

Citizens Engagement in EU cohesion 2021-2027

19 – 20 September 2024
Brussels

The training has been organised by EIPA and CPVA
under the Framework Contract Nr 2023CE160AT004.



Trainers ... and you !

- **Mauricio Mejia Galvan** - Policy Analyst, OECD Open Government and Civic Space Unit
- **Sona Karikova** - Head of Open Government, Banska Bystriza, Slovakia
- **François Jégou** - Managing Director of Strategic Design Scenarios
- **Daniela Ferrara** - Authority Regione Emilia Romagna, Italy
- **Arantxa Mendiharat** - Co-founder Deliberativa, Spain
- **Ellen Haustein** - Project Manager University Rostock, Germany
- **Marco Lopriore** - Expert EIPA and **Lucrezia Tombelli** - Research Officer EIPA

Agenda - Day 1 AM

- 08.45 **Registration of participants**
- 09.00 **Opening of the Seminar: Introduction to the programme, method and objectives**
Stefan Appel, Head of Unit DG REGIO, EC and *Marco Lopriore*, Expert, EIPA
- 09.15 **The framework for citizens engagement in the EU Cohesion cycle**
Mauricio Mejia Galvan, Policy Analyst, OECD Open Government and Civic Space Unit
- OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes
 - OECD and DG REGIO first pilot Final Report (focus on the main recommendations issued to the Commission and the Managing Authorities; examples from Emilia-Romagna and Poland)
 - Experiences from the second pilot phase
 - Q&A session
- 10.10 **Groups discussion on the next steps for citizens engagement in EU cohesion policy**
Mauricio Mejia Galvan, *Marco Lopriore* and *Francesco Amodeo* DG REGIO EC
- Participants main learnings from citizens participation so far, opportunities, main challenges
 - Identifying ways forward in EU cohesion including in ITI, SUD, TJTP
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.45 **Lessons from the OECD-DG REGIO pilots projects: Integrated Territorial Strategy (ITS) in Banska Bystrica**
Sona Karikova, Head of Open Government
- Ideation and prioritization of projects
 - Digital infrastructure

Agenda - Day 1 PM

- 12.30 Lunch
- 14.00 **Interactive sessions: Let's play! 'Citizen participation? Hell no!'**
François Jégou, Managing Director of Strategic Design Scenarios
- 15.30 Coffee break
- 15.50 **Citizens engagement methodologies**
François Jégou, Managing Director of Strategic Design
- Participatory policy-making practices and inspiring cases
- 17.30 End first day
- 19.30 **Networking dinner** at *Brasserie Le Roy d'Espagne*, Grand Place 1, 1000 Brussels,
tel.: +32 2 5130807

Agenda - Day 2 AM

- 09.00 **Recap previous day**
Marco Lopriore
- 09.15 **How Managing Authorities can support Citizen Engagement in 2021-2027**
Daniela Ferrara, Managing Authority Regione Emilia Romagna
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.50 **Lessons from the OECD DG REGIO pilots: citizens engagement for low-carbon economy in Cantabria**
Arantxa Mendiharat, Co-founder Deliberativa (online connection from Spain)
- 11.55 **The EMPACI Interreg BSR project on participatory budgeting**
Ellen Haustein, Project Manager, University Rostock
- 12.40 **Conclusions: What are the lessons learned from the training and next steps in your 2021-2027 programmes**
Marco Lopriore, Expert, EIPA and *Francesco Amodeo* DG REGIO EC
- 12.45 **End of the course**

Citizens Engagement and EU Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

- Programming and implementation:
 - No more citizens summary in AIR; consultation of citizen platforms; accessibility of citizens to websites; EU Charter of fundamental rights
 - Triple helix in PO 1 + citizens cooperatives (3+1 = 4), citizen and green transition “social readiness”, citizens as IT users/benefits of digitization/digital citizenship
- Example selection of MS 2021-2027 programmes:
 - Cantabria: ITI PO 5 for the district of Besaya DG REGIO OECD pilot
 - West NL: ITI co-creation citizens for energy transition
 - FR Grand Est support new needs coming from “initiative citoyennes”
 - FR Centre-Val de Loire: communauté énergétique citoyenne

URBACT IV 2021-2027

- URBACT III networks applied the concept of participation using the ‘local group’ tool which had responsibility for co-design of the Integrated Action Plan. 97% of URBACT cities having completed this process considered that the participatory approach used during their network would continue after. In addition, URBACT III capitalisation work on how cities understand and implement these principles shows that the benefits of engaging with residents in a participatory process are not always clearly seen. **Demonstration effects** from cities more advanced in community engagement and support in understanding the mechanisms and the **skills** involved are necessary. **New forms of participation should be encouraged and improved, including co-creation and co-design in cooperation with inhabitants, civil society networks, community organisations and private enterprises.**

Training needs around citizens engagement

- Clarifying MA/MC role at programme level vis-à-vis the project promoters in CE; Reaching to citizens who are not direct beneficiaries of Cohesion policy
- Challenges of involving citizens and PA (even inside a municipality not all departments are aligned)
- Timing issue for CE “when”?
- CE on-going at local level, what more can be done at regional, cross-border and national level CE methodologies and tools
- What are the risks for CE (incl. online polling)
- How do we follow-up on CE “accountability
- Thinking ahead on preparing post-2028 programming period (ref. CoP partnership), lack of sanctions for non-CE



Civic and civil society engagement in Interreg study report

26 January 2024



Civic and civil society engagement in Interreg

January 2024

Explore the dynamics of civic and civil society engagement in Interreg programmes. The study report offers reflections about the potential of Interreg in fostering community engagement and strengthening Interreg for impactful cooperation with citizens and civil society organizations.

<https://www.interact.eu/library/186>





Thank you!

Marco Lopriore

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