



Community Forum

**Model for participatory
decision-making at local level**

Gorjan Slavkovski
Strategic Development Consulting

What is a community forum?

Tool for advancing

➤ **community development and**

➤ **good local governance**

through a

**structured instrument for citizen
participation**



Types of community forums

- > Project
- > Topical
- > Inter-municipal and
- > Budget



Forum process

6 citizens meeting (forum sessions)

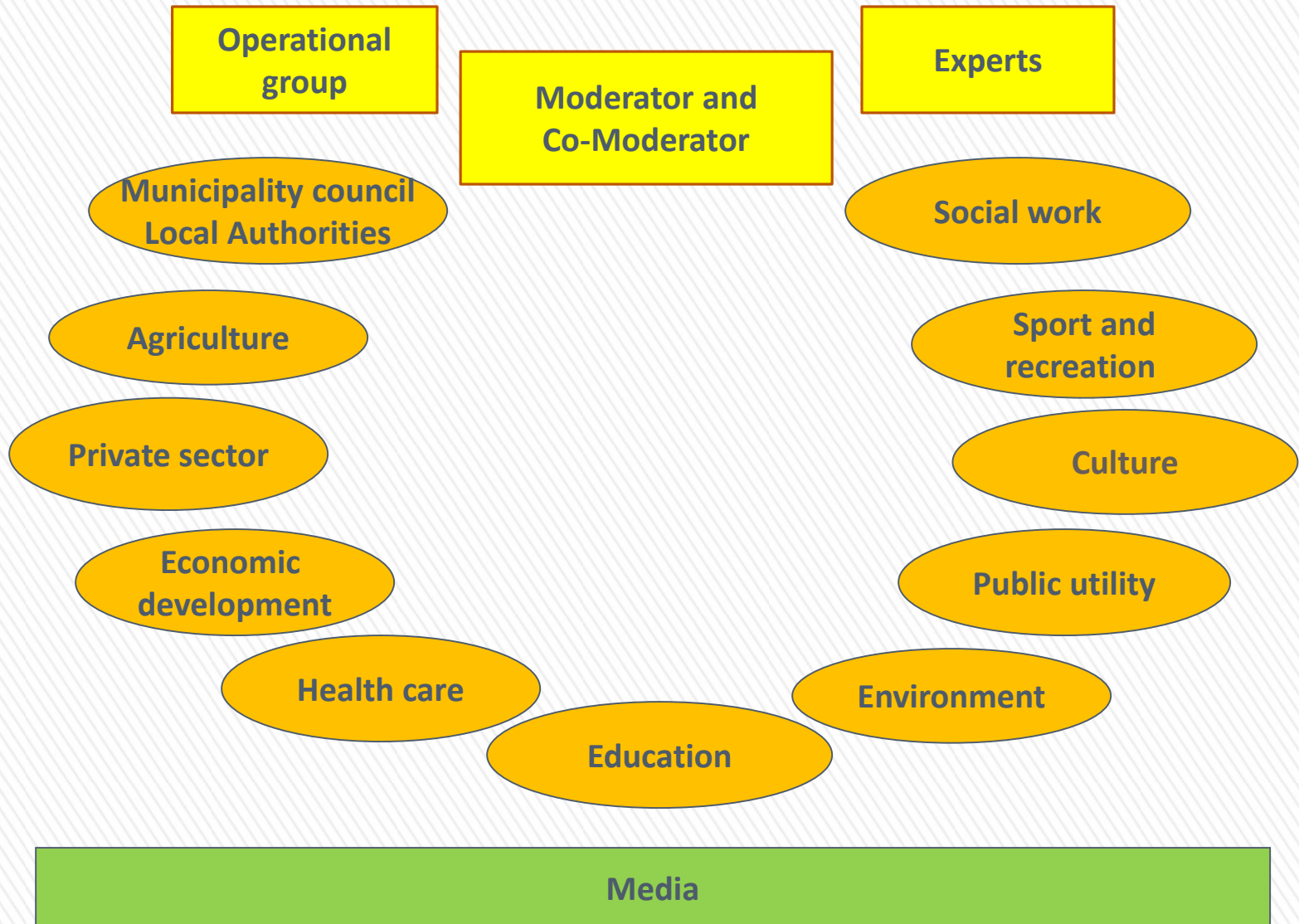
/ 4 FS(discussions) + 1 (voting) +1 (accountability) and in-between forum meetings /



Implementing priorities selected at the forum/budget realization

6 – Follow-up session – presenting results of the forum process (projects and recommendations)

Forum Structure – Working Tables



Forum



Key benefits of the forum process

- » Active involvement of citizens (ownership)
- » Identified problems and solutions (competition of ideas)
- » Developed and implemented community projects
- » Increased understanding of citizens for municipal competences (capacity building)
- » Increased accountability of LSGs
- » Inclusion of vulnerable and marginalized groups
- » Gender and ethnic representation



Challenges

- » Mobilization of citizens (women, business sector, rural areas, ethnic and vulnerable groups),
- » Lack of trust
- » Lack of knowledge (budget process, municipal competences, real costs)
- » Municipal commitment (citizen friendly budget presentations)
- » Logistics



Sustainability

- » Institutionalization of forums – **59** or over 2/3 of the municipalities in North Macedonia have incorporated the forum in their Statutes;
- » Forum Manual “*Community forum in 11 steps*”;
- » Certified **37** forum moderators.



Thank you!

gorjan@sdc.com.mk
www.sdc.com.mk