

# Citizens Engagement in EU cohesion 2021-2027

**13 – 14 May 2024**  
**Brussels**


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

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## Trainers ... and you !


- **Mauricio Mejia Galvan** - Policy Analyst, OECD Open Government and Civic Space Unit
- **Sona Karikova** - Head of Open Government, Banska Bystriza, Slovakia
- **Christophe Gouache** - Lead Expert of URBACT European Network of Cities (Breaking Isolation & Active Citizens)
- **Aleksandra Ziętek** - Project Coordinator, Citizen Participation and Democracy, Eurocities
- **Arantxa Mendiharat** - Co-founder Deliberativa, Spain
- **Ellen Hausteine** - Project Manager University Rostock, Germany
- **Marco Lopriore** - Expert EIPA and **Lucrezia Tombelli** - Research Assistant EIPA

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## Agenda - Day 1 AM

08.45	<b>Registration of participants</b>
09.00	<b>Opening of the Seminar: Introduction to the programme, method and objectives</b> <i>Stefan Appel</i> , Head of Unit DG REGIO, EC and <i>Marco Lopriore</i> , Expert, EIPA
09.15	<b>The framework for citizens engagement in the EU Cohesion cycle</b> <i>Mauricio Mejia Galvan</i> , Policy Analyst, OECD Open Government and Civic Space Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes</li> <li>▪ 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)</li> <li>▪ Experiences from the second pilot phase</li> <li>▪ Q&amp;A session</li> </ul>
10.30	<b>Groups discussion on the next steps for citizens engagement in EU cohesion policy</b> <i>Mauricio Mejia Galvan</i> , <i>Marco Lopriore</i> and <i>Francesco Amodeo</i> DG REGIO EC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Participants main learnings from citizens participation so far, opportunities, main challenges</li> <li>▪ Identifying ways forward in EU cohesion including in ITI, SUD, TJTP</li> </ul>
11.00	Coffee Break
11.20	<b>Lessons from the OECD-DG REGIO pilots projects: Integrated Territorial Strategy (ITS) in Banska Bystrica</b> <i>Sona Karikova</i> , Head of Open Government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ideation and prioritization of projects</li> <li>▪ Digital infrastructure</li> </ul>
13.00	Lunch

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## Agenda - Day 1 PM

13.00	Lunch
14.15	<b>Citizens engagement methodologies</b> <i>Christophe Gouache</i> , Designer & researcher at Strategic Design Scenarios, Lead Expert of URBACT European Network of Cities (Breaking Isolation & Active Citizens), Trainer at the French National Institute for Public Policies - Participatory policy-making practices and inspiring cases
15.45	Coffee break
16.00	<b>Interactive sessions: Let's play! 'Citizen participation? Hell no!'</b> <i>Christophe Gouache</i> , Designer & researcher at Strategic Design Scenarios
17.15	<b>Overview of current tools for citizens engagement</b> <i>Aleksandra Ziętek</i> , Project Coordinator, Citizen Participation and Democracy, Eurocities
17.30	End first day




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## Agenda - Day 2 AM


- 09.00 **Recap previous day**  
*Marco Lopriore*
- 09.05 **Lessons from the OECD DG REGIO pilots: citizens engagement for low-carbon economy in Cantabria**  
*Arantxa Mendiharat, Co-founder Deliberativa*
- 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.50 **The EMPACI Interreg BSR project on participatory budgeting**  
*Ellen Hausteijn, Project Manager University Rostock*
  - Tools (technical tools for PB design, training manuals)
  - Key learnings from the EMPACI project and the Pilots
  - Workshop on PB
  - Activities of pilot municipalities (hackathon in Finland, pre-phase in Vidzeme, train-the-trainers)
  - Internet voting, websites and Information technology services
- 12.30 **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**

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## EU Cohesion Policy challenges





Have received a lot of attention from the EC and MS (auditors, desk officers, ...)

TIMELY spending (N+3/N+2)



COMPLIANT SPENDING  
(MAX 2% error)

DELIVERING RESULTS:  
Green Deal SDGs/Europe 2020 strategy (Jobs and Growth objectives)/EPSR  
Smart Specialisation  
REPowerEU

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## 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



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## 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.**



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## Conclusion

What are the lessons learned from the training and how can they be used in the next steps in your 2021-2027 programmes?

## EC initiatives

- EC Recommendation (EU) 2023/2836 of 12.12.2023 on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society organisations in public policy-making processes
- Five European Citizens' Panels since COFE: [European Citizens' Panels - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-citizens-panels.europa.eu)
- Citizens' Engagement Platform: [Citizens' Engagement Platform - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://citizens-engagement-platform.europa.eu)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Citizen Participation and Deliberative Democracy Festival, Brussels, 12-14 June 2024

  
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Submitted by Ventsislav KOZAREV on Wed, 19/07/2023 - 10:58

## New procurement instrument for expertise and capacity to support citizen engagement in policymaking

On 19 July 2023 the European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication (COMM), published in the Official Journal a new Call to Participate in a Dynamic Purching System (DPS) targeting expertise and capacity to support its growing needs to engage citizens in policymaking. All economic operators capable of delivering services underpinning participatory processes are invited to submit request to participate.

The DPS is split into four different categories:

1. Pan-European or Multinational Participatory and Deliberative Processes
2. Selection of Participants
3. Design and Facilitation of Participatory and Deliberative Processes
4. Digital Platform Setup, Moderation and Analysis



**JUST TRANSITION AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**  
Lessons learned from H2020 EuComMeet project

 **EuComMeet**  
DELIBERATIVE SPACES FOR DEMOCRACY

26th June 2024  
9:00 - 13:00

European Committee of the Regions,  
Rue Beillard 99-101, Brussels

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 655624.

[www.eucommeet.eu](http://www.eucommeet.eu)

**EuComMeet Event**

Event Address: European Committee of the Regions, Rue Beillard 99-101, Brussels  
26th June 2024, 9:00-13:00

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# Thank you!

Marco Lopriore

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The training has been organised by EIPA and CPVA under the Framework Contract Nr 2023CE160AT004. The opinions expressed are those of the contractor only and do not represent the EC's official position.

 **CPVA** Central project management agency

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