

The framework for citizen participation in the EU Cohesion cycle

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Introduction and ice breaker

Let's take 5min to know each other

- Name
- Where are you coming from?
- Explain your job in one sentence

What is citizen and stakeholder participation?

Citizen and stakeholder participation includes “all the ways in which citizens and stakeholders can be involved in the policy cycle and in service design and delivery”

(OECD, Recommendation on Open Government - 2017)

OECD ladder of participation

1.

INFORMATION

- Access to information
- Open data
- Public communication

2.

CONSULTATION

- Public consultations
- Stakeholder meetings
- Dialogues / Workshops
- Open meetings

3.

ENGAGEMENT

- Participatory budgeting
- Deliberative processes
- Hackathons
- Citizen Science
- Commons

Why should public authorities involve citizens?

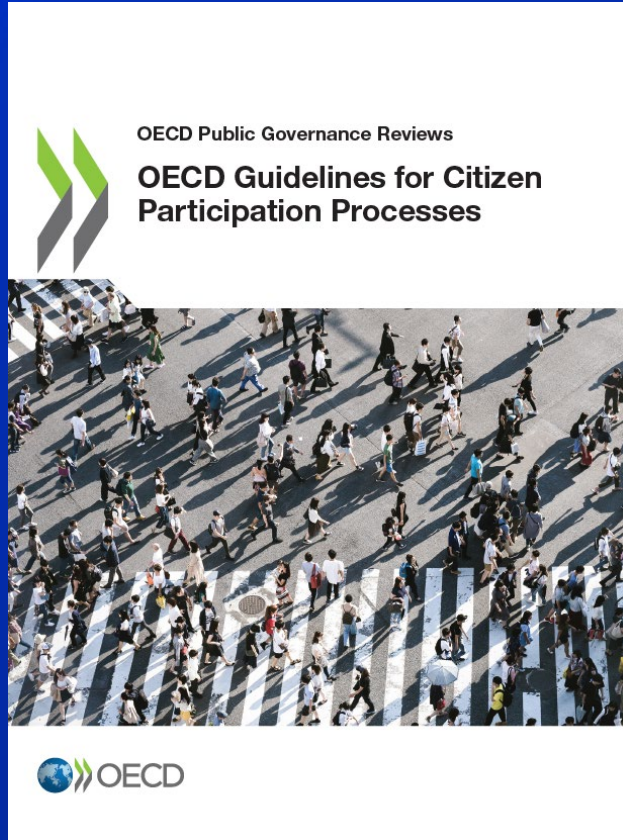
- Helps authorities **solve problems** or address specific situations
- Helps authorities **take better decisions** that respond to citizens' needs
- It **increases the quality** of policies, services, and regulations
- Is good for **inclusion** and **diversity** of voices in decision making
- Is good for **legitimacy** and facilitates implementation
- Is good for **democracy**

Cohesion policy: key reasons for involving citizens

- Ensure that EU cohesion funds address citizens' most pressing needs
- Enhances inclusion and diversity of actors involved in cohesion policy
- Increases awareness and understanding amongst the public about the implementation of EU cohesion policy
- Helps pre-empt public conflict during EU cohesion policy programs.

Key differences when involving stakeholders and citizens

	TYPE OF PARTICIPANTS	BENEFITS	CONSIDERATIONS
CITIZENS	<p>Individuals without any affiliation: open to all citizens, or specific groups of citizens (young, residents of an area, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public opinion/ judgement • Diversity of views and voices • Can be representative of broader public • Public communication and public learning • Tailor made and effective solutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires breaking down barriers to participation • Motivation to participate should be ignited • Requires clear links to decision making, invitations from high-level figures
STAKEHOLDERS	<p>Individuals with an affiliation: CSOs, businesses, trade unions, think-tanks, public service users, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official stakeholder perspectives • Expert opinion and knowledge • Ensures representation of key players 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low threshold for participation • Clear interest and incentives • Experience interacting with public authorities and role in decision making



- Outlines **10-step** implementation plan
- Aimed at **all** levels of government
- Focused on **citizen** rather than stakeholder **participation**
- With **examples** from 15+ countries
- 9 Good Practice **Principles**



Ten steps to plan and implement a citizen participation process



Guiding principles for meaningful citizen participation processes



Participation methods

- Information and communication
- Open meetings/town hall meetings
- Civic monitoring
- Public consultation
- Open Innovation
- Citizen Science
- Participatory budgeting
- **Representative deliberative process**

Key differences between deliberative and participatory democracy

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

TYPE OF PARTICIPATION

PARTICIPANT SELECTION METHOD

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

Small, but representative groups of people, aiming for **deep deliberation**

Deliberation, which requires that participants are well-informed and consider different perspectives to arrive at a public judgement

Civic lottery, which combines random selection with stratification

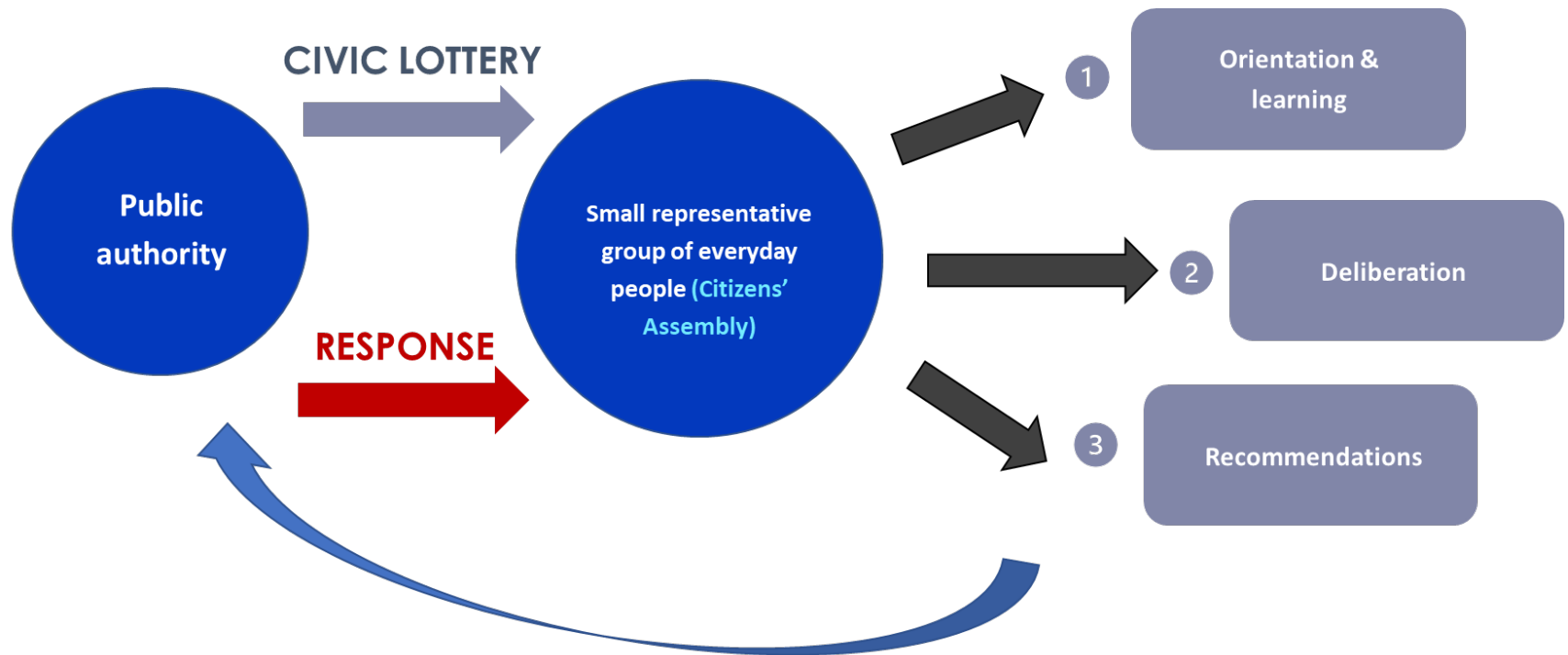
PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Large numbers of people, ideally everyone affected by a particular decision - the aim is to achieve **breadth**

More participation from all citizens who choose to be involved

Self-selected participation in order to engage as many people as possible

What is a representative deliberative process?

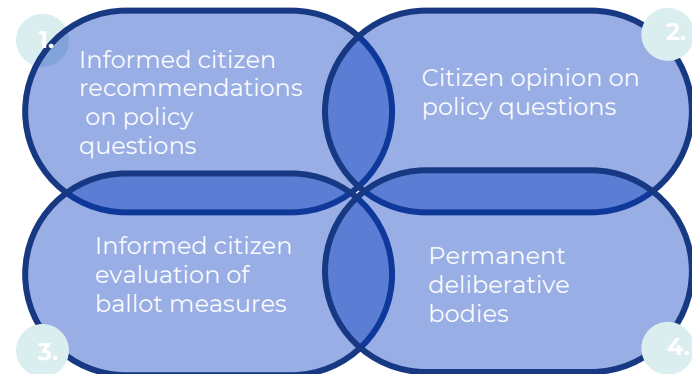


What is a representative deliberative process?

Deliberative processes are well-suited to address policy issues or problems that are:

- Values-based dilemmas
- Complex problems that require trade-offs
- Long-term questions

Types of outcomes of deliberative processes



OECD and European Commission DG REGIO pilots: Learning from experience





European
Commission

The pilots

Poland

GZM Metropolis



Involve residents in collaborative urban design

Romania

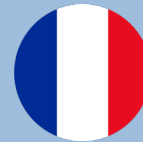
Ramnicu Valcea



Involve citizens in definition of public transport priorities

France

Normandie Region



Involve citizens in design of cultural policies

Spain

Basque Country



Involve residents in local strategies

Italy

Emilia Romagna



Involve youth in sustainable development

Slovakia

Banska Bystrica



Building digital participation platform

Challenges

- 1. Integrate citizen participation in formal processes**, be it political, electoral, or administrative, to break this isolated or parallel state in which these efforts currently exist vis-à-vis formal decision-making spaces.
- 2. Build environment that supports flexibility and experimentation** needs to be created in public administration, so that civil servants feel more comfortable with exploring new practices and approaches to policy.
3. For the **participation to be effective and impactful**, considering the diversity component and ensuring inclusion of marginalised or underrepresented people are crucial steps to faithfully represent the demographic composition of its society.
- 4. Citizens require incentives**, be they symbolic or financial, as well as time for them to commit to the participatory process.
5. Need to build and **strengthen a culture of participation to make it scalable**. This includes approaches in and out of government, to establish a democratic infrastructure to promote participatory decision-making, involving regulation, skills development, toolkit creation, spaces, platforms, and shared methodologies.

Challenges

6. **Capacity building to equip both civil servants and civil society** with the skills needed to better support and participate in such processes.
7. **Building trust** between citizens and government, so that citizens trust their government and that their participation has weight in governmental decision-making. Likewise, that governments trust their citizens to give actionable and valuable input in key policy issues.
8. Governments need to adapt and create formal spaces for participation, integrated in their administrative culture.
9. **Prioritize resource allocation** for these processes, namely impactful participation can only be achieved with dedicated financial, human, or technical resources.
10. **Strengthen networks and bonds of mutual learning** and support are crucial aspects to demystify participation, breaking the initial barriers and resistances stemming from fear or ignorance, to be able to scale good practices and support groups.



Thank you!

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