URBAN GOVERNANCE SURVEY

by UN Habitat, UCLG and LSE Cities

UCLG Committee on Digital and Knowledge-based Cities
Bilbao, 6 November 2014

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Final results will inform UCLG's 4th GOLD report on Decentralisation and Local Democracy

OVERARCHING QUESTIONS

How are decisions taken in cities?

To what extent are city governments able to implement and deliver decisions once they are taken?

Which actors (both governmental and non-governmental) are involved in how cities are run and how do they relate with each other?

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

- Address the urban governance 'data challenge'
- Establish a platform for individual cities to identify urban governance cases that are of particular relevance to their own specific situations
- Explore new ways for communicating and mapping urban governance for public dissemination, comparative policy and research analysis

GOVERNANCE DEFINITIONS...

World Bank 'GOVERNANCE'

Governance consists of the **traditions and institutions** by which authority in a country is exercised. This includes the **process by which governments are selected**, **monitored and replaced**; the capacity of the government to effectively **formulate and implement sound policies**; and the respect of citizens and the state for the institutions that govern economic and social interactions among them.

UN Habitat 'URBAN GOVERNANCE'

Urban governance is the **sum of the many ways** individuals and institutions, public and private, plan and manage the common affairs of the city. It is a **continuing process** through which **conflicting or diverse interests** may be accommodated and cooperative action can be taken. It includes formal institutions as well as **informal arrangements** and the social capital of citizens.

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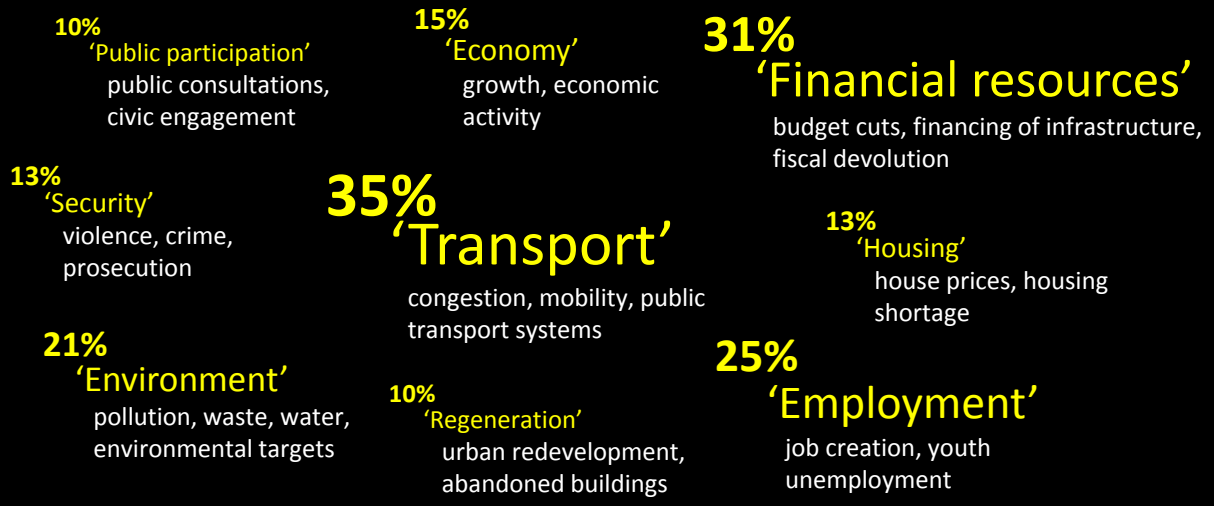
UNDP 'GOVERNANCE'

Governance is about the processes by which public policy decisions are made and implemented.

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

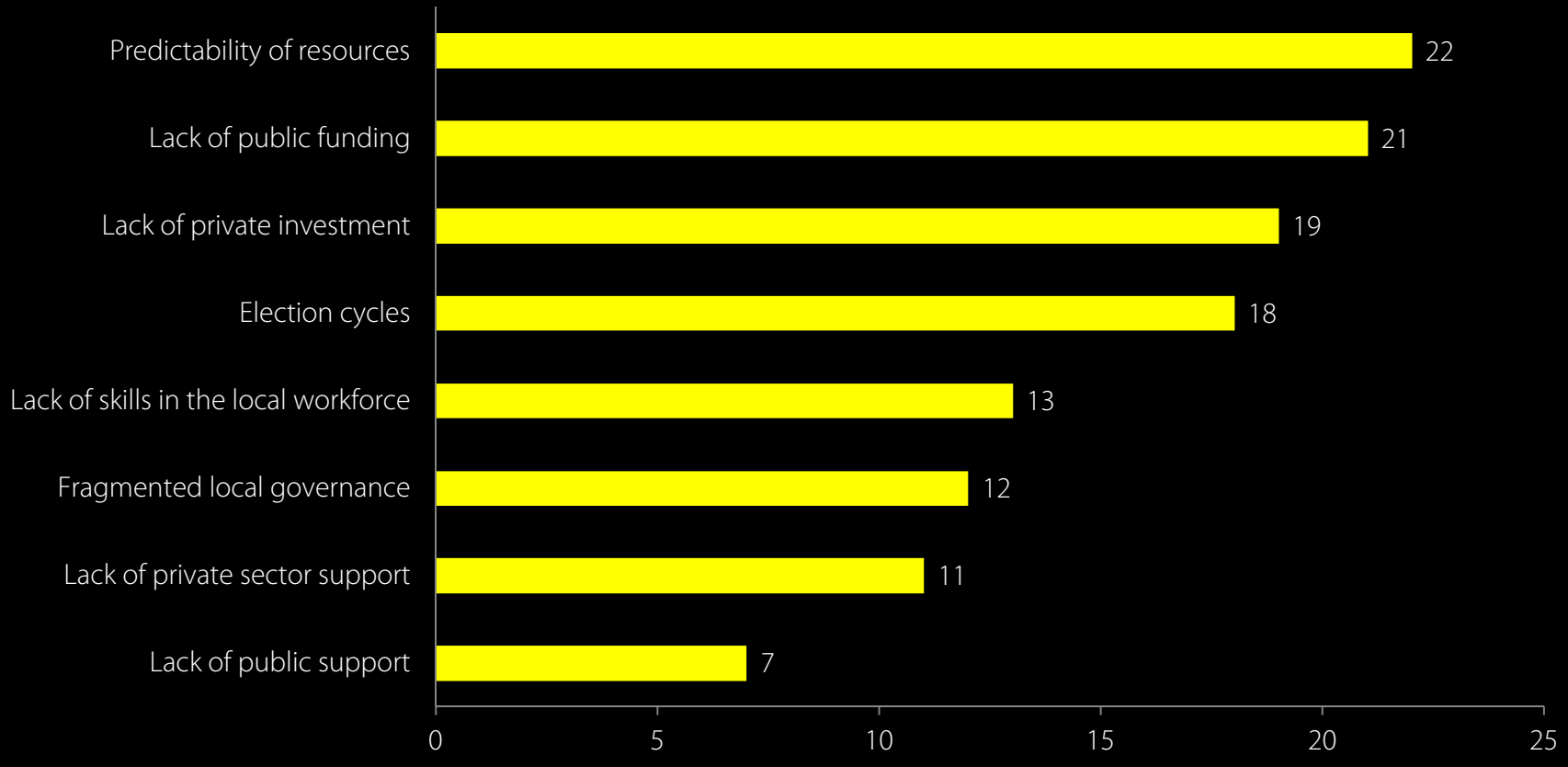
- 50 Cities from 5 continents and 30 countries
- 25 cities with a GDP/capita over 20,000 USD
- 29 cities with a population above 500,000

WHAT ARE THE THREE BIGGEST URBAN GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES YOUR CITY FACES?



GOVERNANCE CONSTRAINTS

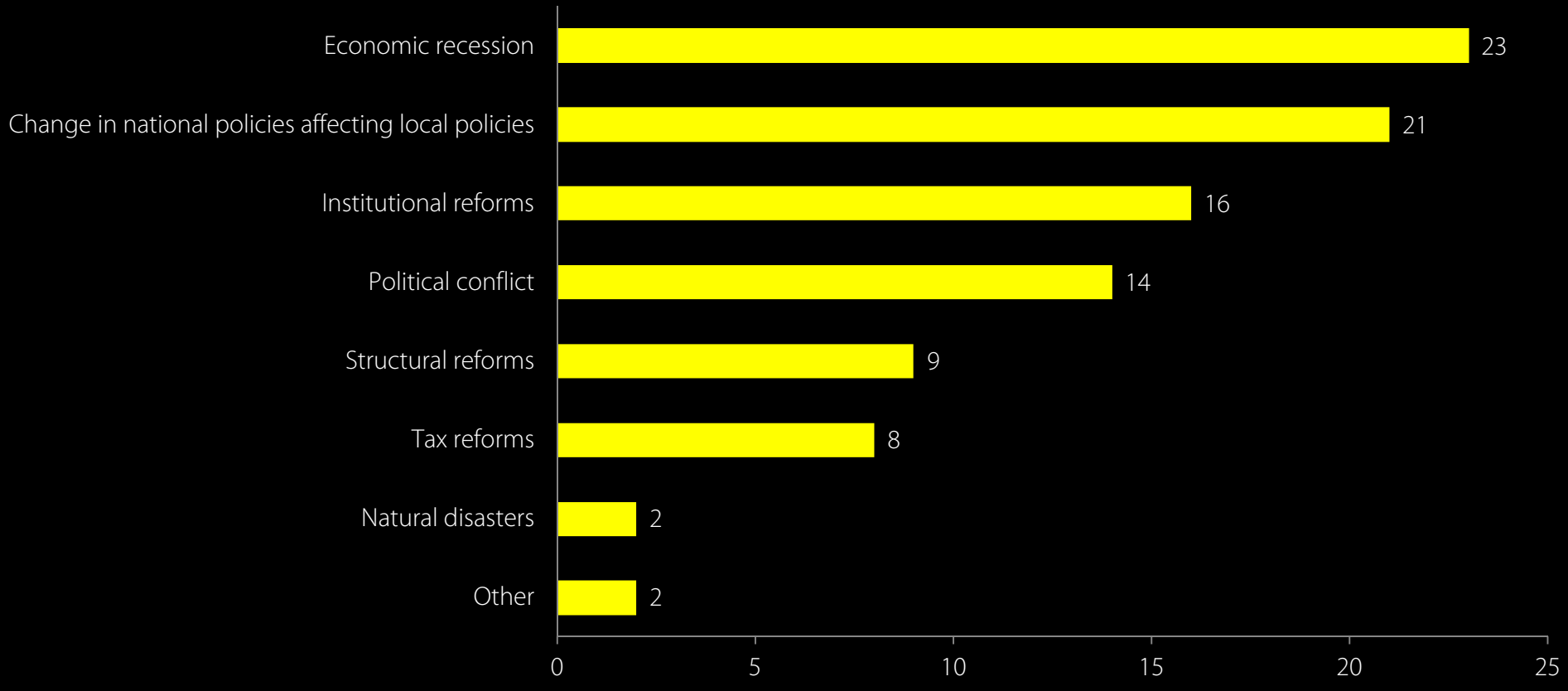
Cities select the governance constraints they are facing



(N = 47 cities)

RECENT DISRUPTIONS

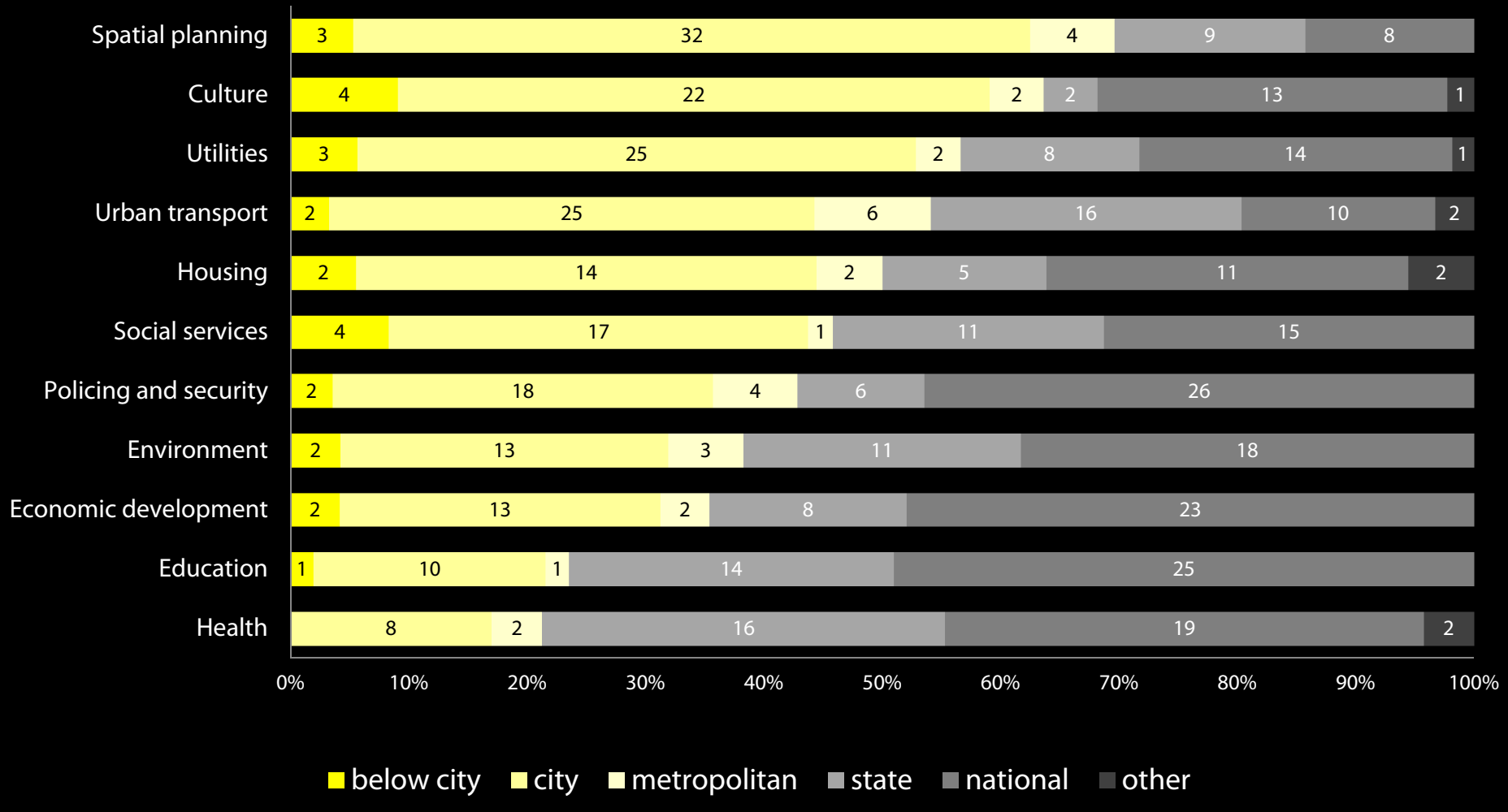
Examples of recent disruptions that have affected the way the local government operates



(N = 45 cities)

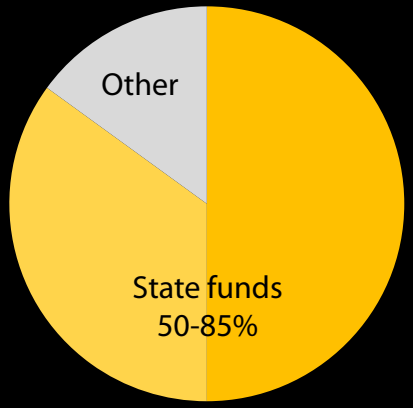
WHO IS LEADING THESE SECTORS?

Level of influence of different tiers of government

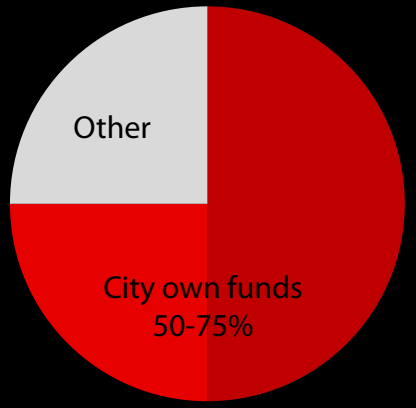


CITY BUDGET

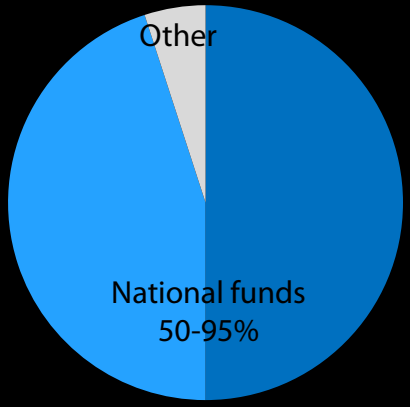
State dependent cities (3)
Ex: Artik, Ghent, Istanbul



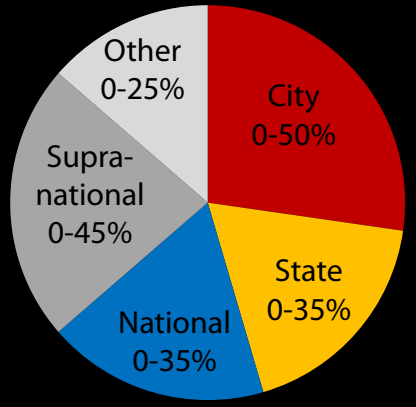
Financially independent cities (16)
Ex. Gothenburg, Montreal, Philadelphia



National dependent cities (9)
Ex: La Paz, Madrid, Mexico City

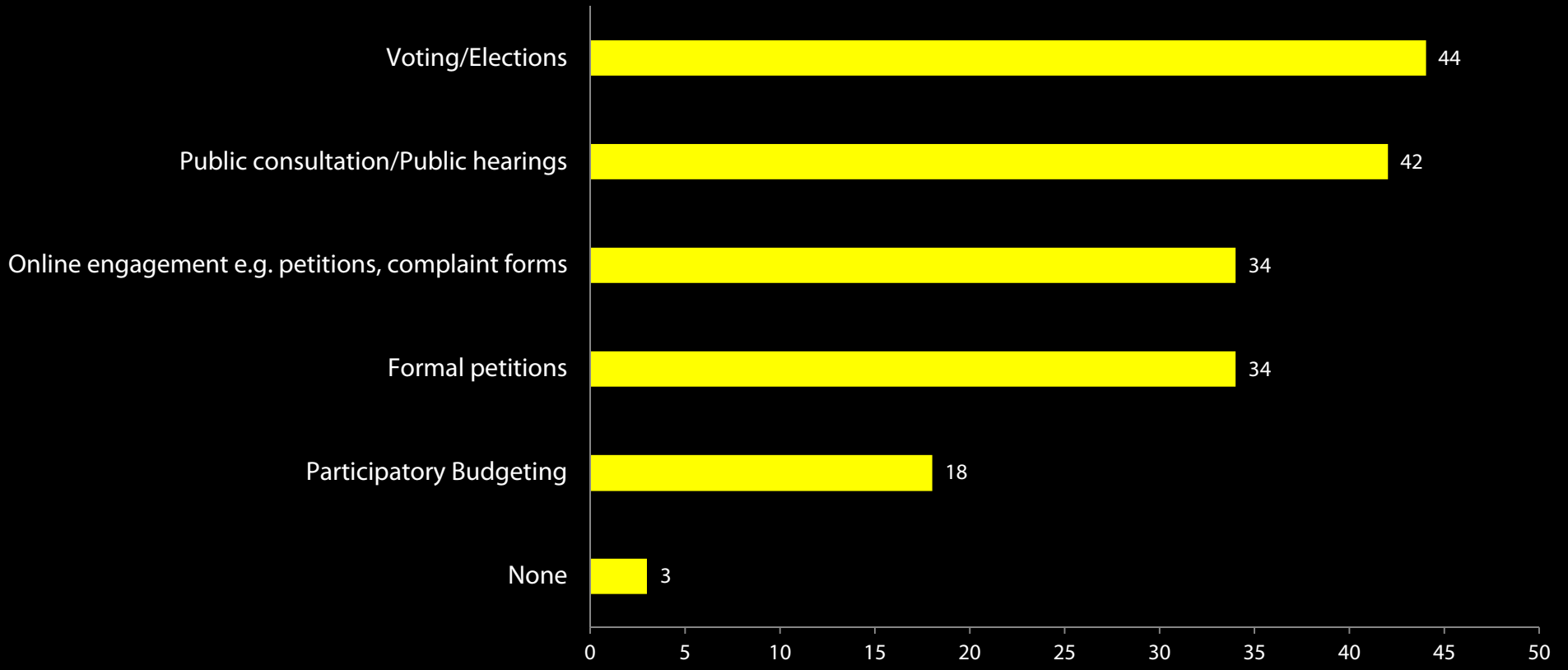


Cities Dependent on multiple sources (10)
Ex: Barcelona, Leuven, Rio de Janeiro



CITIZENS' INFLUENCE

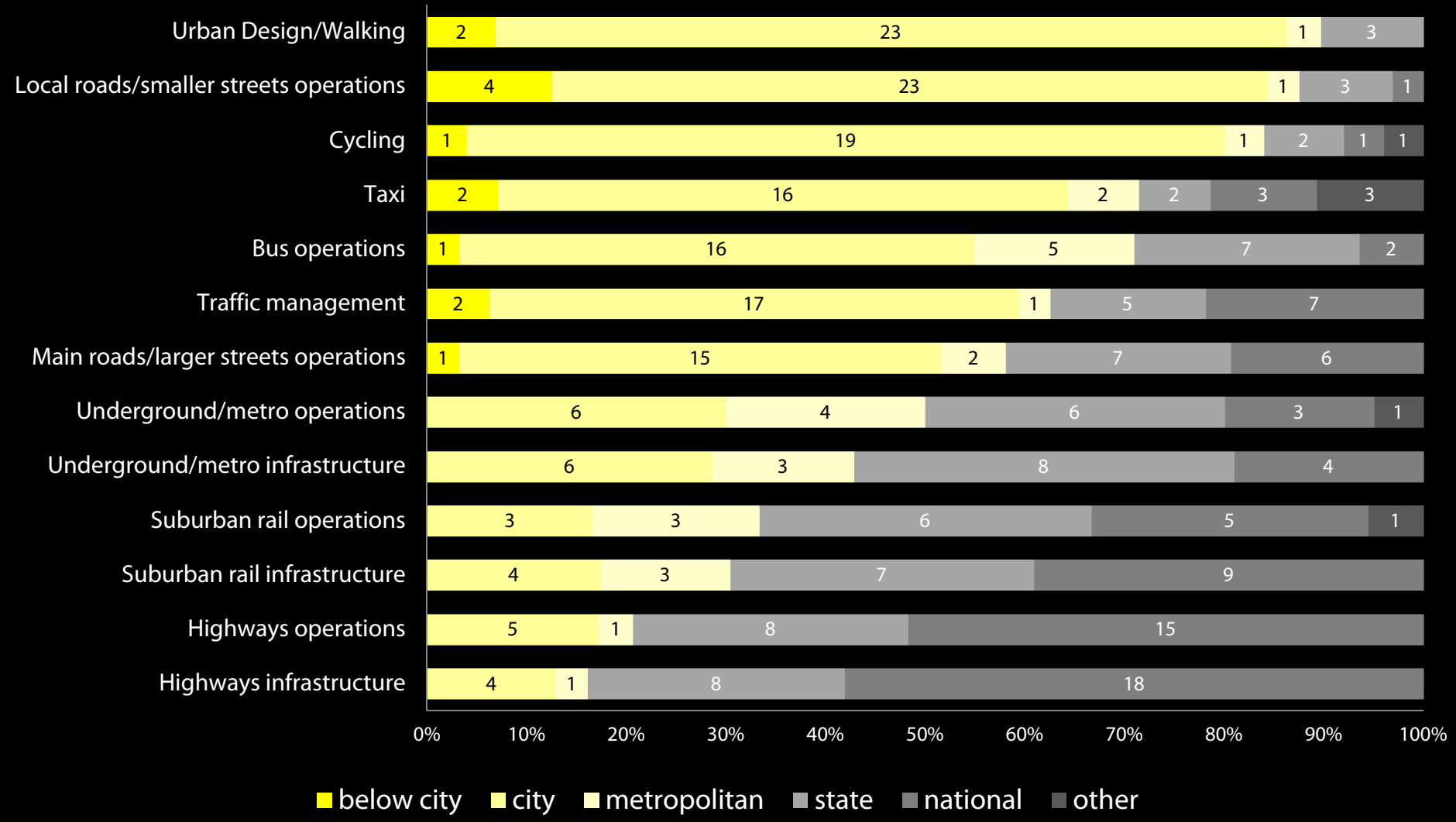
In what capacity can citizens influence local policies?



(N = 48 cities)

WHO IS LEADING THE TRANSPORT SECTOR IN YOUR CITY?

Level of influence by different tiers of government



THANK YOU!

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CURRENT RESEARCH COMPLETED RESEARCH

New Urban Governance

Urban complexity and institutional capacities of cities

'New Urban Governance: Urban complexity and institutional capacities of cities' is a new two-year LSE Cities research project co-funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation to examine multiple aspects of municipal planning, management, and governance.

Profile Events Publications

'New Urban Governance: Urban complexity and institutional capacities of

Principal Investigators
Philipp Rode, Michael McQuarrie

Research Fellow and Project Coordinator
Nuno Ferreira da Cruz

Research Team
Priya Shankar, Madeleine Lee, Catarina Heeckt

Project Steering Group
Ricky Burdett (LSE), Alaina Harkness (MacArthur), Dan Hill (Future Cities Catapult), Diana Lopez (UN Habitat), Michael McQuarrie (LSE), Philipp Rode (LSE), Tony Travers (LSE)

Current research

Cities, Space and Society
Access to the City
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Configuring Light/ Staging the Social
European Metromonitor: cities and the recession since 2008
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Theatrum Mundi
Urban intelligences, subjects and subjectivities

Cities, environment and climate change
Cities and Energy: Urban morphology and residential heat demand
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The Economics of Green Cities
Urban Mobility Transitions

Urban Governance
New Urban Governance
Urban Uncertainty

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