

EUROPEAN TOOLS OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY



Integra
Onlus



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NETWORK OF TOWNS

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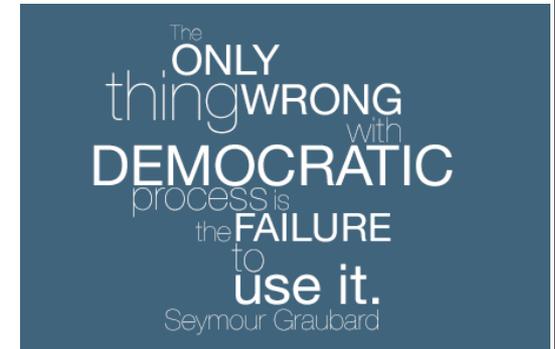
KICK OFF MEETING

Participatory Democracy



→ space for european citizens to influence political decision-making through their own actions and NGO's → „Citizen's participation“

→ a fashionable political concept, but one that increasingly means all things to all people.



Participatory Democracy in EU



EU

The 1. (and only) supranational organisation

→ with PD mechanisms to engage citizens

→ mechanisms allowing for individual citizens' direct participation in policy-making in addition to dialogue with civil society

Goals (2001)

1. re-balance the playing field among representatives of different interests,
2. increase the transparency of policy-making, provide citizens with opportunities of contact with and influence on policy-makers,
3. increase the quality of policy-making,
4. foster a panEuropean debate on European policy alternatives.

Participatory Democracy in EU



1950: Interest group, allies in the organisations

Article 11 TEU

- confirmation of this strategy
- it entitles citizens to exchange views on the EU

2000: 1.time mentioned PD in a policy consultation on a partnership with NGOs

2002: White Paper on governance

Guidelines on dialogue and consultation

2004: Article 47, Constitutional Treaty

2006: EC, transparency initiative, register lobby group

2007: Europe for citizens' programme

Participatory Democracy in EU



2007/2009: The Lisbon Treaty

- new participatory mechanisms

- European Citizens' initiative

- new channels of communication and information with European civil society

Without civil society organisations, the EU can have no hope of becoming a true democracy.

**CIVIL
SOCIETY
EUROPE**

Participatory Democracy in EU



Can succeed if **2 conditions** are met:

- the processes are open to the general public, and they are effectively structured to have a real effect on the policy outcome

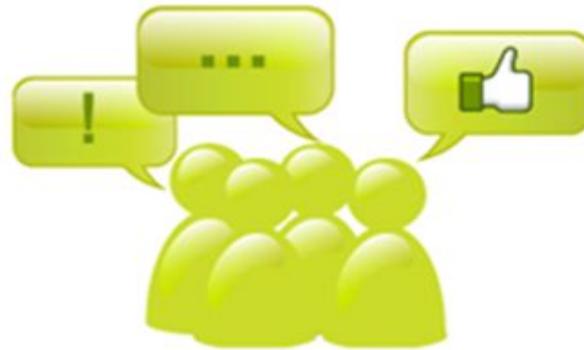
Connect Europe with →



Tools of Participatory Democracy



Citizen's engagement



NGO's

Elections (local/regional, national & European elections)

Citizens dialogues/debates

Petitions

Volunteering

Citizens Initiatives → European citizens' initiative

Tools of Participatory Democracy



- every 5 years (1979 the 1. direct elections)
- representatives in the European Parliament (EP)
the directly-elected institution that defends EU citizens interests in the EU decision-making process
- 2014, 8th parliamentary election
The pan-European political parties fielded candidates for president of the Commission

Tools of Participatory Democracy



Citizens' dialogues



"to be politically active in the Member States and in dialogues with citizens, by presenting and communicating the common agenda, listening to ideas and engaging with stakeholders,,

(Jean-Claude Juncker)

- communication tool that involved people directly, „town hall meetings“

Tools of Participatory Democracy



Petitions

One of the fundamental rights of European citizens:

„Any citizen, acting individually or jointly with others, may at any time exercise his right of petition to the European Parliament.“

(Article 227 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU)

Petitions Portal

<https://petiport.secure.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/main> →



Tools of Participatory Democracy



Volunteering

- contribution to local communities at home or abroad, developing new skills and making friends
- an important role in Europe (the situation differs from country to country)

EVS (The European Voluntary Service)

European Youth Portal

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering_en



Tools of Participatory Democracy



European citizens' initiative



“Not less than one million citizens who are nationals of a significant number of Member States may take the initiative of inviting the EC, within the framework of its powers, to submit any appropriate proposal on matters where citizens consider that a legal act of the Union is required for the purpose of implementing the Treaties”

Resources



Direct and Participatory Democracy at Grassroots Level

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/documentation/studies/Documents/direct-participatory-democracy.pdf>

European Governance A White Paper

http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_DOC-01-10_en.htm

Participatory Democracy in the EU: Obstinate or Obsolete?

https://www.coleurope.eu/sites/default/files/research-paper/bouza_cepob_9-16.pdf

Europeans' engagement in Participatory Democracy

http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_373_en.pdf

Democratic improvements in the European Union under the Lisbon Treaty

<https://www.eui.eu/Projects/EUDO-Institutions/Documents/EUDOreport922011.pdf>

Eurotopia

<https://www.tni.org/files/eurotopia5.pdf>

Resources



European Elections

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20150201PVL00036/Elections>

Petitions

<https://petiport.secure.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/main>

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20150201PVL00037/Petitions>

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/displayFtu.html?ftuld=FTU_2.1.4.html

Citizens dialogues

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-dialogues/>

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regdoc/rep/1/2014/EN/1-2014-173-EN-F1-1.Pdf>

European Youth programme

https://europa.eu/youth/volunteering_en

Resources



Volunteering in Europe

https://europa.eu/youth/eu/article/45/67_en

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/volunteering/index_en.htm

European citizens initiative

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/basic-facts?lg=en>

<http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/basic-facts?lg=en>

An Evaluation of the European Citizens' Initiative

<https://www.modul.ac.at/index.php?eID=dumpFile&t=f&f=5239&token=5c45f1c0887ec542f4a335fafb3ba52f0ea9fcfa>