

A most comprehensive knowledge portal on civic participation in German and English



Everything worth knowing about implementing participation

You're planning a participation process? Here you will find (in digestible form) everything you should bear in mind and what you will need for the process. Plenty of material – manuals, worksheets on participation, standards for citizen involvement etc. – is available to download.

Participation methods and how to put them to work

What is a Wisdom Council? Which methods are useful in conflict-ridden situations? What might a creative design for large-scale events look like? On the website you will learn about the various methods' potential and ways of employing them, and can find out which is the right method for your particular process.



More than 100 case studies in the case-study database

How does participation mesh into an energy policy turnaround? How was the conflict over the plan to expand Bozen airport resolved? What experience has accumulated in the field of community organizing in Germany? In the case-study database you can read up on how participation is actually implemented in practice, in Austria and elsewhere.

Dossiers on related issues

Participation is about consultation and joint decision-making in connexion with public policy and planning activities, e.g. transport planning, the council budget, local urban development, research, EU policy issues, development cooperation – several dossiers reveal where and how people get involved in which issues. Experts in the field report from the full spectrum of real-life participation.



Where citizen involvement is heading

The menu item *Discourse on the future* puts you in the picture about new developments such as embedding participation in the community, presents individual experts' points of view, gives details of current investigations and processes – and you can contribute from your own practical experience here, too.



How can you join in?

Send us your case study, and we will gladly post it on partizipation.at. You have a point of view that you want to get across to other people? In the menu item *Points of view* we publish individual commentaries on aspects of citizen participation; and we are also pleased about a lively exchange of views on our blog.

Getting social innovations into real life

The complex challenges we face today require holistic approaches and creative methods that improve the chance of robust solutions that find wide acceptance, such as Dynamic Facilitation, the Wisdom Council or the Art of Hosting, for instance – partizipation.at provides a wide range of material on these.



Promoting participation

In the Strategic Group on Participation experts from a variety of specialized disciplines work together on the issue of citizen involvement. The Strategic Group aims to promote participation and sustainable development at community, regional and national level, and provides hands-on recipes for actual practice (http://www.partizipation.at/strategic_group.html).

Supporting participation in practice



Where is the benefit, where are the limits of participation? What kind of framework and standards does participation require? How are decisions arrived at? The results of discussion within the Strategic Group on Participation concerning these and other issues have been published as *Worksheets on Participation*.



Shaping the Future together – the Participation Manual helps with planning a participation process step by step. Along with a variety of other manuals and guidelines, the Manual is available for downloading on partizipation.at.



The *Standards of Public Participation* are aimed at people working in administration, and provide points of reference for satisfactory participation in practice – so that no one need invent the wheel all over again. The Standards were drawn up by an interministerial working group, and approved by the Austrian Cabinet in 2008.



Fully up to date on with current developments

A blog about current issues, a multimedia library with videos and canned radio programmes, information on current events, a literature database, reviews and many other features keep you posted on what's going on right now across the participation universe.

Tying into the network

Participation has many different fields of application, and a wide variety of people are involved in participation, either as citizens or as organizers. On partizipation.at this diversity is expressed both in language and visually. Learning from one another, facilitating professional exchange, intensifying links – tie into the network on partizipation.at!

Who to contact



Martina Handler
Austrian Society for Environment and
Technology (ÖGUT)
1020 Wien, Hollandstraße 10/46
www.oegut.at



lebensministerium.at

Rita Trattnigg
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment
and Water Management
1010 Wien, Stubenbastei 5
www.lebensministerium.at