

Participation

In decision making participation refers to different mechanisms for the public to express opinions regarding political, economic, management or other social decisions. F.i. in Germany it is an obligatory part in public planning issues (BBauG § 1a). In Austria the Bundesverfassungsgesetz (federal constitution law) deals with participation on a national level, like referendum, plebiscite), on a personal level it is defined by the laws of some federal states (f.i. ecological audit). Participation means the inclusion of different actors or groups in decision making processes. Participatory decision making can take place along any realm of human social activity, including economic (i.e. participatory economics), political (i.e. participatory democracy or parpolity), management (i.e. participatory management), cultural (i.e. polyculturalism) or familial (i.e. feminism). It is also a part of transdisciplinary research, including practitioners, economists, politicians and/or citizens to enhance the scientific views by the expertise of those.

Levels and dimensions

Participation can be realised with single persons, interest groups, clubs, chambers, citizen movements, experts, and practitioners. The following levels are possible: political and legal level, planning and programme level, project level. It can be realized in these dimensions: Information (such as flyer, brochure, newsletter, information event, kiosk, posters, displays), consultation and interaction (such as public information event, public discussion, inquiry, interview, DELPHI etc.), and decision making (working group, round table, planning cell, environmental mediation, practitioners board etc.). [Social media](#) can play an important role in participation.

Methods

Most applied are the methods of [world café](#), http://http://wiki.mountaintrip.eu/wocur/Fishbowl_method], [focus group discussion](#).

Weblinks

<http://www.partnerships.org.uk/guide/theory.htm>
<http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/planningqualitygrowth/DOCUMENTS/Laws.Rules.Guidelines.Etc/SPRs/SPR.PartTechniques.pdf>
<http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/default.asp?lang=En&n=46425CAF-1&offset=6&toc=hide>
http://wiki.mountaintrip.eu/wocur/Fishbowl_method

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<http://www.wikialps.eu/doku.php?id=wiki:participation&rev=1383408841>

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