Counting rough sleepers in Athens: A Brief History of an Administrative Innovation

City of Athens

FEANTSA

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Overview

- ✓ **Street counts in Athens: Why & How?**
- ✓ **Results: revisiting our perception on urban homelessness**
- ✓ **Lessons learned & pathways to implementation**
- ✓ **Towards a data-driven policy: follow-up & spin-off projects**

- ✓**Street counts in Athens: Why & How?**
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Street counts in Athens: Why & How?

{before}

How many homeless people are there currently in Athens?

7.720

15.000

8.000 – 9.000

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479

Street counts in Athens: Why & How?

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{before}

Discrepancies in both methodology and results

→

NO official & unified data collection strategy able to inform policy design

Yet

Consensus on:

- Use of ETHOS typology
- Clear increase trend since 2009

Concurring understanding of basic qualitative data

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{after}

1st joint pilot count in Athens

Organization Overview (1/2)

PILOT STREET COUNT

December 9th 2017 from 2am to 6am

HISTORICAL CENTER AREA

Divided in 12 Sectors

JOINT FORCES

6 partners / 70 people –
13 teams of 5 members

Street counts in Athens: Why & How?

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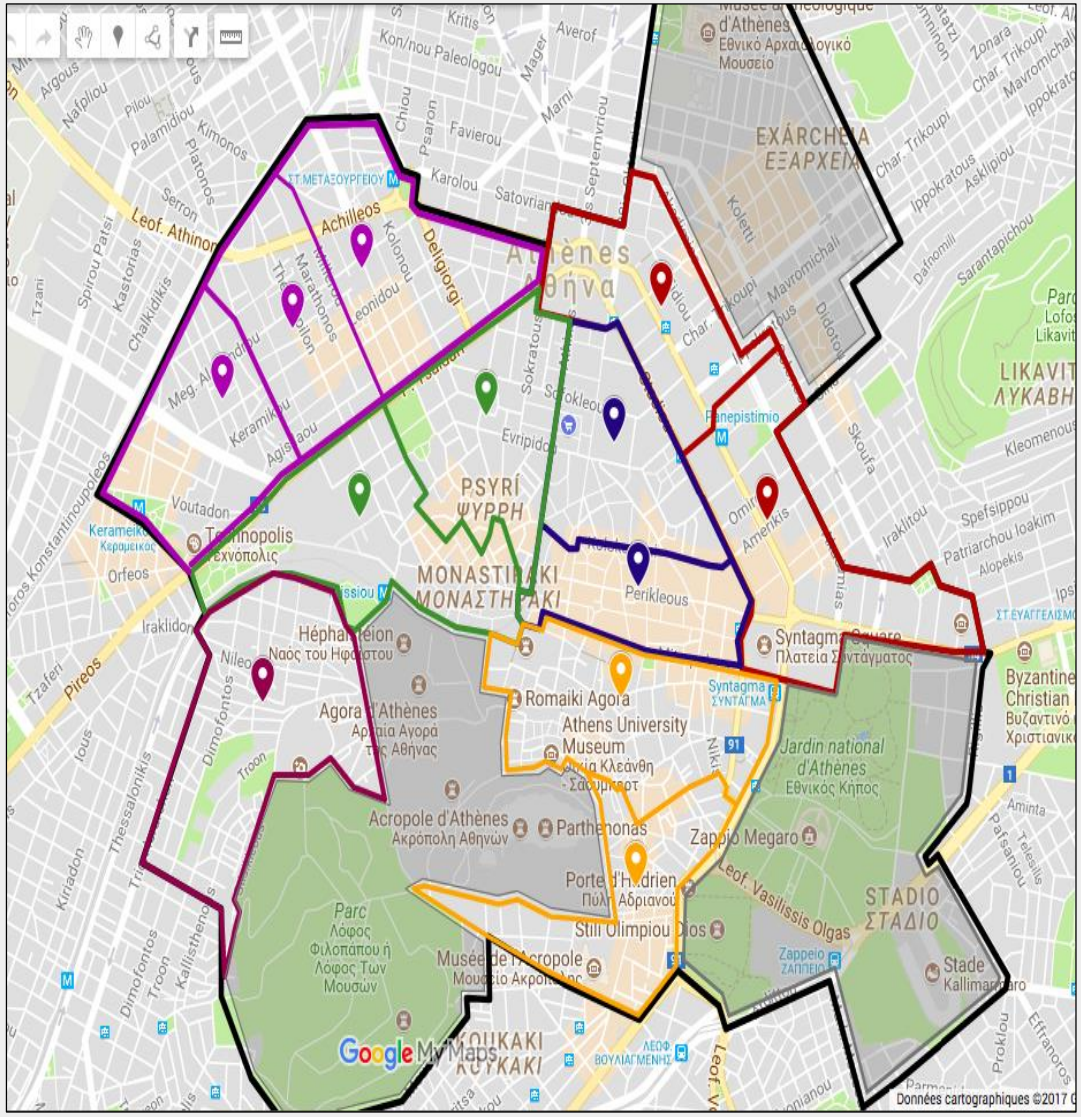
1st joint pilot count in Athens

Organization Overview (2/2)



ΔΗΜΟΣ ΑΘΗΝΑΙΩΝ
ΚΑΤΑΓΡΑΦΗ ΑΣΤΕΙΩΝ 7.12.2017

ΜΗΝ ΔΙΑΒΑΣΕΤΕ ΔΥΝΑΤΑ Ο,ΤΙ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΜΕ BOLD
ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΣΤΕ ΤΟΝ ΚΩΔΙΚΟ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗΣ
ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΤΕ ΟΠΩΣΔΗΠΟΤΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ#6

1. **Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΜΠΡΟΣΤΑ ΣΑΣ:**
- **ΕΙΝΑΙ ΞΥΠΝΙΟΣ**
- **ΚΟΙΜΑΤΑΙ – ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #6**

Καλησπέρα, ονομάζομαι___και είμαι εθελοντής/ντρια για τον Δήμο Αθηναίων. Κάνουμε σε όλους λίγες ερωτήσεις σχετικά με την κατάσταση στέγασής τους. Οι απαντήσεις σας είναι εμπιστευτικές.

2. Μπορώ να σας κάνω λίγες ερωτήσεις;
- ΝΑΙ
- **ΟΧΙ – ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #6**

3. Σήμερα το βράδυ, έχετε κάποιο μέρος να μείνετε ή κάποιο μέρος όπου ζείτε;

ΙΙ ΝΑΙ
- **ΟΧΙ – ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #5**
- **ΔΞ/ΔΑ – ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #5**

4. Τί είδους μέρος είναι αυτό;
- **ΔΡΟΜΟΣ (πχ Πεζοδρόμιο, Πλατεία, Είσοδος κτιρίου)**
- **ΥΠΝΩΤΗΡΙΟ**
- ΞΕΝΩΝΑΣ ΦΙΛΟΞΕΝΙΑΣ
- ΔΩΜΑΤΙΟ / ΔΙΑΜΕΡΙΣΜΑ / ΣΠΙΤΙ
- ΑΛΛΟ: _____

5. Σας ξαναέκαναν τις ίδιες ερωτήσεις σήμερα
- ΝΑΙ
- ΟΧΙ

6. **ΠΙΣΤΕΥΕΤΕ ΟΤΙ Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΜΠΡΟΣΤΑ ΣΑΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΑΣΤΕΓΟΣ;**

ΘΘ ΝΑΙ – ΑΝ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΞΥΠΝΙΟΣ, ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #7

ΑΝ ΚΟΙΜΑΤΑΙ, ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #11

ΘΘ ΟΧΙ – ΤΕΛΟΣ / ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ

ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΣΤΕ ΤΙΣ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΕΙΣ 7 – 10 ΜΟΝΟ ΕΑΝ Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΑΣΤΕΓΟΣ, ΞΥΠΝΙΟΣ ΚΑΙ ΕΧΕΙ ΔΕΧΘΕΙ ΝΑ ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΕΙ ΣΕ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΕΙΣ.

7. Από πότε είστε άστεγος/η;
- ΚΑΤΩ ΑΠΟ ΜΗΝΑ
- 1 ΜΗΝΑ – 1 ΕΤΟΣ
- ΠΑΝΩ ΑΠΟ 1 ΕΤΟΣ

ΚΩΔΙΚΟΣ ΠΕΡΙΟΧΗΣ: _____

8. Πόσο χρονών είστε;
- **ΚΑΤΩ ΑΠΟ 18**
- **18 – 24**
- **25 – 30**
- **31 – 40**
- **41 – 60**
- **ΠΑΝΩ ΑΠΟ 60**

9. Ποια είναι η υπηκοότητά σας;
- ΘΘ **ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ – ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #11**
- ΘΘ **ΑΛΛΗΣ ΧΩΡΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΕΕ - ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #11**
- ΘΘ **ΑΛΛΗΣ ΧΩΡΑΣ ΕΚΤΟΣ ΕΕ – ΠΗΓΑΙΝΕ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΗ #10**

10. Πόσο είναι τα καθεστώς παραμονής σας στη χώρα

ΘΘ **ΕΧΩ ΑΔΕΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗΣ**
ΘΘ **ΕΙΧΑ ΑΔΕΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗΣ ΑΛΛΑ ΕΧΕΙ ΛΗΞΕΙ**
ΘΘ **ΔΕΝ ΕΧΩ ΚΑΙ ΔΕΝ ΕΙΧΑ ΠΟΤΕ ΑΔΕΙΑ ΠΑΡΑΜΟΝΗΣ**
ΘΘ ΑΛΛΟ: _____

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΙΕΣ: Ευχαριστούμε για τη συμμετοχή σας. Υπενθυμίζουμε ότι οι απαντήσεις που δώσατε είναι εμπιστευτικές. Καλημέρα/χτα σας.

ΧΩΡΙΣ ΝΑ ΤΙΣ ΔΙΑΒΑΣΕΤΕ ΔΥΝΑΤΑ, ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΣΤΕ ΤΙΣ ΕΡΩΤΗΣΕΙΣ 11-16 ΣΕ ΟΛΕΣ ΤΙΣ ΠΕΡΙΠΤΩΣΕΙΣ ΠΟΥ Ο ΑΝΘΡΩΠΟΣ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΑΣΤΕΓΟΣ

11. **ΦΥΛΟ:**
- **ΑΝΔΡΑΣ**
- **ΓΥΝΑΙΚΑ**
- **ΔΥΣΚΟΛΟ ΝΑ ΔΙΕΥΚΡΙΝΙΣΤΕΙ**

12. **ΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΕΙΣ:**
- ΟΧΙ
- ΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΑΛΚΟΟΛ
- ΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΗ ΑΠΟ ΝΑΡΚΩΤΙΚΑ
- ΕΞΑΡΤΗΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΑΠΟ ΤΑ ΔΥΟ
- ΘΘ ΔΥΣΚΟΛΟ ΝΑ ΔΙΕΥΚΡΙΝΙΣΤΕΙ

13. **ΨΥΧΙΚΗ ΝΟΣΟΣ**
- ΘΘ **ΝΑΙ**
- ΟΧΙ
- ΔΥΣΚΟΛΟ ΝΑ ΔΙΕΥΚΡΙΝΙΣΤΕΙ

14. **ΤΟΠΟΘΕΣΙΑ:** _____

15. **ΧΡΟΝΟΣ ΟΛΟΚΛΗΡΩΣΗΣ:** _____

16. **ΑΡΧΙΚΑ ΑΠΟΓΡΑΦΟΝΤΟΣ:** _____

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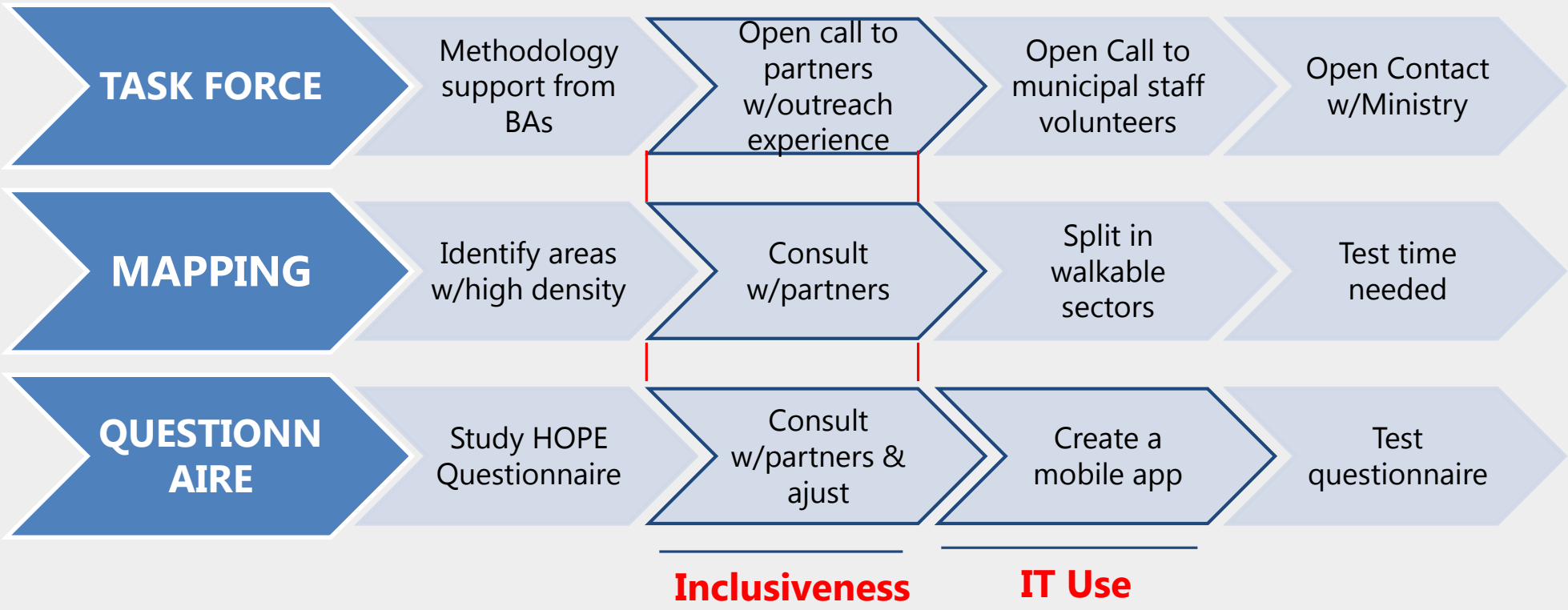
{after}

1st joint pilot count in Athens

Implementation Steps (1/3)



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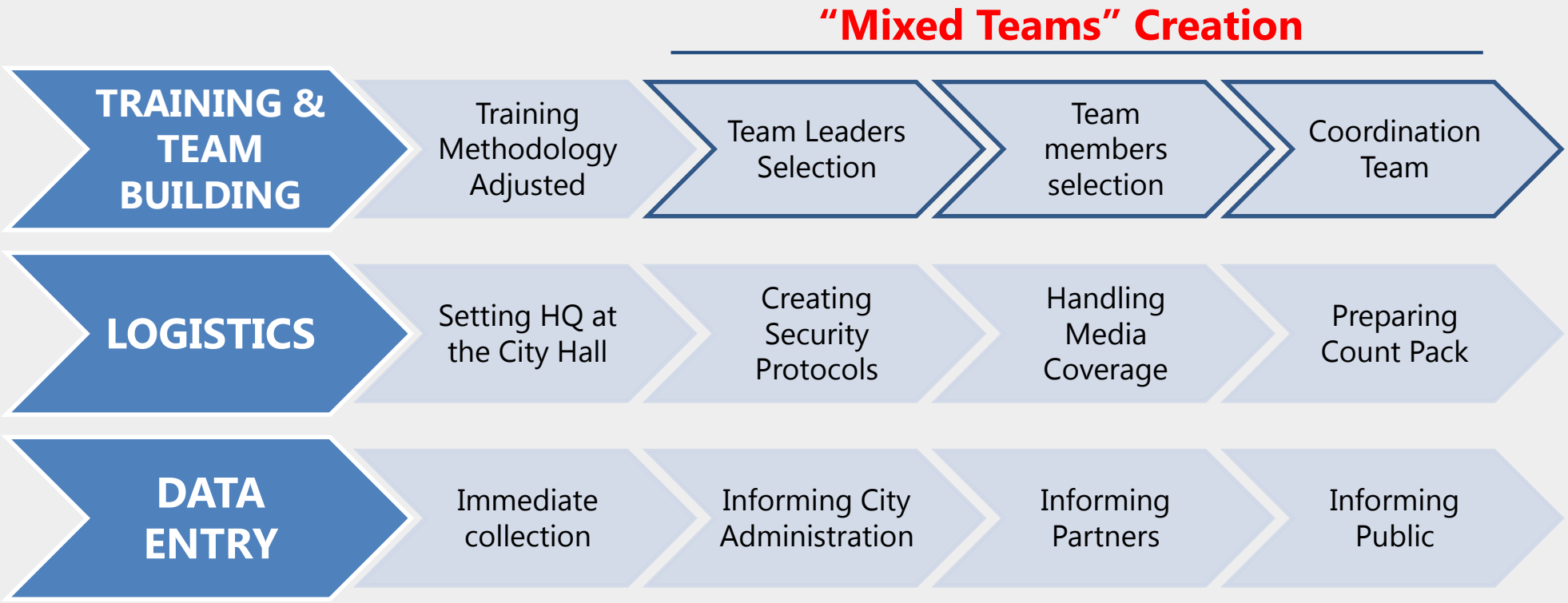
{after}

1st joint pilot count in Athens

Implementation Steps (2/3)



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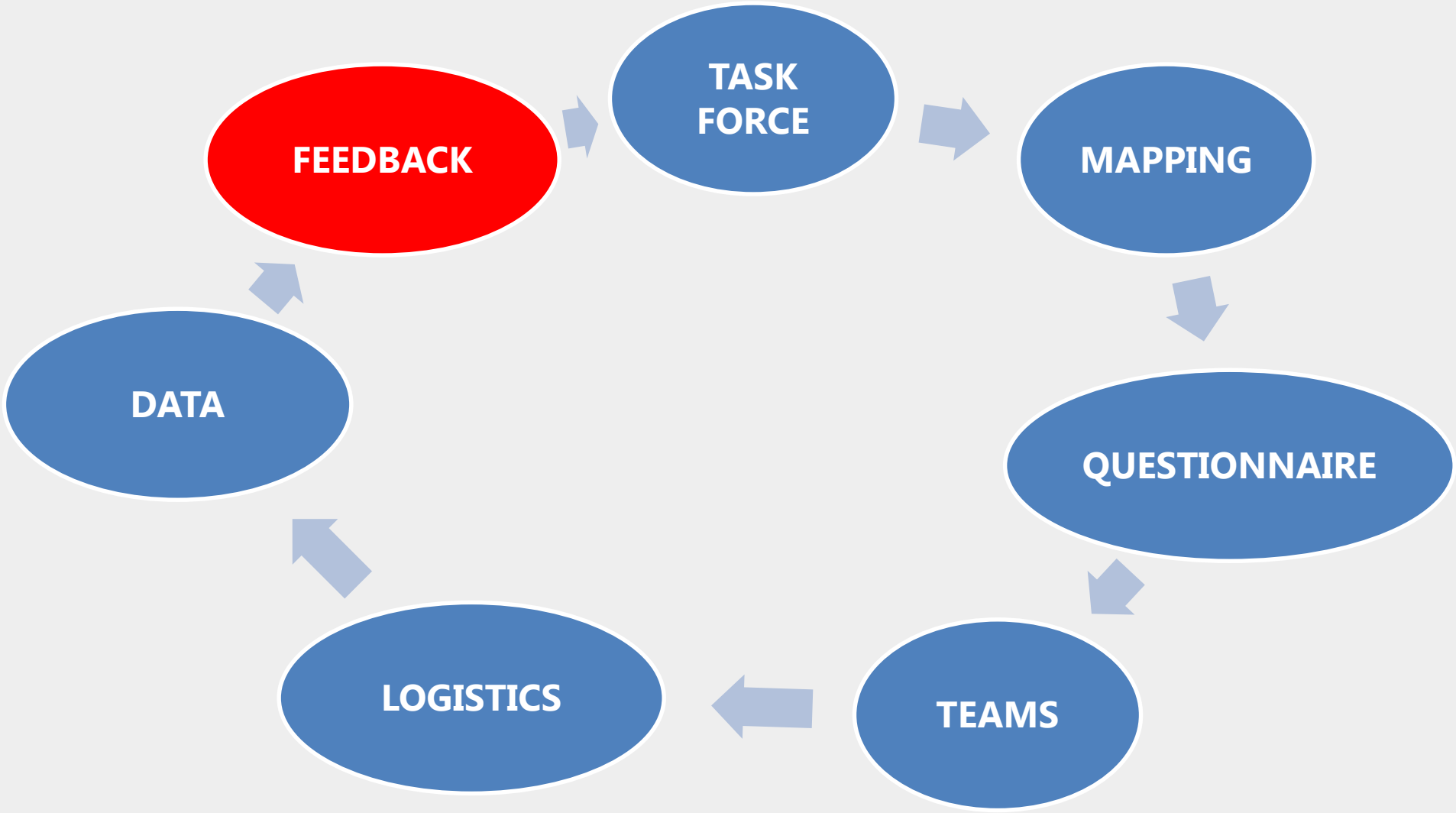
{after}

1st joint pilot count in Athens

Implementation Steps (3/3)



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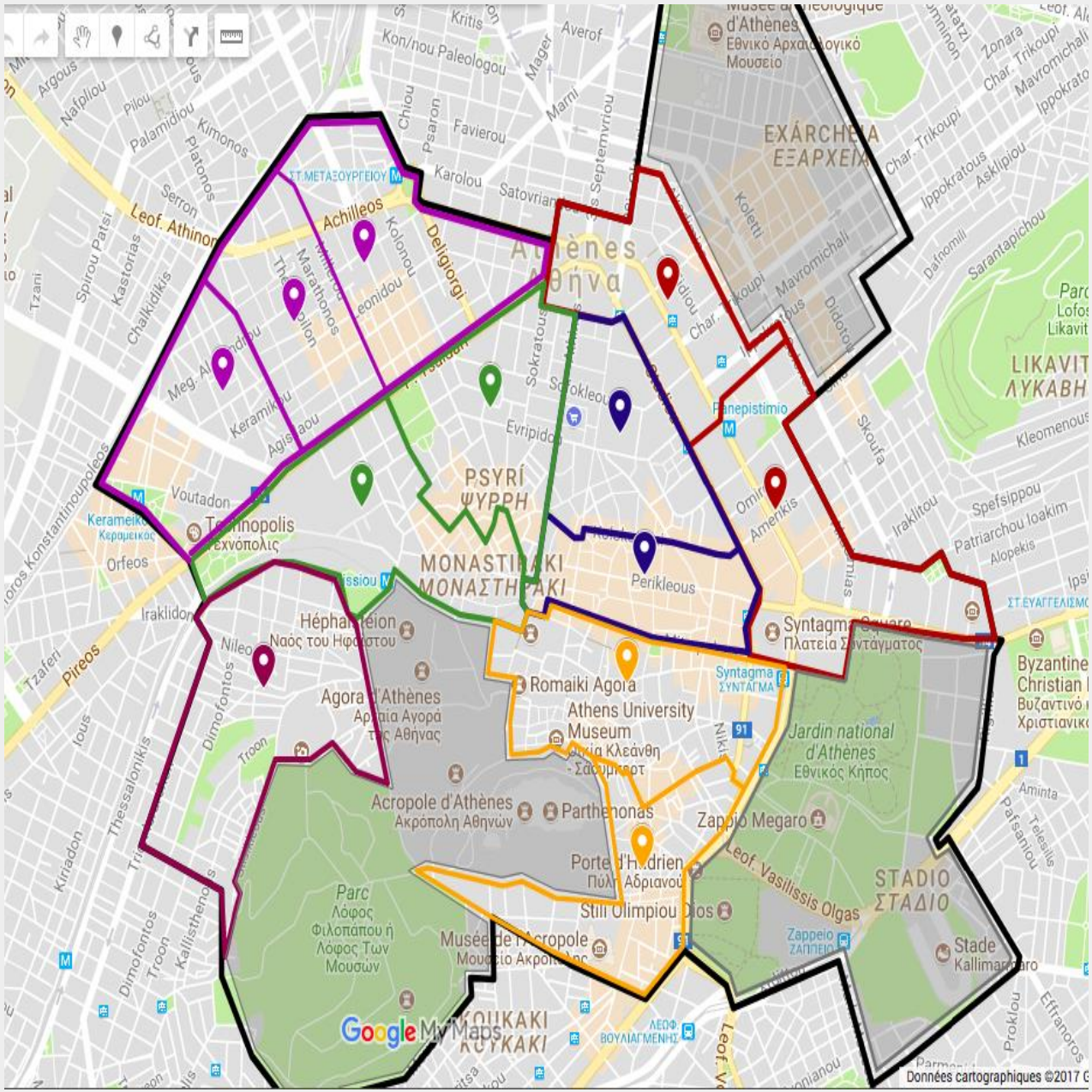
Results: revisiting our perception on urban homelessness



SECTOR	HOMELESS
1	7
2	10
3	17
4	**29**
5	**32**
6	**21**
7	**27**
8	16
9	17
10	7
11	1
12	3
TOTAL	**187**

Results: revisiting our perception on urban homelessness

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DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THIS PERSON IS HOMELESS?	**Yes & He/She is awake**	**54**
	Yes & He/She is asleep	133
Since when do you live on the street?	1 month - 1 year	16
	Less than 1 month	7
	More than 1 year	**26**
What is your citizenship?	**3rd Non-EU Country**	**26**
	Other EU Country	6
	Greek	17
Addictions	Unclear	**103**
	Alcohol Addiction	8
	Drug Addiction	**49**
	Addiction to Drugs & Alcohol	3
	No addiction	24
Gender	**Man**	**124**
	Woman	22
	Unclear	41
Mental condition	**Unclear**	**154**
	Yes	5
	No	28

Results: revisiting our perception on urban homelessness

- Total number of rough sleepers: 187. Below estimations, but can be explained.
- 2/3 men, ~1/2 substance users. Concurring to estimations.
- Out of 1/3 awake: 50% sleeping roughly for more than a year, 50% originating from a 3rd non-EU country.

Interim conclusion:
Relatively low number of rough sleepers, yet with a high resiliency degree, due to inherent characteristics & general socio-economic conditions.

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Ministry of Labor City count (May 2018)

- Similar methodology applied to Athens and 6 more cities
- Count Area: extended to 40 sectors (X3 when compared to the pilot)
- Results:

	Historical Center Area	Total Street Homeless	Night Shelters	Supported Apartments	TOTAL
City-Wide Count	**138**	353	233	207	**793**
Pilot Count	**187**				

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Lessons learned & pathways to implementation

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TASK FORCE

- Create a permanent management team, linked to City administration
- Give more time to the open call

MAPPING

- Rearrange some of the Sectors
- Include “high-risk” areas within the Historical Center
- Decide on whether to match the city-wide count area

QUESTIONNAIRE

- Keep 1-p format
- Rearrange some of the questions (e.g mental condition)
- Insert question on reasons of service-resistance

Lessons learned & pathways to implementation

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TEAMS

- Keep mixed composition
- Narrow down team size to 3 members
- Be more inclusive (expand university students participation, citizens as volunteers?, create volunteer contract)
- Create specific teams for “high-risk” areas

LOGISTICS

Give more time to:

- Security protocols creation
- Media coverage handling

DATA

- Keep the mobile-app (securing its interoperability with both i-phones & androids)
- Assign data visualization & process

FEEDBACK

- Create “formal” feedback procedures
- Link feedback to policy adjustment & development

Lessons learned & pathways to implementation

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LOCAL & CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COORDINATION

1. **Unify methodology**:
   - Common count area
   - Common count questionnaire
   - Keep simultaneous shelter count
   - Keep "risk-areas" count

2. **Decide on count identity & frequency**:
   - Quantitative vs. Qualitative
   - Once or twice/year?

3. **Secure public commitment to a mutually designed policy**:
   - Set goals for shelter & rough sleepers / Ensure human & funding resources
   - Link homelessness to housing policy/Create an overall realistic policy
   - Allocate responsibilities/accountability

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Policy Follow-Up

National Strategy on Homelessness:

- Reform of the legislative framework (including homelessness definition)
- New interministerial committee on homelessness
- Homelessness monitoring mechanism
- Better access to subsidies

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Spin-off projects

1. Safe Haven project:

- 24/7 operating unit, combining night shelter & day care services
- Low threshold based on the “bed-first” principle
- Targeting the most vulnerable/excluded rough sleepers
- Large spectrum of tailor-made medical & social services
- Joint venture of City of Athens & Partners
- Average duration of stay: 1 year
- Expected outcome: 200 people/2 years

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Spin-off projects

2. Night Shelter for active drug users:

- Operated by the publicly supervised entity specialized in drug addiction
- 90 places
- Project duration: 2 years
- Low threshold
- Combination of medical & social services

Thank you!