International >

PRESS RELEASE: COP24: Countries struggle to muster political will to tackle climate crisis >

PRESS RELEASE: Draft Text still a mixed bag in final critical hours of negotiations >

Events

Bonn intersessional SB50 June 2019

Jun 17, 2019 to Jun 28, 2019

COP 24 Katowice 2 December to 14 December

Dec 2, 2018 to Dec 14, 2018

Climate Vulnerable Forum Virtual Summit



<http://climatenetwork.org/campaign/implementing-low-carbon-development>

Informal activism

Peer support groups for people with difficult life situations



Informal short-term protest

Influencing through political opinion forming and decision-making

Established NGO network aiming to influence international negotiations

Making change by concrete DIY action



Guerrilla meadows by a dedicated NGO



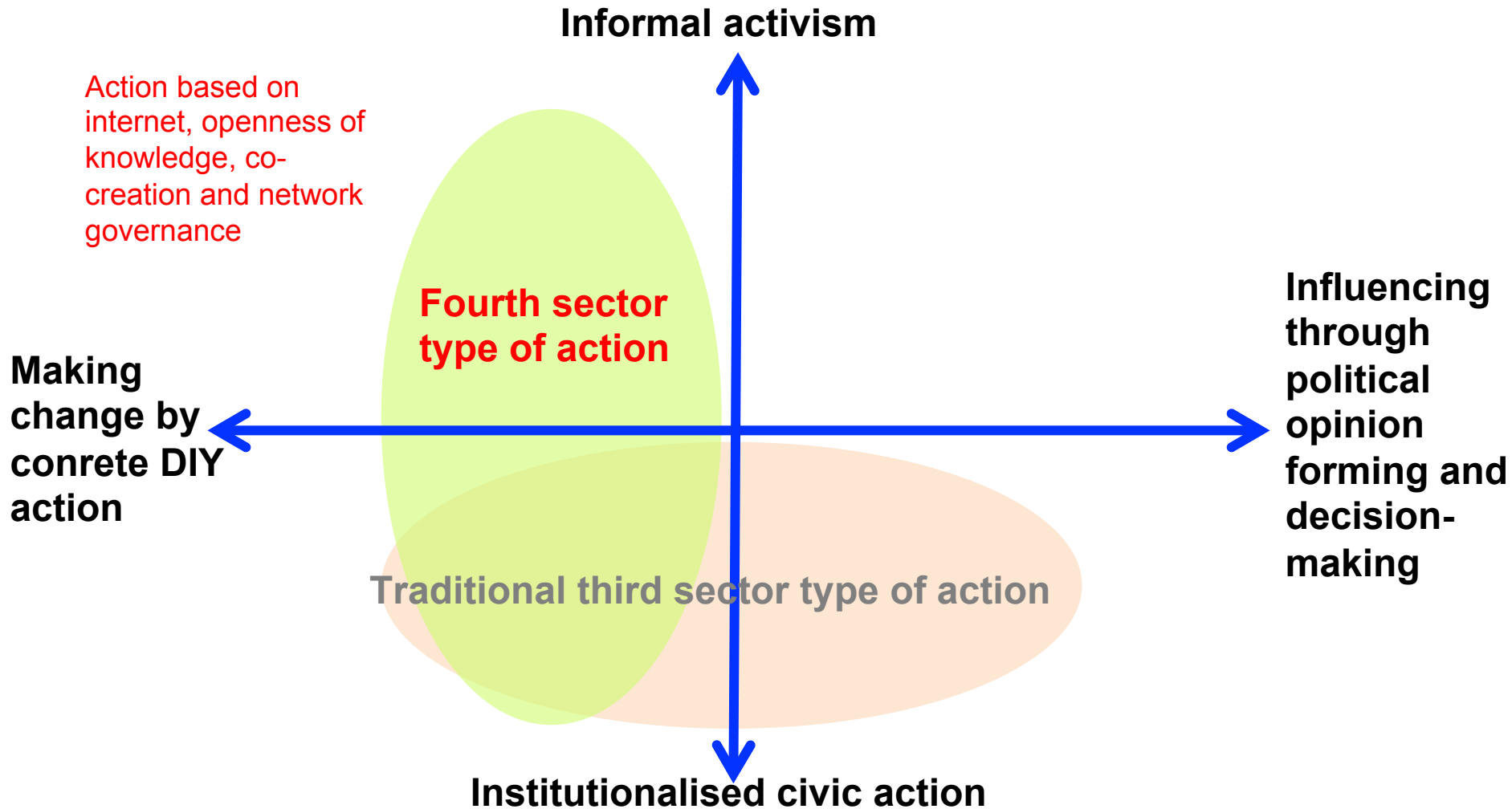
Institutionalised civic action

Fourth sector on the rise

- NGOs (the third sector) still important, but nowadays much of all civic action organized in other ways
- Fourth sector:
 - non-NGO-based civic actors
 - networks of which such actors form a considerable part
 - type of action that can be adopted also on other sectors: action based on internet, openness of knowledge, co-creation, network governance

Mäenpää & Faehnle 2017

Mäenpää & Faehnle, forthcoming



The necessity of collaboration

Complex societal problems can only be solved by collaboration of diverse actors because the actors are interdependent

- Nobody has all the necessary knowledge
- Nobody can make the change alone

In true collaboration, the parties acknowledge that the solution can only be created together

Turner & Odell, Collaborative Public Manager Training 2018-2019

Collaborative governance

“the processes and structures of public policy decision making and management that **engage people constructively across the boundaries** of public agencies, levels of government, and/or the public, private and civic spheres in order to carry out **a public purpose that could not otherwise be accomplished**”

Emerson et al. 2012

Informal civic action - challenges

- Ways of thinking and governmental practices not yet adapted to the rise of the informal action (fourth sector)
- Fourth sector actors may not
 - Seek decision-making power, but apply their own power
 - Seek partnerships or even form a legal entity
 - Act in the rhythms of the government, but immediately
- How to identify? How to reach? Who to communicate with?

Informal civic action - opportunities

- Decentralized action – Multiple small scale changes can contribute to a wider change – Transformation potential
- Collaborative capacity of the involved actors
- Expertise, spirit, (rapid) action potential
- Creation, use and improvement of data
- Public discussion, learning
- Supplementing other actions such as governmental planning
 - How? The hybrid governing approach

Hybrid governing

The government

- identifies fourth sector as specific group of actors
- seeks ways to align and match governmental activities with actions of the fourth sector, by experimenting and learning

Relationship between activisms and administration

Sustainable utilisation of activisms is an established, dynamic part of administrative activities (including the top levels of the 1–8 scale)

Relationship of activisms and administration developed on a determined and long-term basis

Activisms recognised and utilised in a routine manner

Activisms recognised in goal-setting; administration aims for active use of resources

Activisms and resources occasionally recognised and utilised

No attention to activisms

Levels of collaboration

8 Activism and administration form an integrated system

7 Continuous collaboration

6 Project-based cooperation

5 Administration's support to activism

4 Dialogue between activism and administration

3 Active communication especially to activists

2 Activism as a source of information

1 Activism on its own

FIGURE 3.

Development of the relationship between activisms and city administration, and the levels of co-operation in hybrid governance.

Stairs of hybrid governing

From isolated, uncoordinated activities (step 1) up to deep integration (step 8)

What's the best step? Depends on the issue and case!

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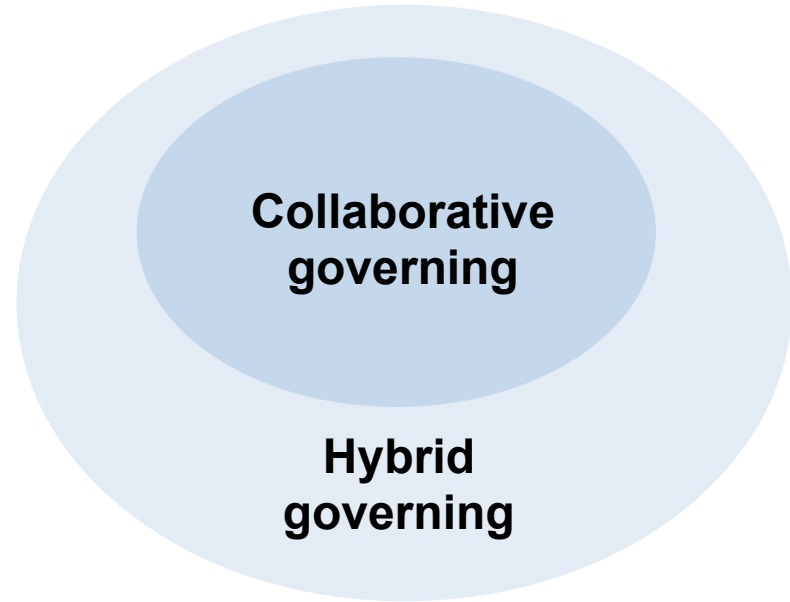
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FIGURE 3.

Development of the relationship between activisms and city administration, and the levels of co-operation in hybrid governance.

Collaborative governing
enacted as part of the
wider frame of hybrid
governing



CORE in a nutshell

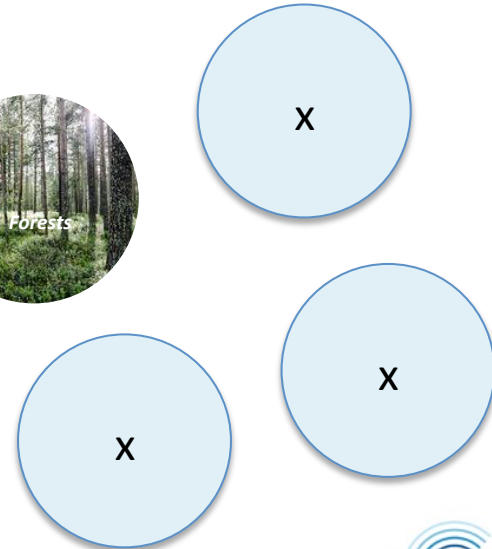
- The CORE consortium will address the ability of Finnish political and legal institutions and management practices to cope with complex environmental planning and policy-making problems.
- **Key question:** *How to engage a broad range of societal actors in the collaborative co-production of fair, efficient, legitimate and wise solutions for contested environmental and natural resource policy problems?*
- Funding: Strategic Research Council 2017-2021



Case studies: planning and decision-making processes on environment and natural resources

In the case studies, experiments on collaborative governance practices such as

- Joint fact finding
- Facilitated negotiations
- Policy dialogues
- Citizen juries



Some questions of interest

- How does civic action appear in the different CORE cases?
- What are the limits of collaborative governance approaches from the point of view of different active and less active actors
- NGOs, informal groups, young people, elderly,...?
- How to support the distribution of benefits from collaborative processes also to the less active – while supporting and not restricting the active?

Welcome onboard!



collaboration.fi

#corestn

#yhteishallinta

#strateginentutkimus

#cogovernance



@core_STN



@collaborationfi



Project: CORE - Collaborative remedies for fragmented societies - Facilitating the collaborative turn in environmental decision-making

Project: Civic activism as resource for the metropolis



University of Helsinki, Department of Social Research
2015–2017, Pasi Mäenpää & Maija Faehnle

- How does civic activism **contribute** to the development of cities?
How could cities and state organizations **utilise and support** it?
- Focus on **ecological sustainability, local innovations, local communities and civic engagement**
- **Advocative action research:** working together with activists and authorities by identifying and solving their problems

Partners: Cities of Helsinki, Espoo, Vantaa, and Lahti; Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Justice; The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, Finnish Environment Institute

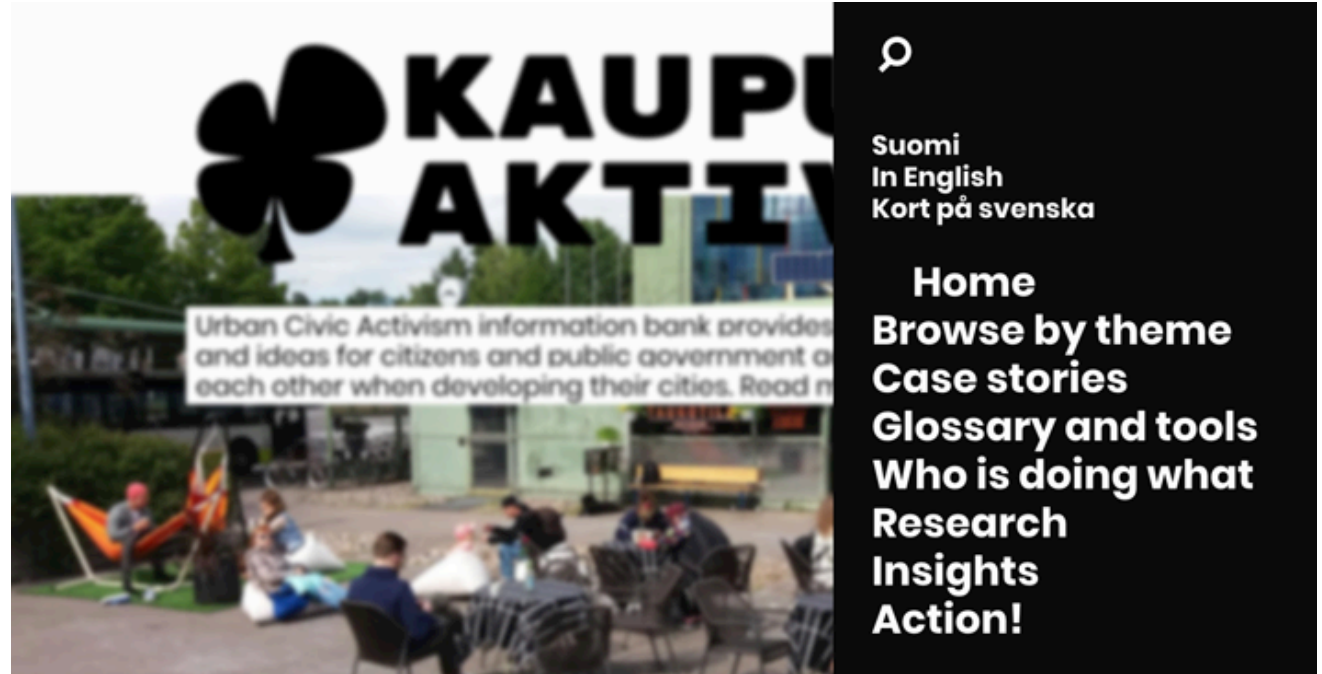
Funding: Helsinki Metropolitan Region Urban Research Program, The Housing Finance and Development Centre of Finland, The Finnish Cultural Foundation/Uusimaa Regional fund, The Fund of Heikki von Hertzen, The Finnish Association of Non-fiction Writers, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Finance, SITRA

Welcome onboard!

Civicactivism.fi

Facebook group:
Kaupunkiaktivismi

#kaupunkiaktivismi



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Publications

- Mäenpää, P. & Faehnle, M. Neljäs sektori: kuinka vertaistoiminta haastaa hallinnon, muuttaa markkinat ja uudisrakentaa yhteiskunnan (draft name). Book based on the Urban civic activism project. Forthcoming.
- Mäenpää P. & Faehnle, M. (2017): Itseorganisoituva kaupunki: hallinta, talous ja demokratia. Futura 4/17.
- Mäenpää, P., Faehnle, M. & Schulman, H. 2017. Kaupunkiaktivismi, jakamistalous ja neljäs sektori. Teoksessa Kansalaiset kaupunkia kehittämässä (toim. Bäcklund, Häkli & Schulman). Tampere University Press.
- Mäenpää, P. & Faehnle, M. 2017. Civic activism as a resource for cities. Helsinki Quarterly 1/2017, 68-81.
- Mäenpää, P. & Faehnle, M. 2018. Urban civic activism: solutions for the governance of a self-organising urban community. Helsinki Quarterly 2/2018, 38-45.
- Rantanen, A. & Faehnle, M. 2017. Self-organisation challenging institutional planning: towards a new urban research and planning paradigm – a Finnish review. The Finnish Journal of Urban Studies 55:3.
- Faehnle, M., Mäenpää, P., Blomberg, J., Schulman, H. 2017. Civic engagement 3.0 – Reconsidering the roles of citizens in city-making. The Finnish Journal of Urban Studies 55:3.

More: <http://www.kaupunkiaktivismi.fi/en/node/99/publications>



Thank you!