

# The role of commons-oriented policies in the transformation of urban governance: The case of the participatory budget BIP/ZIP in Lisbon

Androniki Pappa | ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon  
androniki.pappa@iscte-iul.pt

## Description/Introduction/Abstract

This study is part of an ongoing PhD research that explores the contribution of urban commons in the social and urban sustainability of urban neighbourhoods. This part focuses on the role of commons-oriented local strategies in urban regeneration, in transforming the urban governance through enabling local organisations and community groups, especially the most disadvantaged, to participate in local decision-making. The context of research is the city of Lisbon and the participatory budget program of BIP/ZIP.

### Background

#### Participatory budgets (PB) as commons-oriented policies

Urban commons are urban resources, such as public spaces that are managed by their users in a non-profit oriented way following principles of direct democracy. They are mostly bottom-up yet are increasingly integrated in local strategies that promote collective management of resources through multi-stakeholder governance structures, such as the quintuple helix<sup>1</sup>.

PB is such a commons-oriented tool that facilitates collective decision-making on the allocation of public resources, be it funding or/and spaces also prioritizing disadvantaged groups<sup>2</sup>.

#### BIP/ZIP Local Partnerships Program in Lisbon

The BIP/ZIP participatory budget aims to foster socio-territorial cohesion in Lisbon by integrating 67 'priority' neighbourhoods. It promotes active citizenship through the establishment of partnerships among parish councils, citizens, local associations and NGOs that propose territorial interventions through concrete local actions<sup>3</sup>. Since 2010, the program has funded 416 projects with an implementation grant of up to 50K EUR/project, involving thousands of different partner entities.

### Case Study and Results

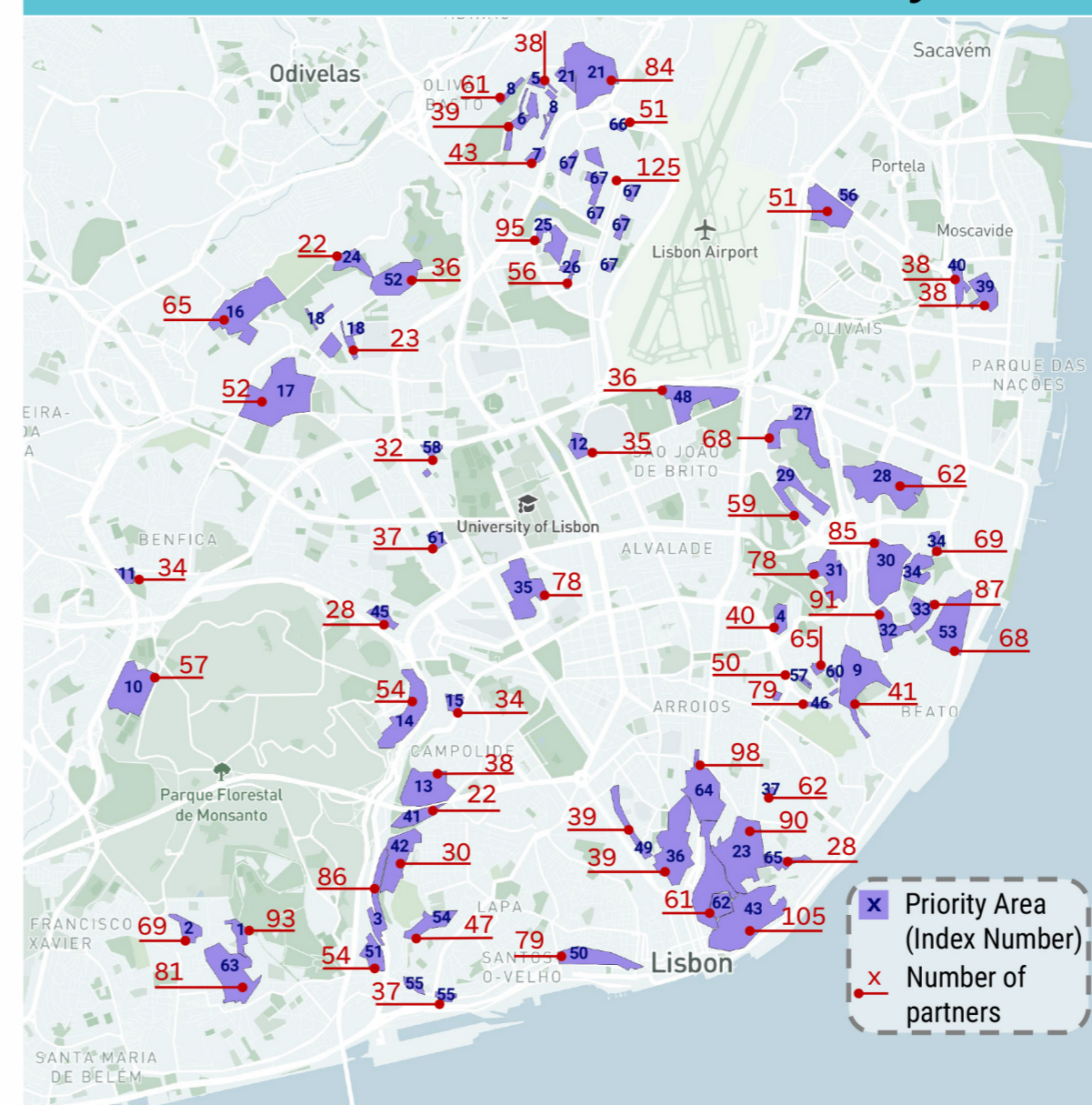


Image1: map of BIP/ZIP areas and partners per area. Source:author

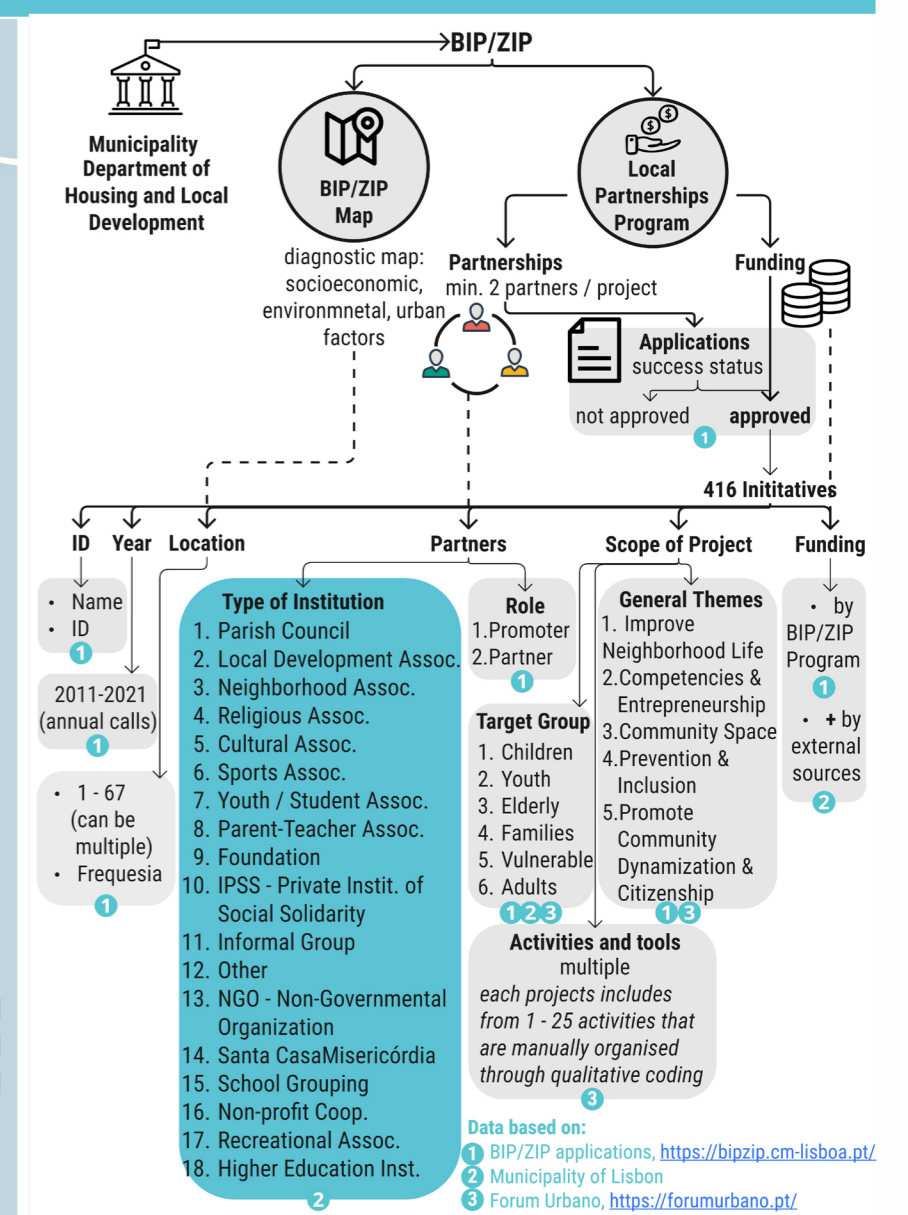


Image2: Bip/Zip Structure. Source:author

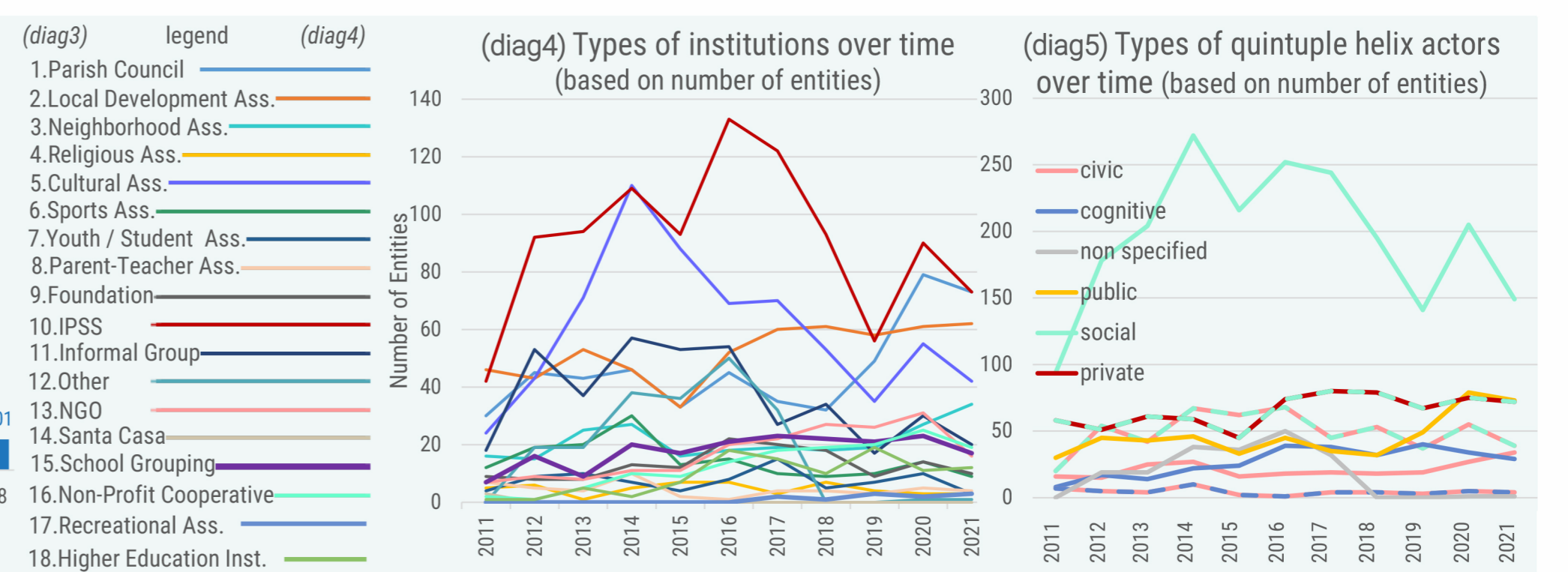
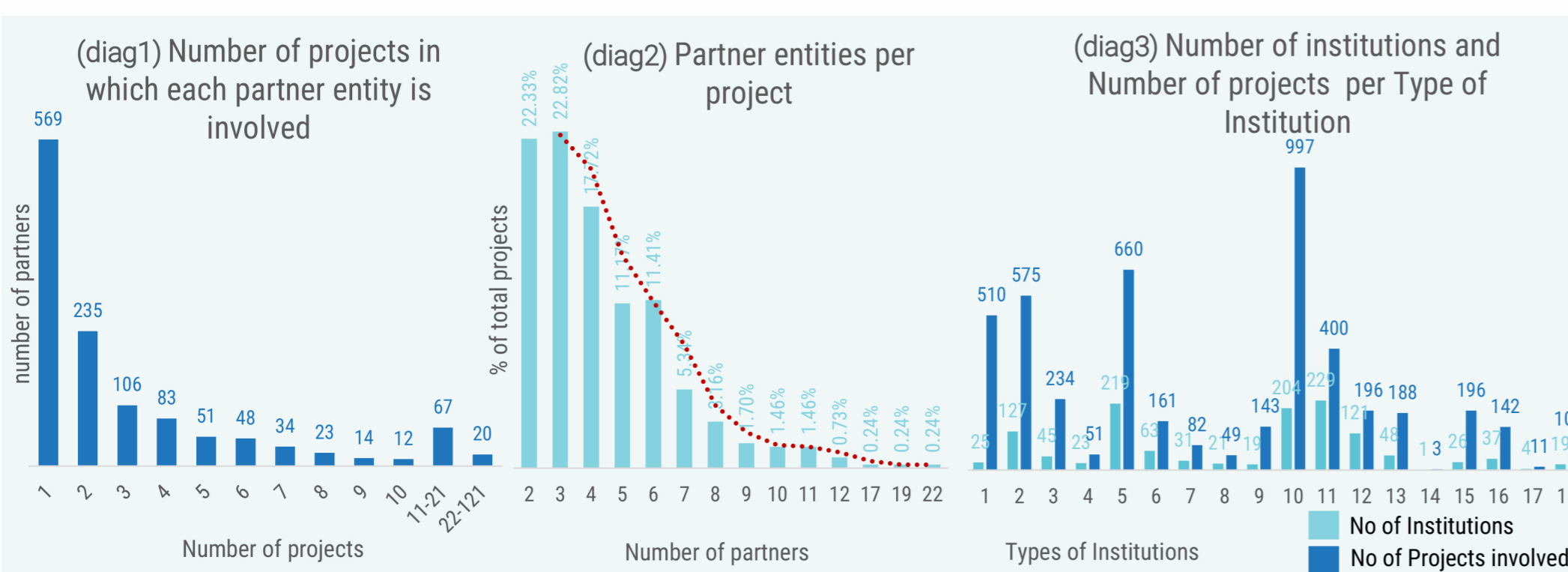
### Aim

Investigate the matrix of local partnerships formulated through BIP/ZIP (2011-2021) and their dynamic role in the transformation of the urban governance in the city of Lisbon.

### Methodology

- Data collection & cleaning**
  - i Dataset creation through desktop research (416 projects)
  - ii Allocation of partners into partner types through qualitative coding
- Data analysis of emerging roles**
  - i Types of partners and involvement in projects (number of entities and projects per partner type)
  - ii Types of partners through time (& quintuple helix)

- General results in the 416 projects analysed:
  - 1276 Partner Entities - 3953 through repetition (image1)
  - 45% of the Partner Entities participated only once (diag1)
  - each project involves between 2 and 22 Partner Entities with the most frequent being 3. (diag2)
  - 18 types of partners (image2)
- # of entities and # of projects per Institution Type (diag3):
  - "informal groups", "cultural associations" and "private institutions for social solidarity" include more than 200 entities each, and as well have a high involvement in projects (from 400 to 997).
- Evolution of Partner Types (diag4) and quintuple helix (diag5):
  - mostly fluctuating, yet the social sector has a significantly leading involvement among the other types and especially the cognitive sector which is consistently the least involved.



### Conclusions/future work

The statistical analysis on the emerging roles of the local partners of BIP/ZIP, provide information on *who* and *how often* gets involved in urban regeneration processes in Lisbon. Based on the figures, it can be argued that the local governance is transforming, especially with the rising involvement of the social sector. Yet, this research hasn't taken into consideration several factors, such as the role of each institution in the project, the lifespan of newly formed institutions, as well as social or urban phenomena that influenced the involvement, such as the pandemic.

Future steps relate to the spatial analysis of the matrix of partnerships in the urban fabric, to illustrate the complex relationships of partners in the formation of the city.

### References

- quintuple helix | LabGov. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://labgov.city/tag/quintuple-helix/>
  - Allegretti, G., & Hartz-Karp, J. (2017). Participatory budgeting: A methodological approach to address sustainability challenges. *Methods for Sustainability Research*, 203–216.
  - Crespo, J. L., & Caetano, L. (2021). BIP/ZIP program: Intervention in the neighborhoods and priority areas in Lisbon. *Urban Maestro, New Governance Strategies for Urban Design*.
- Acknowledgement:** The work presented has been carried out within the RE-DWELL Innovative Training Network, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement no. 956082.