

Empowered Citizens

GRAND CHALLENGES :

C6. Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies

C7. Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens



CHALLENGE

Disenfranchised communities, citizens, and NGOs lack awareness of and access to essential services. Moreover, digital tools cannot be applied as a slave on gaping social wounds. The lack of clear channels for meaningful citizen participation furthers the feelings of disempowerment and the distrust of governing bodies. Hampered by asymmetrical knowledge, and seemingly opaque governing process, the dream of achieving an inclusive and reflective European society seems further away than ever.

SCOPE

Understanding the dynamics and challenges of citizen empowerment and participation in a diverse, digital society and exploring, in empirical and/or experimental ways, how citizens could play an active part in designing, producing or running public services as well as democratic processes. The methods and tools, which are developed, should ensure that everyone (society in its diversity) has the capabilities and is motivated to take part in the process; all types of knowledge should be defined and included equally in the participatory processes. The research should take into account how this redesign can improve both the inclusiveness and the outcomes of public services and democratic processes. The research should also explore what are the requirements for participation to be successful, and what are the different impacts of the different participatory methods applied.

EXPECTED IMPACT

Online consultation rating ★★

- Increasing collective responsibility and awareness; for citizens to start to understand their individual responsibility and opportunity for impact
- Finding ways, tools, and techniques to systematize the public participation and transparency of decision making. Citizens will learn about institutions, the decision making process, and the scales of decisions (learning by doing). There is reciprocity in these processes. Everyone involved (institutions, stakeholders, scientists...) will learn from each other
- Promoting new modes of citizen engagement to reduce corruption, increase transparency, and further good governance
- Respecting and treating all types of knowledge and know-how equally
- Engaging citizens in participatory processes in all stages of their lives
- Creating forums for citizen and policy maker dialogues to foster social cohesion and trust in governing institutions. Developing a simple and effective platform to collect and safely communicate data, train involved actors, and target community initiatives

PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

17 Empowered citizens

Research topic :
Empowered Citizens

3.d

Grand Challenges :

6: Europe in a changing world - inclusive, innovative and reflective societies

7: Secure societies - protecting freedom and security of Europe and its citizens

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Online consultation rating: average importance: 4,00/5

Nations prioritizing this research area: Croatia, Malta, France, Italy, Belgium

CITIZENS' VISIONS

[LAT] **Vision 3:** Responsible lifestyle.

"Each citizen's personal responsibility in decision making"

[DK] **Vision 2:** A democratic society with REAL equal opportunities.

"Education in democratic culture in elementary school."

[...]"Agnes participated in a lot of debates through social media. She eagerly used her freedom of speech within the "responsibility of speech."

[PORT] **Vision 5:** We build the future now.

"I participate every day in the construction of my future, my family and my community, in a similar way as is my participation in CIMULACT today. Individual freedom to choose and participate in continuing education and training, politics and citizenship is paramount, as is the study of fundamental rights."

[UK] **Vision 6:** Citizen empowerment.

"All services should be community-led, geared towards maximum empowerment of groups and individuals, where all feel they have choices and access, and they are listened to."

[UK] **Vision 4:** Untitled.

"- Citizens decide on spending priorities (e.g. taxes, referendum, participatory budgets)

- WIDENING PUBLIC DEBATE/VOTING MECHANISMS – organising more workshops like this, electronic referendum, public debates including more political parties, groups of interest."

[SWE] **Vision 2:** Education – A Standardised education system in the EU.

"Project work, as well as virtual classes and lessons over national borders are a reality."

[CHE] **Vision 5:** Together for one world.

"An attractive educational system (...) promoting the transfer of knowledge."

[PORT] **Vsion 3:** E.U. – We are
“A responsible society with an aware, active, deliberative and cooperative
(public) participation”