  

Barriers to Scaling Up Citizen Engagement

# Workshop

Time: 4. – 5. October 2022 Place: Copenhagen

Convener: The Danish Board of Technology / Horizon 2020 ISEED

**Workshop theme**

“The Citizens' Panels (…) will now become a regular feature of our democratic life.”

- Ursula Von der Leyens, 2022.

Citizen engagement as a means of strengthening democracy enjoys increasing popularity. Not least as tool for addressing scientifically complex issues such as climate change mitigation. Several European governments demonstrate a willingness to experiment with participatory processes as auxiliary to parliamentary politics. The European Union route increasing amounts of funding to accelerate such processes with their promise of remedying certain issues of the crisis of democracy related to citizens feeling ever more alienated from their political representatives.

Yet what seems like a promising scheme remains embryonic in the wider public policy context. Engagement practitioners who promote, design, and implement engagement processes across Europe report significant difficulties with mobilizing sufficient political support and finances.

This workshop aims at identifying, mapping, and examining current barriers to more effective uses of citizen engagement in the context of public policy and administration. What are the current barriers for scaling up the citizen engagement agenda? What challenges do engagement practitioners report from the field? How is skepticism towards citizen engagement constructed? What is the place and role of citizen engagement in liberal-democratic political systems and their societal order?

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The workshop will be organized around presentations and papers and will allocate plenty of time for discussions. The workshop aims at new reflections, policy recommendations and instigating joint publications.

*The workshop forms part of the Horizon 2020-project Inclusive Science and European Democracies (ISEED), which explores the conditions under which participatory and deliberative practices can be successfully implemented in democratic governance.*

For further information, please contact the organizers at fr@tekno.dk.

  

# Workshop Program

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| **Day 1** (4. October) |
| The first workshop day will focus on mapping and discussing various barriers to driving forward the citizen engagement agenda broadly viewed. The focus lies on structural and political issues. |
| 9.00 – 9.45 | Breakfast at the venue. |  |
| 9.45 – 10.15 | Welcome, tour the table, introduction to the workshop. | Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark.Lars Klüver, Senior Advisor, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark. |
| 10.15 – 11.15 | **“Climate Panels: Challenges and Obstacles 1”**‘Tackling complexity: the challenges of the Danish Climate Citizen Assembly’.‘German and Swiss Citizen Assemblies: challenges and issues’.‘Explorative comparison of impacts of climate assemblies in Ireland, France, Germany and Scotland’.Moderator |  |
|  | Lars Klüver, Senior Advisor, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark.Gabriel Pelloquin, Project Coordinator, Biovision, Switzerland.Erich Griessler, Head of Research Group, and Shauna Stack, Researcher, Institute for Advanced Studies, Austria.Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark. |
| 11.15 – 11.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | **“Climate Panels: Challenges and Obstacles 2”**‘Designing af climate citizen assembly - choices, and framings and their influence on impact’Discussion Moderator |  |
|  | Annika Agger, Associate professor, Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark.Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark. |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |  |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | **“Power and Legitimacy”** |  |
|  | ‘Barriers to Citizen engagement: A Bulgarian Perspective’ | Zoya Damianova, Programme Director, Science, Technology and Innovation PolicyProgramme, Applied Research and Communications Fund, Bulgaria. |

  

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|  | ‘Barriers to Citizen Engagement: A Lithuanian Perspective’,‘Sweden and Citizen Engagement: Obstacles to Mainstreaming Citizen Engagement in Sweden’.‘Exploration of Participation Tools: The Words of the Experts’.Moderator | Arminas Varanauskas, Head of the Knowledge Economy Forum Association in Lithuania, Lithuania.Edward Andersson, Participation and Democracy consultant, Sweden.Chaira Piccolo, researcher, University of Trento, Italy & Paolo Bodini, postdoc, Ca' Foscari University, Italy. (w. Giuseppe Pellegrini, Professor University of Trento)Malte Frøslev Ibsen, Project Manager, Danish Board of Technology, Denmark. |
| 15.00 – 15.20 | Coffee break |  |
| 15.20 – 17.00 | **Moderated Discussion and Group Work** |  |
|  | ‘Revisiting Barriers to Citizen Engagement’. | Malte Frøslee Ibsen, Project Manager, and Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, the Danish Board of Technology. |
| 17.00 | **Cultural tour of Christianshavn and Christiania** |  |
| 19.00 – 21.00 | **Dinner at Kanalhuset** |  |
| **Day 2** (5. October) |
| The second day of the workshop pursues a deeper understanding of the politics of citizen engagement in the broader field of public governance and societal order. The focus lies on structural issues and communication. |
| 8.30 – 9.15 | Breakfast at Kanalhuset |  |
| 9.15 – 11.15 | **‘A Typology of Citizen Engagement’**‘Citizen Engagement: Towards a General Typology of Citizen Engagement’.Intervention 1Intervention 2Intervention 3Moderator |  |
|  | Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, The Danish Board of Technology, Denmark‘Citizen engagement and system theory: further reflections 2, Gorm Harste, professor emeritus, Aarhus University (Via ZOOM)Lars Clausen, Associate Professor, University College, Denmark.Roberto Gronda, Assistant Professor, Department of Civilisations and Forms of Knowledge, Università di Pisa, Italy. |

  

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|  |  | Erich Griessler, Head of Research Group, and Shauna Stack, Researcher, Institute for Advanced Studies, Austria. |
| 11.15 – 11.30 | Coffee break |  |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | **“Citizen engagement and/as communication”**Group discussion, pitch byModerator |  |
|  | Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, The Danish Board of Technology, Denmark & Annika Agger, Associate professor, Department of Social Sciences and Business, Roskilde University, Denmark.Gabriel Pelloquin, Project Coordinator, Biovision, Switzerland. |
| 12.30 – 13.30 | Lunch |  |
| 13.30 – 15.00 | ‘Joint projects and outputs’* Special issue?
* Book anthology?
* Report/ Essay collection?

Moderator |  |
|  | Frederik Rosén, Senior Project Manager, The Danish Board of Technology, Denmark |