





The framework for citizen participation in the EU Cohesion cycle

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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)





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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.





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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"> • 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 |
| STAKEHOLDERS | <p>Individuals with an affiliation: CSOs, businesses, trade unions, think-tanks, public service users, 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 |




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OECD Public Governance Reviews
OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes

OECD

- 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**



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Ten steps to plan and implement a citizen participation process



problem participants digital implementation evaluation

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

expectations method communication feedback culture

OECD
 BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

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Participation methods

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

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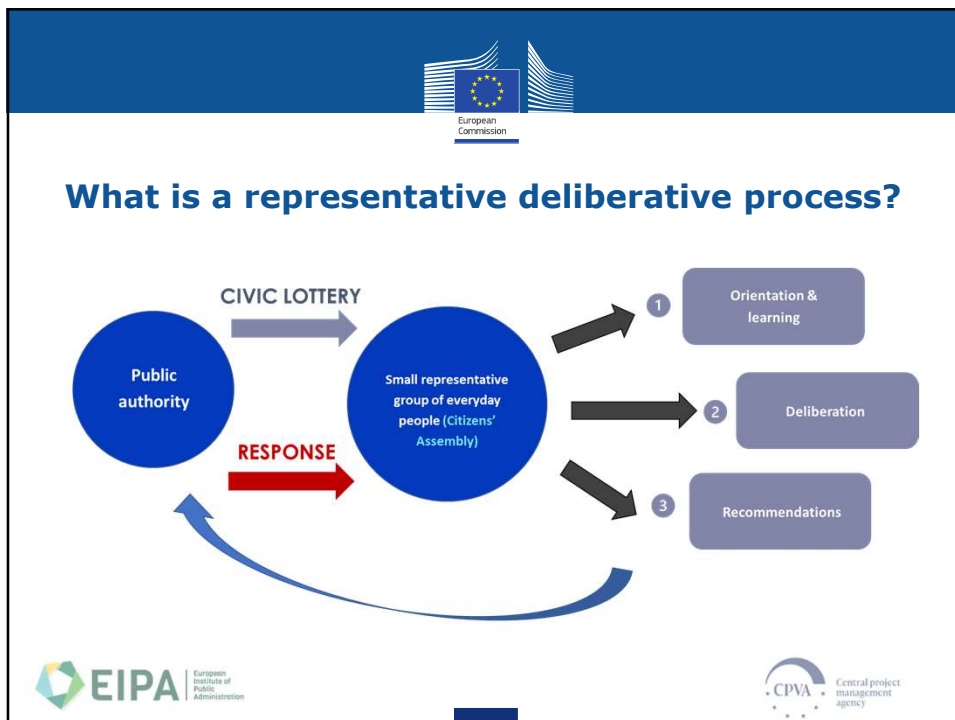

 European Commission

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 |

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ENGAGING CITIZENS IN COHESION POLICY
 DG REGIO and OECD Pilot Project Final Report
 OECD Public Governance Working Paper No. 50


ENGAGING CITIZENS IN COHESION POLICY

DG REGIO and OECD Pilot Project Final Report





- **Details about the five pilot projects**
- **Lessons learned**
- **Recommendations for the EU cohesion policy community**


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The five pilots

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| <p>Emilia-Romagna Region</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Citizen participation guidelines for territorial development strategies</p> | <p>Regional Ministry of Cantabria</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Pilot deliberative Process: Besaya's Citizens Jury</p> | <p>Interreg Flanders – The Netherlands</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">A plan for a pilot deliberative process</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Citizen participation playbook</p> | <p>Interreg Romania-Bulgaria</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Checklist for quality citizen participation process</p> | <p>CEUTP in Poland</p>  <p style="font-size: x-small;">Citizen participation guidelines for transport infrastructure projects</p> |
|--|--|--|---|---|



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Recommendations

For public authorities in cohesion policy



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1. Differentiate between citizen and stakeholder participation and choose the appropriate methods for each
2. Move from citizen consultation to citizen engagement
3. Involve citizens at all stages of the cohesion policy cycle
4. Secure required resources
5. Create the conditions for beneficiaries to involve citizens in the programming projects
6. Ensure impact and political buy-in
7. Close the feedback loop
8. Lower barriers to ensure inclusive participation
9. Conduct evaluations and learn from experience



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Recommendations

For the European Commission




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- 1. Encourage behavioural changes for the development of a culture of participation**
 - More open and accessible cohesion policy process and language
 - Promoting simplification of the administrative processes for public authorities
 - Promoting citizen participation as a core principle of cohesion policy
 - Encouraging public authorities to develop citizen engagement skills and literacy
- 2. Foster communities of practice / networks to share experiences and good practices**
- 3. Encourage institutionalisation and establishment of participation infrastructure**
 - Beyond one-off participation initiatives
 - Towards regular opportunities for more people to have a say
 - Towards participation as an integral part of democratic architecture in cohesion policy




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**CEUTP Transport +
FADO**

Citizen participation
in transport
infrastructure in GMZ
Metropolitan area.

Sustainable Urban
Mobility Plan



**Municipality of
Ramnicu Valcea
+ Fundatia
Comunitara
Valcea**

Citizen participation
in transport planning.

Urban Mobility
Strategy




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Thank you!

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