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Democracies



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Summary of the ISEED project

ISEED is a research project, funded by the SWAFS programme of Horizon 2020 and coordinated by Ca' Foscari University. The project explored the conditions under which participatory and deliberative practices could be successfully implemented. ISEED's ambition was to develop a new conceptual approach to understanding the role and value of citizen participation in institutional decision-making that considers open, transparent and shared access to deliberative processes. The objective was to construct a comprehensive and empirically informed concept of deliberative participation that would be able to address participation and deliberation as key challenges in contemporary democratic societies.

To this aim, the objectives of the project included:

1. To identify the conditions in which active participation of citizens in public debate and knowledge production contributes to legitimate decision-making in democratic societies.
2. To envisage new opportunities for active participation that empower citizens by reducing unequal access to information and lead to increased accountability and social inclusion.
3. To create a scenario where Europe and European institutions can be at the forefront of a discussion on how to engage in fair, cooperative and competent political action, based on the effective use of a well-functioning public sphere.

Introduction

The objective of *D6.4 Recommendations and scenarios for the possible futures of democracy* is to summarise the main results of *task 6.3 "Global recommendations: From citizen participation in science to citizen participation in democracy,"* focusing in particular on task 6.3.1, namely the national workshops, held in Poland, Italy, Spain, France, Uruguay and Bulgaria in the autumn of 2023. *WP6 From citizens and science to citizens and democracy: scaling up and policy recommendations* includes the following steps:

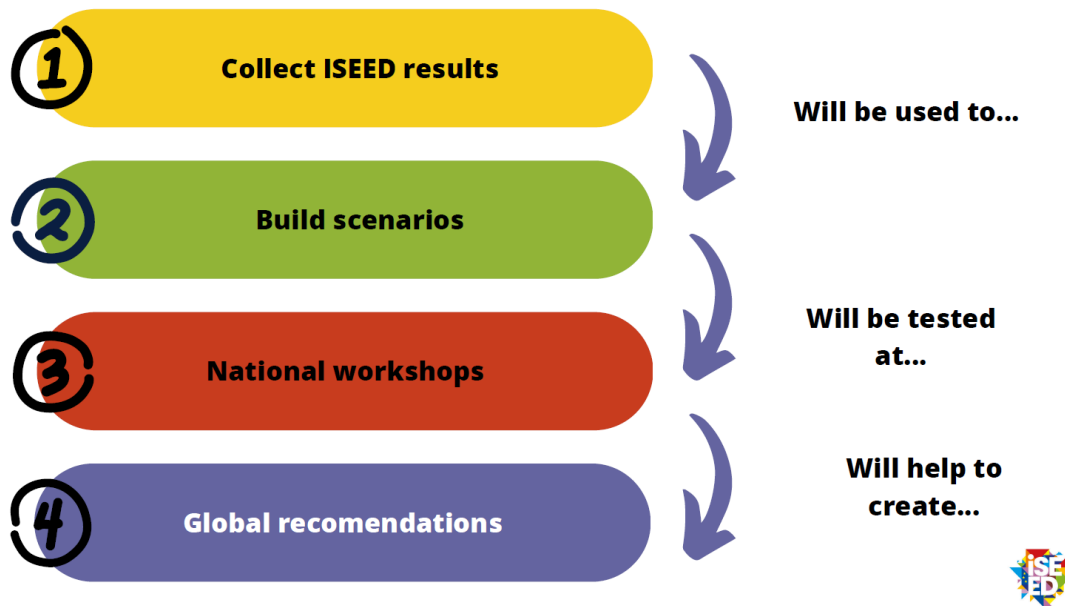
Step 1: Review of empirical research results and collected cases in order to identify a set of critical variables and indicators to be used as a foundation for the development of explorative scenarios for the future of democracy.

Step 2: Creating draft scenarios to envision how models of citizen participation in science and strategies of public engagement in science-related matter can best complement traditional democratic practices, in particular how to enhance the creation of inclusive and engaging arenas and spaces for citizens.

Step 3: Wider consultation with stakeholders during 1-day workshops in order to elaborate policy recommendations based on scenarios.

Step 4: Elaborating recommendations on new methods and/or policies, aiming to strengthen democratic practices in knowledge societies.

The following graph presents the four steps, explained above:



In the first step, empirical research results from the research, conducted in the framework of ISEED by the middle of 2023, and collected cases have been reviewed in order to identify a set of critical variables and indicators that were then used as a foundation for the development of scenarios (digital, epistemic, institutional and associative) for the future of democracy. Therefore, the four scenarios (presented further below) have been developed by partners of the ISEED consortium on this basis. These scenarios were used as input to six national workshops where participants discussed them and elaborated policy recommendations that aimed to enhance citizen participation in democratic practices and processes on local, national and supranational level in European states and beyond (Uruguay is one of the countries where workshops have been held). The policy recommendations, developed by the workshop participants, are the major output of these events and can be found in a separate chapter of the current report.

National workshops – methodology and results

The policy recommendations that are listed in a following chapter of this report were elaborated during a series of six workshops, held in Italy, Spain, France, Poland, Bulgaria and Uruguay in the period October – December 2023. These workshops followed a methodology, developed by ARC Fund, which the respective national partners had the freedom to modify in order to better fit the national context. The methodology is attached as Appendix I. The national workshops were organised by the respective national partner as follows:

Country	Date	Responsible partner(s)
Italy	10 October	Ca' Foscari University of Venice (UNIVE) University of Trento (UNITN)
Uruguay	28 October	Ministry of education and culture (MEC)
France	7 November	National museum of natural history (MNHN)
Spain	9 November	University Pompeu Fabra of Barcelona (UPF)
Poland	14 November	University of Warsaw (UNIWARSAW) Institute of Urban and Regional Development (IRMiR)
Bulgaria	2 December	Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund)

A total of 124 people participated in the six workshops. Participants included local (municipal) policymakers (representatives of public bodies on local level); representatives of academia; experts in the fields of science, digital technology, environment, climate, energy and democratic participation; representatives of non-profit organisations (NGOs, citizen associations) and citizens. Despite some slight modifications of the timeline to better fit the local context and needs of participants in the different countries, the workshop agenda included the following:

Workshop agenda

Arrival and registration of participants
Introductory plenary session – presentation of the ISEED project
Presentation of all four scenarios in plenary
Coffee break and division into working groups
Review and finalisation of draft scenarios
Lunch break
Elaboration of policy recommendations and presentation of group results to all participants
Coffee break
Review of recommendations and voting
Wrap up and goodbye

After presenting the project and the objectives of the event, participants in the workshops were divided in four working groups, each of which was led by a moderator, who was guiding the discussion. Each working group focused on one of the four scenarios that was thoroughly discussed and used as inspiration for the development of policy recommendations, which, at the end of the event, were prioritised by the participants according to their relevance and importance. Division of participants in the working groups was made randomly, taking into account the requirement to have

a balanced group of experts and citizens as well as an equal/approximate number of men and women, older and younger people in each group.

The organisers of the workshops in Italy, Spain, Bulgaria and Poland followed the methodology strictly, while France and Uruguay adapted the methodology to fit their local context. The French partner used as example the Citizen's Climate Convention, which was a participatory process that took place in 2019-2020 in France and was very widely communicated among the citizens, therefore all participants were familiar with it. To begin with, they presented the benefits of the four respective scenarios as well as their link to citizen science. Then, participants were asked to imagine how a new Citizen's Climate Convention would take place in the future, with the characteristics of one scenario only. Finally, they drafted policy recommendations that would be necessary to allow relevant applications of the respective scenario in the future and prioritised them via voting.

In Uruguay, the initial more abstract version of the scenarios were used since the country is not part of the EU and European policies are of no interest to its citizens. After a brief explanation of the meaning of citizen participation and citizen science, each working group addressed one particular scenario. For example, the digital scenario was presented to participants as follows: "Digital citizen participation refers to the use of online platforms and digital technologies to facilitate and improve citizen participation in political decision-making processes. In other words, it is a model that takes advantage of the potential of online platforms and connectivity to identify opportunities to include citizens in the debate and deliberation of public issues and subsequent decision-making." Then, each discussion table, while maintaining a common axis of themes and questions, diverged in their conversations, identifying different issues, related to the specific scenario under scrutiny. After these discussions, participants developed policy recommendations for each scenario and voted for up to five recommendations in the set of all the proposals made during the day.

In Poland, while the common methodology for the workshops was applied and the focus of the discussion was on mitigating climate change and achieving climate neutrality, the scenarios were adapted to the Polish context by introducing the topics of noise pollution (digital scenario), drought (epistemic scenario), overheating (institutional scenario) and investments in renewable energy solutions (associative scenario). Other than that, no changes in the methodology have been made.

Overall, discussions during all workshops have been evaluated as interesting and productive and participants were satisfied with the results that were produced. All of them expressed their interest in participating in similar events in the future. A common recommendation was to allocate more time for deliberations in future events of similar nature.

Scenarios for the future of democracy

The four scenarios feature distinct assumptions, based on format of citizen participation, scope of decision-making authorities, scope of institutional oversight, key actors and their respective roles as well as the significance of knowledge in the process of elaborating policies. Thus, each scenario offers a distinctive version of "opening up" the democratic system and includes references to specific instances of citizen engagement and governance models.

The first drafts of the scenarios included a preliminary description of the features of the leading connotations for each scenario (associative, digital, epistemic, institutional); a reference to the

relevant heuristic model (e.g., citizen science, NGOs structure of representation, institutional spaces of discussion, etc.) as well as a brief discussion of a case of public problem (either shared by all nations, e.g. social effects of climate science, or nation-specific, or both). Each scenario was built around a particular connotation of participation, therefore they are not mutually exclusive. They were developed as four separate stories for analytical purposes, in order to allow focusing on one particular angle at a time, yet without excluding overlaps and interactions.

These initial versions have been presented to all project partners during a consortium meeting in Barcelona in July 2023. After deliberation, the consortium decided to make them more concrete by introducing a topic of major importance to both experts and citizens irrespective of their country of residence. Acting on a suggestion put forward by ARC, each scenario was fed with information from the Fit for 55 package,¹ which provides a coherent framework for achieving the climate objectives, set by the EU, namely reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and becoming climate neutral by 2050, which will affect millions of Europeans, especially small businesses, energy poor people and other vulnerable societal groups.

The major questions that were discussed by the workshop participants in relation to the scenarios focused on the plausibility and desirability of the respective scenario, the roles, responsibilities and interactions among the involved stakeholders as well as the role of citizens and potential ways of enhancing it. The objective of the discussion was to inspire participants to come up with new ideas about boosting citizen participation through the development of new methods and/or policies that have the potential to strengthen democratic practices in knowledge societies. The final set of scenarios, presented during the workshops, is the following:

Digital scenario

Background

The use of online platforms and digital technologies to enable and improve citizen engagement in decision-making processes is referred to as a "digital participation model." It makes use of the potential of digital platforms to identify what opportunities for inclusiveness, accessibility, and scalability the digital world makes available to individual citizens to engage in public discussion.

Scenario

It's 2030. Amidst the bustling cityscape of ISEEDLANDIA, citizens embarked on an audacious mission: to combat climate change by aligning with the Fit for 55 EU goal and reducing emissions from their buildings, either through greater energy efficiency or reduced energy consumption. Only knowing a digital participation model, their journey was fraught with challenges that tested the very essence of their collaborative approach.

Through virtual town halls and digital workshops, residents actively engaged in discussions and shared innovative ideas. Yet, as they dug deeper into the intricacies of implementing energy-efficient measures and digital monitoring systems, they encountered unexpected roadblocks. The digital

¹ More information available at:

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/fit-for-55-the-eu-plan-for-a-green-transition/>

divide in the community, cybersecurity concerns, and issues with data privacy loomed as formidable obstacles.

But, as their digital journey continued, one pressing question emerged: How could they balance the advantages of digital citizen participation with the need to address these challenges effectively? This question now hangs in the air.

Institutional scenario

Background

This scenario makes use of the preference for an institutional setting that respects the democratic decision process. As members of a community, citizens care for a deliberative space where they may debate about the collective decisions to be made. Within the “institutional participation” setting, **democratic procedures** for making decisions are important as much as the quality of the information about the alternative courses of action and a vibrant public arena.

Scenario

It's 2030. Amidst the bustling cityscape of ISEEDLANDIA, citizens embarked on an audacious mission: to combat climate change by transitioning towards more sustainable transportation thus aligning with Fit for 55 EU goal. Their goal was to improve the recharging points and alternative refuelling stations while advocating for comprehensive alternative fuels infrastructure regulation deeply entwined with political and legal institutional structures. This mission brought with it a unique set of challenges that tested the very essence of their collaborative institutional approach.

Gathering in local town halls and party assemblies, residents actively engaged in discussions and shared innovative ideas that often clashed with established bureaucratic procedures, both political and legal. As they delved deeper into the intricacies of aligning their grassroots efforts with these intricate institutional frameworks, they encountered unexpected roadblocks. Political resistance from vested interests, budget constraints, and complex legal regulations posed formidable barriers to their progress.

As their institutional journey continued, one pressing question emerged: how could they harmonize their grassroots, citizen-led efforts with the rigid structures of political and legal institutions to achieve sustainable transportation goals effectively? This question now hangs in the air.

Epistemic scenario

Background

This scenario envisages a democracy of the future characterised by the *centrality of epistemic agents*, who are willing, and in some cases, demand to be involved in the political process as “knowledge (co)creators.” Furthermore, this view on the future of democratic decision-making acknowledges the emergence of the “knowledge society” and the increasing dependence on many kinds of expertise.

Scenario

It's 2030. Amidst the bustling cityscape of ISEEDLANDIA, citizens embarked on an audacious mission: to combat climate change by aligning with Fit for 55 EU goal through a reduction in gas emissions from the city's buildings. In order to design the energy efficiency plan, the administration opts for a participative approach, capable of including citizens' contribution in the collection of data on properties, the evaluation of the best intervention plan and, in the last phase, the definition of the various execution phases.

The participatory process begins thanks to the enthusiasm of several citizens, happy to be involved and to be able to have a say in the various phases of the decision-making process. However, there is no shortage of difficulties related to the chosen methodology and some critical issues emerge immediately. Participation is high in specific sectors of citizenship, more modest in others; some citizens express little trust and don't believe they will actually be listened to; citizens which are less equipped to collect data and participate in the process, find themselves peripheral compared to those who are more knowledgeable about the topics in question.

As their participatory adventure continued, one pressing question emerged above all: how could they harmonize their "epistemic" citizens participation with the necessity to face this challenge in an effective way?

Associative scenario

Background

This scenario is built starting from the centrality of the role played by grassroots organizations and movements to which citizens often turn to seek solutions to public problems of interest to them. Grassroots movements play an important role in the public sphere. They are often harbingers of change, filling gaps and shedding light on issues that are overlooked by politicians. They also make many social, health, economic and environmental issues relevant to the public by increasing understanding among politicians and citizens, and facilitating self-organization. Furthermore, grassroots movements very often devise new solutions that aim to improve the well-being of individuals and communities. They are drivers of social innovation.

Scenario

It's 2030. Amidst the bustling cityscape of ISEEDLANDIA, citizens embarked on an audacious mission: to combat climate change by aligning with Fit for 55 EU goal through the social fund allocated by the plan. The fund was designed to support vulnerable groups and micro-businesses that may be affected by the increase in fossil fuel prices resulting from the introduction of a new emissions trading system for buildings, road transport and fuels. It is the local administration's belief that a fair distribution of funds is not only a measure of fairness, but also a stimulus to achieve the objectives of Fit for 55. To decide on the division of resources, a participatory approach is opted for, which leverages the associative fabric present in the city to map the possible groups of individuals/companies to which the funds should be allocated and highlight the factors to be weighed in the process. The enthusiasm from the association manages to mobilize citizenship in the decision process on the fund allocation. Many citizens involved in the deliberation are sceptical and do not believe they will be listened to. Other citizens struggle to keep up with the pace of the process and end up feeling left behind. Others fear that associations involved are not representative of all the categories for which the provision is designed.

As their associative adventure continued, one pressing question emerged above all: how could they harmonize their "associative" citizens participation with the necessity to face this challenge in an effective way? This question now hangs in the air.

These scenarios boosted the discussion in the working groups that were formed during the national workshops in Italy, Spain and Bulgaria. In addition, the scenarios used in Poland were the following:

DIGITAL SCENARIO: Noise pollution

Scenario location: a big city with over 2 million inhabitants. City authorities have recognised that recent years of rapid growth and development of city infrastructure has worsened the problem of noise pollution. The situation is especially negative for inhabitants from risk groups, vulnerable and noise-sensitive individuals like children, youth, neurodiverse personas. Local government wants to take action, but they need to diagnose the problem better. Firstly, they need to map places where the level of noise is unacceptable, the sources of noise, and secondly, they need to identify vulnerable groups and understand their movement patterns around the city. Your task is to help City Authorities develop a solution to their problem. Make sure that your solutions include:

- Utilisation of new technologies (such as sensors, maps, apps, digital platforms),
- Active involvement of children, youth, neurodiverse individuals,
- Participation of institutions and organisations specializing in neurodiversity issues (i.e., NGOs, scientific institutions, universities).

EPISTEMIC SCENARIO: Drought

The situation pertains to the agricultural and forested area in the central region of Poland. An informal citizen initiative, formed to counteract the effects of drought, aims to raise awareness among the region's inhabitants regarding the protection of the water environment. Residents of the area directly feel the impacts of drought, experiencing periodic shortages of water, a decrease in river water levels, tree drying, and problems with crop yields. According to the citizen initiative, the first step to improve this situation is to investigate the reasons for drought and raise awareness among residents about the potential causes of these phenomena. Your task is to assist activists and propose a solution that will improve the awareness of the region's residents about the causes of drought and ways to mitigate its consequences. The solution should include:

- Direct involvement of farmers and other residents in the agricultural and forested area, as well as workers in the forestry sector,
- Strategies for building awareness,
- Collaboration with scientists, experts, and local entrepreneurs.

INSTITUTIONAL SCENARIO: Overheating

Scenario location: a big city with over 2 million inhabitants. City authorities are grappling with the issue of overheated spaces where the temperatures soar above 45 degrees during the summer. These overheated areas have become unbearable for inhabitants, tourists, and animals. Local authorities want to take action, but they face challenges in identifying and ranking these overheated locations as well as finding solutions that satisfy all inhabitants. In the past, authorities proposed planting trees as a solution to the problem, but this proposal faced rejection in some neighbourhoods. Some citizens argue that such a "one-size-fits-all" approach may not be suitable for every overheated location, emphasising the need for more tailored ones that align with the specific needs of the community. Moreover, local authorities lack the resources to implement changes like rebuilding the streets or buildings in all identified places. Your task is to help the city authorities to find solutions to this problem. Your proposition should include:

- Incorporation of the voices of every group of inhabitants or users of overheated places (or possibly the most representative groups),
- Strategies for finding compromise between limited resources and tailored solutions,
- Citizen cooperation and engagement in direct actions toward the problem (i.e., design, implementation, and sustainability phases).

ASSOCIATIVE SCENARIO: Investments in Renewable Energy Solutions.

Scenario location: middle sized city. The Board of Housing Cooperatives Association wants to encourage citizens to invest in renewable energy sources (RES) such as solar panels, windmills, and heat pumps. However, city inhabitants are not particularly interested; some are suspicious and do not trust RES, while others are not convinced that RES will bring them any benefits. The Board has concluded that the unpopularity of their recommendation to invest in RES results from a lack of knowledge about the solutions (how they work, how they are installed, what kind of founding opportunities provided by the city there are) and because the local community has not undertaken such projects before. Therefore, inhabitants have not had an opportunity to exchange experiences with installation and usage of RES. Your task is to help the Association build awareness of RES among the inhabitants. Make sure that your solutions will include:

- Cooperation, information and experience exchange between inhabitants and their direct involvement in the project,
- Participation of scientists and RES experts,
- Knowledge transfer; project effects (i.e. knowledge, database etc.) must be open to all interested parties, including those outside the associated cooperatives and the local community.

Policy recommendations from national workshops

The policy recommendations that follow present the prioritised after the voting list, developed by the participants in each of the six countries where national workshops were held:

Recommendations from Italy

1. Gender and intersectionality must drive the planning of, and the design of the platforms (digital and otherwise) used to promote, participation.
2. Digitalisation must strengthen the function of deliberative interaction through suitably identified mechanisms of feedback, and by coordinating the forms of expertise of those involved in responding, including offline initiatives.
3. Once a participatory process is established, the institutions must ensure that citizens' inputs, opinions and proposals are duly taken into account, and must justify the reasons for their partial acceptance or complete rejection.
4. Digitalisation should be used as a bespoke, case-by-case tool of each model of participatory strategy.
5. The availability and accessibility of public and private data for participatory purposes must be promoted through data trustee mechanisms.

6. It is recommended that “participation weeks” (two weeks per year) are instituted where citizen panels discuss and advance proposals concerning different topics of public interest. The public authorities in charge of receiving the proposals should be committed to criteria that make the development cycle of a proposal accountable, transparent, and subjectable to appropriate monitoring.
7. In view of promoting citizens’ participation in setting out a political agenda, a percentage (to be defined) of the agenda of deliberative assemblies should be entrusted to an institutionalised body of organisations and associations.
8. The preparatory phase of any deliberative process should include a mapping not only of formally recognised organisations but also of the wider range of instances of collective participation – a mapping which should be based on explicit criteria of inclusion/exclusion.
9. Institutions must guarantee the following conditions for accessible and effective participation:
 - Provide a common information base as a preparatory stage which includes info material and online/offline exchanges among stakeholders.
 - Guarantee transparency on the possible impact on future decisions both on the part of institutions and of associations.
 - Monitor the process of formulation, production and development of decisions.
 - Avoid biased accessibility so that the needs of all participants can be respected.
 - Introduce a step of participatory ex-post evaluation of the implemented proposals generated from organisations and associations.
10. Institutions (public and private) should allow a transparent sharing of the data they possess, beyond the current open data practices, in order to enable evidence-based decisions.
11. A different interaction between the knowledge of scientific experts (of different orientations) and local knowledge acquired by citizens must be encouraged in view of exposing the decision-making processes to a wider and more varied input of information.

Recommendations from Uruguay

1. **Generation of inclusive participatory mechanisms:** deliberative mechanisms should try not to leave out any relevant social group in society. This implies having the political and technical will to allocate the necessary resources to establish deliberative processes that represent the main voices and perspectives of the citizenry. If this is the case, participatory mechanisms with greater legitimacy would be produced, as deliberation would not be carried out only by a particular group of citizens: those interested in politics and militants.
2. **Promotion of training and education in citizen participation:** this means having the will to allocate resources to generate educational institutions and programs that enable students, from their initial stage, to become involved in community affairs and to make use of the participatory mechanisms available to them. Among other things, it implies educating them to know how to deliberate.
3. **Generation of virtual mechanisms for citizen participation:** the creation of digital devices that are easy to access and use is the third most supported recommendation. In this regard,

it is recommended that such tools, whether web pages or applications, be open to citizens, practical and easy to use, and that they not only be used to receive information on issues to be deliberated, but also allow citizens to participate in setting the agenda of issues to be deliberated.

4. **Promotion of citizen science:** projects of this type were highly valued for their potential positive impact on the generation of deliberative processes based on scientifically proven evidence. Thus, it is recommended to encourage and support the development of more citizen science projects with the explicit objective of influencing deliberative processes.
5. **Regulation and transparency of the functioning of participation mechanisms:** this proposal entails ensuring several aspects simultaneously. On the one hand, an infrastructure must be created to enable effective citizen participation in the deliberative processes. On the other hand, there should be clear regulations for the preparation of the deliberative agenda and the handling of the data and information dealt with in the deliberations. Finally, rules should be established to ensure the proper development and care of deliberative spaces.
6. **Communication of the results of the participatory processes:** this recommendation tends to emphasize the importance of efficiently communicating and publicising the participatory mechanisms and their conclusions. To inform the population, it is recommended to use a wide range of media to promote citizen participation, disseminating the issues to be deliberated and, above all, communicating the main results of the deliberative processes and how they have been reflected in subsequent decision-making.
7. **Creation of participatory mechanisms on relevant issues:** it is suggested that deliberative participation mechanisms should allow citizens to give their voice on issues or problems that affect their daily lives. That is, to address problems that are close, concrete and well identified by the average citizen. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that the results of deliberative processes have an impact on subsequent decision-making. Otherwise, if citizens spend time and effort to participate in deliberations that are then overlooked by decision-makers, participation may be discouraged.
8. **Science at the service of citizen participation:** closely related to the fourth recommendation, this last suggestion proposes that the scientific system should be more involved in matters of public interest that affect the life of the average citizen. In this sense, it is considered relevant to promote citizen science projects, as well as traditional research projects, whose objectives include the generation of evidence to support the development of deliberative participation mechanisms, producing valid evidence to support the debates that take place in the deliberative framework.

Recommendations from France

1. Educate on forms of citizen participation, debate, and deliberation throughout life: in schools, through mandatory civic days like the French 'JDC'² or 'SNU'³, professional training, and mandatory internships in places of power (legislative, executive, legal).
2. Implement legislation compelling the state to consider popular initiatives (of citizen origin) and transform them into laws.
3. Guarantee that the methods and tools used will include all stakeholders concerned with the issue (voting day, means of expression, accessible digital tools).
4. Involve third-sector actors in defining issues and deliberation methods. Implement safeguards to prevent representativity biases.
5. In general, ensure that the actors involved in deliberation processes are representative of the diversity of stakeholders concerned with the issue (including associations and citizens). Disseminate information widely in places frequented by the relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of the topics under discussion.
6. Recognise and ensure the recognition, alongside technical and scientific expertise, of experiential expertise (experience of vulnerability, exclusion, professional expertise, illness, commitment). Pay attention to ensuring that it is a personal choice and respect for privacy.
7. Ensure transparency in processes and tools used, particularly in digital tools by providing access to the code, data usage, raw results, and GDPR compliance.
8. Value experiential knowledge and the "knowledge society" in schools and throughout life.
9. Finance the participation of third-sector actors in democratic deliberation at every stage of the process, of up to the other stakeholders, while ensuring their independence. This includes financing for associations and experiential expertise.
10. Establish resource centres to allow third-sector actors to choose relevant deliberation and citizen participation tools, access resources and experts, and receive assistance in fundraising efforts.
11. Ensure that the expression of public debate actors, especially associations, can be expressed freely without fear of losing funding if they take some positions.
12. Always associate digital tools with other forms of participation, whether as a support or complement to other forms of deliberation.

² JDC : Journée Défense et Citoyenneté (Day for Defense and Citizenship, mandatory for every French citizen before 18 years old)

³ SNU : Service National Universel (Universal National Service, for 15 to 17 year old youngs, free and not mandatory)

13. Systematically provide objective information on the subject and compare information across different media.
14. Compensate, assist (with childcare arrangements), and remunerate individuals mobilised in a participatory process for their experiential expertise.
15. Define criteria for the representativity of expertise to assemble representative panels, for example, in neighbourhood committees.

Recommendations from Spain

1. Implement comprehensive measures to foster a participatory culture throughout individuals' life spans, including the integration of participation into the educational system, ensuring universal internet access, offering education and training in participatory democracy with adequate support, and establishing communication mechanisms to inform and raise awareness about diverse citizen participation processes.
2. Implement policies that mandate corporate subsidies aimed at promoting citizen participation by dedicating annual hours for employees in community processes, enforce the inclusion of a government entity dedicated to fostering effective citizen participation, compel the state to allocate a budget for the execution of citizen participation plans and projects, and establish mandatory and representative participation structures, such as a popular jury.
3. Adopt policies that enable participatory decision-making on policies requiring citizen involvement, implement optimal frameworks for participatory processes involving all key stakeholders with a binding commitment, establish mandatory consultative processes inclusive of self-identified marginalized groups, and create effective collaboration networks to proactively and continuously address complex issues at all geographical levels (local, national, and international).
4. Formulate a participatory process based on a shared and verified diagnosis, addressing real problems with a local-to-global approach. Implement a pilot before scaling up, ensuring oversight through an independent body and incorporating citizen science methodologies as deemed appropriate. Additionally, establish mandatory, systematic, and transparent policy evaluation processes that consider inclusion.
5. Make citizen participation a binding requirement in public policy formulation processes and establish real experiential spaces where citizens can participate, receive the necessary recognition, and demonstrate the real impact of their contributions through transparent feedback.

Recommendations from Poland

List of recommendations produced during the workshop:

1. Develop high-quality legislation related to citizen science projects.
2. Ensuring transparency and data security in all citizen science initiatives.

3. Incorporating existing local civic groups into citizen science solutions.
4. Place community interests at the centre, prioritising them over the interests of the private sector.
5. Create publicly accessible databases showcasing best practices of citizen science projects.
6. The technology used in citizen participation and citizen science should be designed to be easy, intuitive, and accessible.
7. Implement clear and transparent procedures for financing citizen science projects.
8. Establish funding of citizen science through external sources (European Union, Norwegian Funds, etc.).
9. Non-governmental organisations should take on the responsibility of educating citizens in the field of citizen science.
10. Establishment of leader groups for collaboration networks, fostering interaction and collaboration among various actors such as NGOs, local authorities, citizens, and schools.
11. Data maps produced in citizen science should be user friendly, interactive and publicly accessible.
12. Local government decision-makers should be required to consider data collected by citizens, along with the results of their analyses.
13. Gather residents' subjective opinions about solutions or places alongside objective data related to the studied area, whether at the city or neighbourhood level.
14. Provide public support through education, building citizens' technological competencies for effective participation in citizen science initiatives.
15. Recognise local media and communication experts in general as valuable partners for citizen science projects.
16. Enable citizens to comment on and decide upon implementing recommendations issued by local authorities, ensuring autonomy in decision-making.
17. Enable citizens to comment on and decide upon implementing recommendations issued by scientists, ensuring autonomy in decision-making.
18. Ensure management of citizen databases by scientific institutions.

Additional recommendations produced by moderators after reviewing workshop materials:

1. Establish a series of trust-building initiatives within the local community, where people can start interacting with each other first.
2. Training in conflict management and communication for leaders of civil social organisations as well as public administration.
3. Create a knowledge-exchange platform on a topic of RES which would be fed with long-term data on costs, energy consumption of actual buildings (similar to data cooperatives). The platform should be administered by scientists with secured long-term funding.
4. Bridge the divide between citizens and scientists, as scientists are seldom viewed as individuals who can contribute to solving local issues.
5. Local authorities should invest in project management training, specifically agile project management, to enhance their project implementation capabilities.

Recommendations from Bulgaria

1. **Establish a citizen's council for the municipality.** For this purpose, an open meeting shall be organised between civil society representatives and citizens with the municipal

administration, which may end up with a memorandum of understanding. The municipality oversees the implementation of this memorandum. The Citizens' Council has a consultative function, but also participates in the final decision-making on certain topics, e.g. energy efficiency for the residential building stock.

2. **The education system informs young people (including from the early childhood) about civil participation.** Kindergartens and schools should ensure that adolescents and young people are informed about the nature of civic participation, and are aware what their rights and obligations/responsibilities are in this regard. They should also learn what the decision-making process consists of and at what stage and how citizens can get involved.
3. **The municipal administration goes through mandatory additional qualifications.** Competence of the administration staff should be a stringent criterion for selecting employees. Also, additional qualifications are needed as well for updating knowledge and acquiring new one. This should become mandatory for the entire administration, incl. digital literacy. A new criterion "*effectiveness of the administration*" to be introduced in the annual evaluations of the municipal administration!
4. **To integrate the topic of public participation into the educational process.** This can be done by inviting guest speakers and use game-based methods to present a subject of interest in the classroom (e.g. waste separation) or by organising thematic outdoor trips, visiting museums and other interesting educational places outside schools.
5. **To organise wide, well-explained campaigns for citizens, targeting matters that are of societal importance** such as the energy efficiency of the residential building stock. If citizens understand the campaign well, they will be motivated to take action and for example, renovate their homes. To minimise barriers to civic participation and activity. The campaign can include online events, live discussions, polls.

In addition, municipal pilot projects are needed to organise the citizens-municipal administration-science-business dialogue, lasting up to one year. Such a project starts with an information campaign that continues throughout the project, with citizens organising themselves in meetings where they develop recommendations for energy efficiency policy together with representatives of business and science. The municipality is the leader and informs how these recommendations are integrated into the municipal policy. Such meetings may become regular – several per year.

6. **Develop a long-term vision for the socio-economic and cultural development of the territory of each municipality.** The policy objectives at national level should be clear, including the expected impact on society, economy and environment. Then, municipalities align their territorial development objectives with the national long-term policy objectives. The municipalities work on the attainment of the policy objectives together with the active citizens, aiming to accomplish the key performance indicators, and to assess the impact. The municipalities which perform better than others, share their good practices to implement the municipal plans with other municipalities. Thus, people can easily recognise the impact and progress.
7. **To organise meetings between citizens and independent experts,** who are specialists in the field in which a new project will be developed.

8. **To create incentives for citizens to participate in the decision-making processes** at all levels.
For example:
 - Extensive information campaign and feedback on the results of the citizen participation process.
 - Tax breaks or other material incentives for participation in public consultation.
 - For elections to be legitimate, a 50% + 1 (simple majority) vote is required.

9. **To audit the current resources, tools and regulations** in order to have clarity on what is available and already implemented. To ensure long-term continuity and follow up of policies by strengthening by improving the qualifications and soft skills of public administration (not to start all over again when changing authorities, not to lose information when changing staff).

10. **To raise societal awareness on the topic under scrutiny** (green policies, digitalisation, etc.). The respective information to be presented in a reader-friendly style and lay people language so that citizens understand why this topic is important to them and how it affects both their daily life and their future i.e. how Brussels’ policies affect the life of grandma Penka, living in a small village in the Bulgarian countryside.

11. **To activate the link between citizens and government** by building infrastructure - to provide internet access to different groups of citizens, to provide devices, training in digital and media literacy and online communication. To ensure access of vulnerable groups and seek/provide alternative forms of participation in the democratic process where digital tools cannot be used.

12. When designing policies affecting a particular group of society, it should be mandatory to **consult representatives of that group to ensure that the measures to be taken meet their needs.**

Clustering of policy recommendations

After analysing the content of the policy recommendations, elaborated by the participants in the six national workshops, one identifies several major foci around which the policy recommendations could be clustered. It shall be noted that some recommendations fall within the scope of more than one foci and others are stand-alone recommendations that do not fit into any of the identified foci. The clustering of the recommendations is provided in the tables below:

Enhance participation/participatory culture
In view of promoting citizens’ participation in setting out a political agenda, a percentage (to be defined) of the agenda of deliberative assemblies should be entrusted to an institutionalised body of organisations and associations.
Promotion of training and education in citizen participation: this means having the will to allocate resources to generate educational institutions and programs that enable students, from their initial stage, to become involved in community

affairs and to make use of the participatory mechanisms available to them. Among other things, it implies educating them to know how to deliberate.
Educate on forms of citizen participation, debate, and deliberation throughout life: in schools, through mandatory civic days like the French 'JDC' ⁴ or 'SNU' ⁵ , professional training, and mandatory internships in places of power (legislative, executive, legal).
Implement legislation compelling the state to consider popular initiatives (of citizen origin) and transform them into laws.
Compensate, assist (with childcare arrangements), and remunerate individuals mobilised in a participatory process for their experiential expertise.
Implement comprehensive measures to foster a participatory culture throughout individuals' life spans, including the integration of participation into the educational system, ensuring universal internet access, offering education and training in participatory democracy with adequate support, and establishing communication mechanisms to inform and raise awareness about diverse citizen participation processes.
Implement policies that mandate corporate subsidies aimed at promoting citizen participation by dedicating annual hours for employees in community processes, enforce the inclusion of a government entity dedicated to fostering effective citizen participation, compel the state to allocate a budget for the execution of citizen participation plans and projects, and establish mandatory and representative participation structures, such as a popular jury.
Adopt policies that enable participatory decision-making on policies requiring citizen involvement, implement optimal frameworks for participatory processes involving all key stakeholders with a binding commitment, establish mandatory consultative processes inclusive of self-identified marginalized groups, and create effective collaboration networks to proactively and continuously address complex issues at all geographical levels (local, national, and international).
Make citizen participation a binding requirement in public policy formulation processes and establish real experiential spaces where citizens can participate, receive the necessary recognition, and demonstrate the real impact of their contributions through transparent feedback.
The education system informs young people (including from the early childhood) about civil participation. Kindergartens and schools should ensure that adolescents and young people are informed about the nature of civic participation, and are aware what their rights and obligations/responsibilities are in this regard. They should also learn what the decision-making process consists of and at what stage and how citizens can get involved.
To integrate the topic of public participation into the educational process. This can be done by inviting guest speakers and use game-based methods to present a subject of interest in the classroom (e.g. waste separation) or by organising thematic outdoor trips, visiting museums and other interesting educational places outside schools.
To create incentives for citizens to participate in the decision-making processes at all levels. For example: extensive information campaign and feedback on the results of the citizen participation process; tax breaks or other material incentives for participation in public consultation; for elections to be legitimate, a 50% + 1 (simple majority) vote is required.

All participants in the six workshops elaborated recommendations that promote participatory culture, some including such practices from a very young age. To do this, training and education in citizen participation needs to be enhanced throughout the whole lifespan, beginning in educational institutions such as kindergartens and primary schools. This can be done by raising awareness about the mechanisms and the added value of citizen participation processes. Also, policies that foster civic participation have to be adopted, including ones that compel the state to allocate a particular budget for the execution of such initiatives as well as ones that establish mandatory and representative participatory structures that encompass all stakeholder groups, including vulnerable ones. In addition, incentives for citizen participation in decision-making at all levels of governance need to be created such as information campaigns regarding the benefits of citizen participation, tax breaks, remuneration or other material incentives for participation in public consultations, corporate subsidies aimed at promoting citizen participation etc.

⁴ JDC : Journée Défense et Citoyenneté (Day for Defense and Citizenship, mandatory for every French citizen before 18 years old)
⁵ SNU : Service National Universel (Universal National Service, for 15 to 17 year old youngs, free and not mandatory)

Build-up capacity/Provide conditions for public consultations, including a well organised preparatory phase
Institutions must guarantee the following conditions for accessible and effective participation: provide a common information base as a preparatory stage which includes info material and online/offline exchanges among stakeholders; guarantee transparency on the possible impact on future decisions both on the part of institutions and of associations; monitor the process of formulation, production and development of decisions; avoid biased accessibility so that the needs of all participants can be respected; introduce a step of participatory ex-post evaluation of the implemented proposals generated from organisations and associations.
Regulation and transparency of the functioning of participation mechanisms: this proposal entails ensuring several aspects simultaneously. On the one hand, an infrastructure must be created to enable effective citizen participation in the deliberative processes. On the other hand, there should be clear regulations for the preparation of the deliberative agenda and the handling of the data and information dealt with in the deliberations. Finally, rules should be established to ensure the proper development and care of deliberative spaces.
Ensure that the expression of public debate actors, especially associations, can be expressed freely without fear of losing funding if they take some positions.
Ensure transparency in processes and tools used, particularly in digital tools by providing access to the code, data usage, raw results, and GDPR compliance.
Establish resource centres to allow third-sector actors to choose relevant deliberation and citizen participation tools, access resources and experts, and receive assistance in fundraising efforts.
Define criteria for the representativity of expertise to assemble representative panels, for example, in neighbourhood committees.
Formulate a participatory process based on a shared and verified diagnosis, addressing real problems with a local-to-global approach. Implement a pilot before scaling up, ensuring oversight through an independent body and incorporating citizen science methodologies as deemed appropriate. Additionally, establish mandatory, systematic, and transparent policy evaluation processes that consider inclusion.
Enable citizens to comment on and decide upon implementing recommendations issued by local authorities, ensuring autonomy in decision-making.
Enable citizens to comment on and decide upon implementing recommendations issued by scientists, ensuring autonomy in decision-making.
Training in conflict management and communication for leaders of civil social organisations as well as public administration.
Local authorities should invest in project management training, specifically agile project management, to enhance their project implementation capabilities.
Gather residents' subjective opinions about solutions or places alongside objective data related to the studied area, whether at the city or neighbourhood level.
The municipal administration goes through mandatory additional qualifications. Competence of the administration staff should be a stringent criterion for selecting employees. Also, additional qualifications are needed as well for updating knowledge and acquiring new one. This should become mandatory for the entire administration, incl. digital literacy. A new criterion " <i>effectiveness of the administration</i> " to be introduced in the annual evaluations of the municipal administration!
To audit the current resources, tools and regulations in order to have clarity on what is available and already implemented. To ensure long-term continuity and follow up of policies by strengthening by improving the qualifications and soft skills of public administration (not to start all over again when changing authorities, not to lose information when changing staff).

Another important recommendation is for public institutions to provide the needed conditions for effective public consultations, which entails a well organised preparatory stage that includes development of information materials, identification and involvement of relevant stakeholders as well as provision of infrastructure for deliberative processes. Participation has to be regulated, transparent and accessible to various organisations and associations, including individual non-experts/citizens. Establishing clear agenda and rules will ensure that the needs and views/opinions of all participants will be duly respected.

Representatives of civil society organisations and public administrations need to be trained in conflict management, project management, digital literacy. When using digital tools, access to the code, data

usage, raw results, and GDPR compliance has to be provided. The process of formulation and elaboration of decisions/policies has to be monitored closely. Finally, mandatory, systematic, transparent ex-post policy evaluation processes need to be introduced.

Institutionalise public participation in policy-making
It is recommended that “participation weeks” (two weeks per year) are instituted where citizen panels discuss and advance proposals concerning different topics of public concern.
Creation of participatory mechanisms on relevant issues: it is suggested that deliberative participation mechanisms should allow citizens to give their voice on issues or problems that affect their daily lives. That is, to address problems that are close, concrete and well identified by the average citizen. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that the results of deliberative processes have an impact on subsequent decision-making. Otherwise, if citizens spend time and effort to participate in deliberations that are then overlooked by decision-makers, participation may be discouraged.
Adopt policies that enable participatory decision-making on policies requiring citizen involvement, implement optimal frameworks for participatory processes involving all key stakeholders with a binding commitment, establish mandatory consultative processes inclusive of self-identified marginalized groups, and create effective collaboration networks to proactively and continuously address complex issues at all geographical levels (local, national, and international).
Make citizen participation a binding requirement in public policy formulation processes and establish real experiential spaces where citizens can participate, receive the necessary recognition, and demonstrate the real impact of their contributions through transparent feedback.
Local government decision-makers should be required to consider data collected by citizens, along with the results of their analyses.
Establish a citizens’ council for the municipality. For this purpose, an open meeting shall be organised between civil society representatives and citizens with the municipal administration, which may end up with a memorandum of understanding. The municipality oversees the implementation of this memorandum. The Citizens' Council has a consultative function, but also participates in the final decision-making on certain topics, e.g. energy efficiency for the residential building stock.
Develop a long-term vision for the socio-economic and cultural development of the territory of each municipality. The policy objectives at national level should be clear, including the expected impact on society, economy and environment. Then, municipalities align their territorial development objectives with the national long-term policy objectives. The municipalities work on the attainment of the policy objectives together with the active citizens, aiming to accomplish the key performance indicators, and to assess the impact. The municipalities which perform better than others, share their good practices to implement the municipal plans with other municipalities. Thus, people can easily recognise the impact and progress.

Participants in the national workshops support the idea of institutionalising public participation in policy-making, especially concerning matters that affect people’s daily life such as topics of public interest and issues that are concrete, well defined and close to the average citizen. This could be implemented by creating participatory mechanisms (e.g. citizen jury, citizen panel) on relevant issues, organising participation weeks once/twice or more per year or establishing citizen’s council at the respective municipality. Another proposal is to create collaboration networks that aim to proactively and continuously address complex issues at all geographical levels (local, national, and international). A common vision of workshop participants is that citizen participation in public policy formulation has to become a binding requirement. Decision-makers should be required to consider citizens’ data, along with the results of their analyses, and results of deliberative processes shall have an impact on subsequent decision-making. Moreover, it was suggested that the development and implementation of long-term visions for the socio-economic and cultural development of territories, aligned with national long-term policy objectives, shall be achieved and assessed in collaboration with active citizens.

Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them

The preparatory phase of any deliberative process should include a mapping not only of formally recognised organisations but also of the wider range of instances of collective participation – a mapping which should be based on explicit criteria of inclusion/exclusion.
A different interaction between the knowledge of scientific experts (of different orientations) and local knowledge acquired by citizens must be encouraged in view of exposing the decision-making processes to a wider and more varied input of information.
Generation of inclusive participatory mechanisms: deliberative mechanisms should try not to leave out any relevant social group in society.
Guarantee that the methods and tools used will include all stakeholders concerned with the issue (voting day, means of expression, accessible digital tools).
Involve third-sector actors in defining issues and deliberation methods. Implement safeguards to prevent representativity biases.
In general, ensure that the actors involved in deliberation processes are representative of the diversity of stakeholders concerned with the issue (including associations and citizens). Disseminate information widely in places frequented by the relevant stakeholders to promote awareness of the topics under discussion.
Finance the participation of third-sector actors in democratic deliberation at every stage of the process, of up to the other stakeholders, while ensuring their independence. This includes financing for associations and experiential expertise.
Establishment of leader groups for collaboration networks, fostering interaction and collaboration among various actors such as NGOs, local authorities, citizens, and schools.
Establish a series of trust-building initiatives within the local community, where people can start interacting with each other first.
Bridge the divide between citizens and scientists, as scientists are seldom viewed as individuals who can contribute to solving local issues.
Organise meetings between citizens and independent experts, who are specialists in the field in which a new project will be developed.
Activate the link between citizens and government by building infrastructure - to provide internet access to different groups of citizens, to provide devices, training in digital and media literacy and online communication. To ensure access of vulnerable groups and seek/provide alternative forms of participation in the democratic process where digital tools cannot be used.
When designing policies affecting a particular group of society, it should be mandatory to consult representatives of that group to ensure that the measures to be taken meet their needs.

Another important aspect of deliberative participation entails the involvement of all relevant actors concerned with the issue, including civil society organisations, associations and citizens. Information regarding the topics under discussion shall be disseminated as widely as possible in places which are frequently visited by relevant stakeholders in order to raise their awareness. In addition, workshop participants promoted the idea of establishing initiatives within the local community where people can interact with each other in order to build trust. There is also a need to bridge the gap between citizens and scientists since the latter are rarely viewed as individuals who can contribute to solving local issues. Another proposal is to create leader groups for collaboration networks, fostering the interaction among actors such as NGOs, local authorities, academic institutions and citizens. When designing policies that affect a particular societal group, including vulnerable people, it should be mandatory to include representatives of this group in the consultation process in order to ensure that the measures envisioned will address their specific needs.

Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues
Systematically provide objective information on the subject and compare information across different media.
To organise wide, well-explained campaigns for citizens, targeting matters that are of societal importance such as the energy efficiency of the residential building stock. If citizens understand the campaign well, they will be motivated to take action and for example, renovate their homes. To minimise barriers to civic participation and activity, the campaign can include online events, live discussions, polls.
To raise societal awareness on the topic under scrutiny (green policies, digitalisation, etc.). The respective information to be presented in a reader-friendly style and lay people language so that citizens understand why this topic is important to

them and how it affects both their daily life and their future i.e. how Brussels’ policies affect the life of grandma Maria, living in a small village in the Bulgarian countryside.

A very important issue that was addressed during the national events was the awareness and understanding of citizens about major societal issues. It was noted that citizens need to be adequately informed about matters of societal importance such as, for example, energy efficiency measures, digitalisation and green policies. This can be done through widely popularised information campaigns, aiming to motivate citizens to take action. The information shall be presented in a reader-friendly style so that all people understand why a particular topic is important to them and how it affects both their daily life and their future.

Communicate the results from public consultations to citizens
Once a participatory process is established, the institutions must ensure that citizens' inputs, opinions and proposals are duly taken into account, and must justify the reasons for their partial acceptance or complete rejection.
Communication of the results of the participatory processes: this recommendation tends to emphasize the importance of efficiently communicating and publicising the participatory mechanisms and their conclusions. To inform the population, it is recommended to use a wide range of media to promote citizen participation, disseminating the issues to be deliberated and, above all, communicating the main results of the deliberative processes and how they have been reflected in subsequent decision-making.
Creation of participatory mechanisms on relevant issues: it is suggested that deliberative participation mechanisms should allow citizens to give their voice on issues or problems that affect their daily lives. That is, to address problems that are close, concrete and well identified by the average citizen. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that the results of deliberative processes have an impact on subsequent decision-making. Otherwise, if citizens spend time and effort to participate in deliberations that are then overlooked by decision-makers, participation may be discouraged.

In order to motivate people to continuously participate in public deliberations, the relevant institutions have to guarantee that not only citizens' input, opinions and proposals are duly taken into account, but the result of their participation is communicated back to the participants in the process. In case of partial acceptance or complete rejection, proper justification has to be provided. Social media, TV and radio could be used to both promote citizen participation as well as to disseminate information regarding the results of such activities, focusing the attention on how citizens’ input has been reflected in policy development and decision-making.

Use digitalisation to enhance participation
Digitalisation must strengthen the function of deliberative interaction through suitably identified mechanisms of feedback, and by coordinating the forms of expertise of those involved in responding, including offline initiatives.
Digitalisation should be used as a bespoke, case-by-case tool of each model of participatory strategy.
Generation of virtual mechanisms for citizen participation: the creation of digital devices that are easy to access and use. In this regard, it is recommended that such tools, whether web pages or applications, be open to citizens, practical and easy to use, and that they not only be used to receive information on issues to be deliberated, but also allow citizens to participate in setting the agenda of issues to be deliberated.
Always couple digital tools with other forms of participation, whether as a support or complement to other forms of deliberation.

Living in a digital age, digital tools shall be used to enhance participation. These tools need to be easy to access and use; they have to be open to citizens and in addition to using them to disseminate information, they can be used to empower citizens by allowing them to participate in setting the agenda of the issues to be deliberated. Such tools can be also used to strengthen the function of deliberative interaction through suitably identified mechanisms of feedback. While some people suggest to use digitalisation as case-by-case tool of each model of participatory strategy, others

propose to apply digital tools as supporting or complementary to other forms of deliberation, depending on the specific case or issue under scrutiny. Nevertheless, the options, provided by digitalisation, shall be fed into consultation and deliberation processes.

Ensure access to data
The availability and accessibility of public and private data for participatory purposes must be promoted through data trustee mechanisms.
Institutions (public and private) should allow a transparent sharing of the data they possess, beyond the current open data practices, in order to enable evidence-based decisions.
Data maps produced in citizen science should be user-friendly, interactive and publicly accessible.

Regarding data, generated during public and stakeholder deliberations, workshop participants gathered around the idea that institutions have to allow for the transparent sharing of data in order to enable evidence-based decisions. Furthermore, the availability of data for participatory purposes shall be promoted through data trustee mechanisms. Last, but not least, regarding citizen science initiatives, participants expressed the opinion that data maps that are produced in citizen science projects should be interactive, user-friendly and accessible to the public.

Enhance citizen science projects
Promotion of citizen science: projects of this type were highly valued for their potential positive impact on the generation of deliberative processes based on scientifically proven evidence. Thus, it is recommended to encourage and support the development of more citizen science projects with the explicit objective of influencing deliberative processes.
Science at the service of citizen participation: this suggestion proposes that the scientific system should be more involved in matters of public interest that affect the life of the average citizen. In this sense, it is considered relevant to promote citizen science projects, as well as traditional research projects, whose objectives include the generation of evidence to support the development of deliberative participation mechanisms, producing valid evidence to support the debates that take place in the deliberative framework.
Develop high-quality legislation related to citizen science projects.
Ensuring transparency and data security in all citizen science initiatives.
Incorporating existing local civic groups into citizen science solutions.
Create publicly accessible databases showcasing best practices of citizen science projects.
Implement clear and transparent procedures for financing citizen science projects.
Establish funding of citizen science through external sources (European Union, Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area, Norwegian Financial Mechanism, etc.).
Non-governmental organisations should take on the responsibility of educating citizens in the field of citizen science.
The technology used in citizen participation and citizen science should be designed to be easy, intuitive, and accessible.
Provide public support through education, building citizens' technological competencies for effective participation in citizen science initiatives.
Recognise local media and communication experts in general as valuable partners for citizen science projects.

As the workshop in Uruguay has focused on citizen science, there are a number of recommendations, targeting this specific topic. The major recommendation is that citizen science initiatives have to be supported as they bring a lot of added value, including their positive impact on the generation of deliberative processes, based on scientifically proven evidence as there is a need to involve science in matters of public interest that affect the life of the average citizen. Such support could be generated through: developing legislation, addressing such projects; raising citizens' awareness and building their technological competencies; ensuring funding, transparency and data security; involving local civic groups into citizen science solutions; creating publicly accessible databases showcasing best practices of citizen science projects; using easy, intuitive and accessible technology as well as attracting local media and communication experts as promoters of citizen science projects.

Universal recommendations
Gender and intersectionality must drive the planning of, and the design of the platforms (digital and otherwise) used to promote participation.
Recognise and ensure the recognition, alongside technical and scientific expertise, of experiential expertise (experience of vulnerability, exclusion, professional expertise, illness, commitment). Pay attention to ensuring that it is a personal choice and respect for privacy.
Value experiential knowledge and the "knowledge society" in schools and throughout life.
Place community interests at the centre, prioritising them over the interests of the private sector.
Create a knowledge-exchange platform on a topic of RES which would be fed with long-term data on costs, energy consumption of actual buildings (similar to data cooperatives). The platform should be administered by scientists with secured long-term funding.

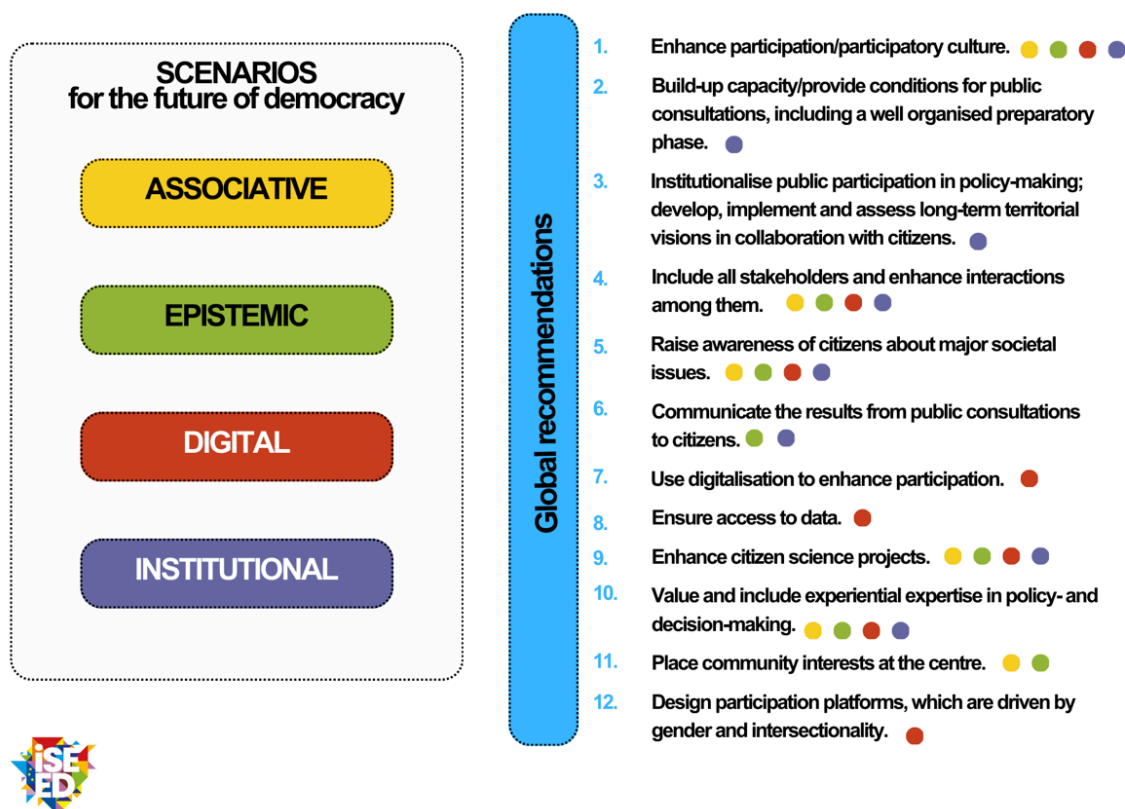
This last group includes recommendations that are stand-alone and could not be included in the clusters, presented above. They target issues such as placing the interests of the community in the centre of attention and prioritising it over other interests, valuing the knowledge and opinions of citizens (experiential expertise) and designing platforms, promoting participation, which are driven by gender and intersectionality.

To sum up, more than 120 participants from EU countries and Uruguay elaborated more than 70 policy recommendations, which more or less target proposals for enhancing public participation in policy- and decision-making in various fields, especially issues that concern the daily life of citizens. After reviewing these recommendations, the following global recommendations have been identified:

1. Enhance participation/participatory culture.
2. Build-up capacity/provide conditions for public consultations, including a well organised preparatory phase.
3. Institutionalise public participation in policy-making; develop, implement and assess long-term territorial visions in collaboration with citizens.
4. Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them.
5. Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues.
6. Communicate the results from public consultations to citizens.
7. Use digitalisation to enhance participation.
8. Ensure access to data.
9. Enhance citizen science projects.
10. Value and include experiential expertise in policy- and decision-making.
11. Place community interests at the centre.
12. Design participation platforms, which are driven by gender and intersectionality.

Interlinkages between the scenarios and the global policy recommendations

Graph 1: Interlinkages between the scenarios and the global policy recommendations



The graph above illustrates the interlinkages between the four scenarios and the final set of 12 global recommendations. As visible on the left side of the graph, each scenario is distinguished by a specific colour. When looking at the right side of the graph, there are coloured circles that codify the four respective scenarios and illustrate the match between the respective scenario and the specific recommendation from the set of final recommendations, listed on the right. Hence, each recommendation is linked to the corresponding scenario it addresses. Although most recommendations pertain to all four scenarios, the graph illustrates the recommendations which have a clear institutional emphasis (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11) from the ones that have a digital focus (7, 8 and 12). Therefore, if a public body on territorial, national or supranational level wants to implement, for example, the **associate scenario**, the respective experts who will be in charge of executing this task need to focus their attention on the following recommendations:

1. Enhance participation/participatory culture.
4. Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them.
5. Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues.
9. Enhance citizen science projects.
10. Value and include experiential expertise in policy- and decision-making.
11. Place community interests at the centre.

Respectively, if the **epistemic scenario** has to be enacted, one shall focus on implementing actions within the scope of recommendations 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11, namely:

4. Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them.
5. Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues.
6. Communicate the results from public consultations to citizens.
9. Enhance citizen science projects.
10. Value and include experiential expertise in policy- and decision-making.
11. Place community interests at the centre.

The **digital scenario** is primarily related to recommendations:

1. Enhance participation/participatory culture.
4. Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them.
5. Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues.
7. Use digitalisation to enhance participation.
8. Ensure access to data.
9. Enhance citizen science projects.
10. Value and include experiential expertise in policy- and decision-making.
12. Design participation platforms, which are driven by gender and intersectionality.

The **institutional scenario** is linked to the following recommendations:

1. Enhance participation/participatory culture.
2. Build-up capacity/provide conditions for public consultations, including a well organised preparatory phase.
3. Institutionalise public participation in policy-making; develop, implement and assess long-term territorial visions in collaboration with citizens.
4. Include all stakeholders and enhance interactions among them.
5. Raise awareness of citizens about major societal issues.
6. Communicate the results from public consultations to citizens.
9. Enhance citizen science projects.
10. Value and include experiential expertise in policy- and decision-making.

Conclusion

The ISEED national workshops have been organised in six countries – five in the EU and one in South America. Although all of them followed the same methodology, several organisers decided to modify it in order to ensure a better fit into the local context. Yet, according to the evaluation, made by the participants at the end of the six workshops, discussions were interesting, lively and addressing issues that were considered important for the society both locally and globally. As a result, more than 70 recommendations for enhancing citizen participation in decision-making processes as well as in science initiatives have been developed by European and Uruguayan participants in the workshops.

The most important take-away messages from these recommendations include suggestions for: enhancing participatory culture; building-up capacity for public consultations; institutionalising participation in policy-making; including all stakeholders in the process and enhancing interactions among them; raising awareness of citizens about major societal issues; communicating the results from public consultations to citizens; using digitalisation to enhance citizen participation; ensuring access to data; enhancing citizen science projects; including experiential knowledge in policy- and decision-making; placing community interests at the centre; and design participation platforms, which are driven by gender and intersectionality.

Overall, despite the slight modifications of the approach and the topics under scrutiny during the six workshops, the major conclusion that could be made is that citizens can and should be involved in all stages of policy- and decision-making as they are not only experts in their own lives, but they have the necessary qualities and the ability to constructively contribute to these processes on local, national and supranational level, not only contributing to a system that becomes more legitimate, but also more competent, accountable, inclusive and fair.

Appendix I. Methodology for national workshops

ISEED <i>Methodology for national workshops</i>

Date of delivery: 31.08.2023

Task leader: ARC Fund

Documents status			
Version	Date	Authors	Description
1	25.04.2023	Adriana Dimova, Zoya Damianova	First draft
2	27.06.2023	Adriana Dimova, Zoya Damianova	Second draft
3	31.08.2023	Adriana Dimova, Zoya Damianova	Final version

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Summary of the ISEED project

ISEED is a European public engagement project, funded by the SWAFS program and coordinated by Ca' Foscari University. The project explores the conditions under which participatory and deliberative practices could be successfully implemented. ISEED's ambition is to develop a new conceptual approach to understanding the role and value of citizen participation in institutional decision-making that considers open, transparent and shared access to deliberative processes. The objective is to construct a comprehensive and empirically informed concept of deliberative participation that will be able to address participation and deliberation as key challenges in contemporary democratic societies.

To this aim, the objectives of the project include:

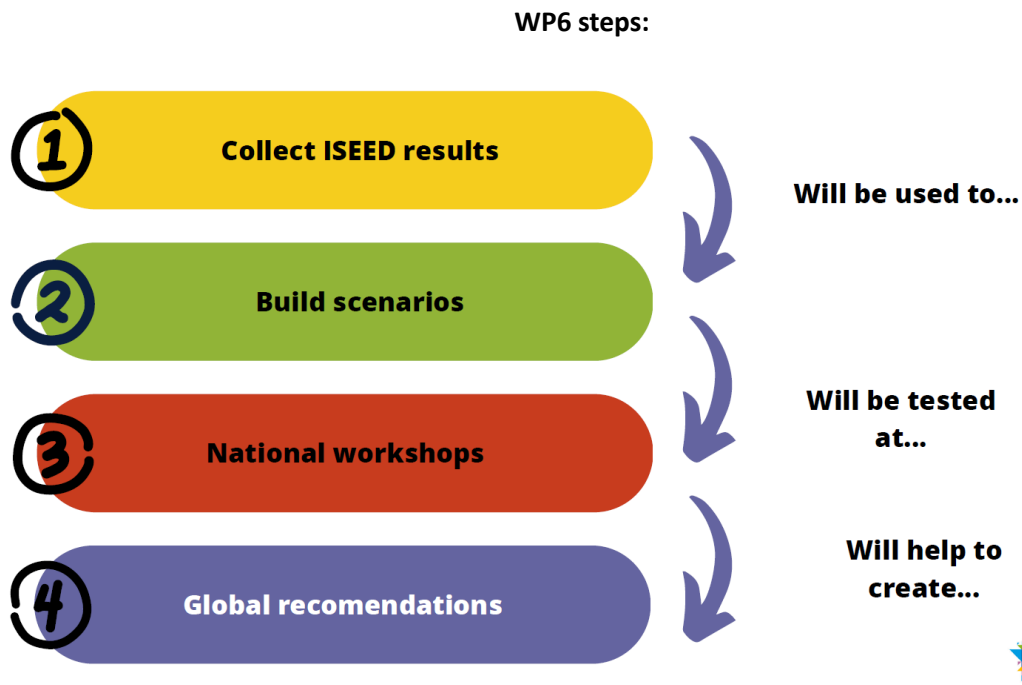
1. To identify the conditions in which active participation of citizens in public debate and knowledge production contributes to legitimate decision-making in democratic societies.
2. To envisage new opportunities for active participation that empower citizens by reducing unequal access to information and lead to increased accountability and social inclusion.
3. To create a scenario where Europe and European institutions can be at the forefront of a discussion on how to engage in fair, cooperative and competent political action, based on the effective use of a well-functioning public sphere.

ISEED workshops introduction

This document is elaborated by ARC Fund under the framework of task 6.3.1 in order to provide guidance to the project partners, expected to organise national workshops in Poland, Italy, Spain, France, Uruguay and Bulgaria.

Currently, in the framework of WP6, empirical research results and collected cases are being reviewed in order to identify a set of critical variables and indicators that will be used as a foundation for the development of six explorative scenarios for the future of democracy. This first set of draft scenarios will focus on how to identify and possibly enhance the creation of arenas of participation and spaces open to discussion and deliberation for citizens.

Scenarios will feature distinct assumptions based on forms of citizen participation, the scope of decision-making authority, the scope of institutional oversight, key actors and their relevant roles, particularly technological advances and influences regulatory frameworks (enabling, restrictive, incomplete, authoritarian), as well as the significance of knowledge (as well as that derived through citizen science-based formats) in the shaping of policies. Thus, each scenario will offer a distinctive version of "opening up" the democratic system and will include references to specific instances of citizen engagement (from WP3) and governance models (from WP4).



Step 1: Review of empirical research results and collected cases in order to identify a set of critical variables and indicators to be used as a foundation for the development of explorative scenarios for the future of democracy.

Step 2: Creating draft scenarios to envision how models of citizen participation in science and strategies of public engagement in science-related matter can best complement traditional democratic practices, in particular how to enhance the creation of inclusive and engaging arenas and spaces for citizens.

Step 3: Wider consultation with stakeholders during 1-day workshops in order to elaborate policy recommendations based on scenarios.

Step 4: Elaborating recommendations on new methods and/or policies, aiming to strengthen democratic practices in knowledge societies.

Methodology

Objective of workshops

Inclusive, multi-actor 1-day consultation on the proposed draft scenarios, aiming:

- i) to reduce the complexity and finalise the scenarios as the most likely alternative pathways to achieving particular visions for democracy;
- ii) to elaborate sets of policy recommendations on the basis of all scenarios;
- iii) to review and vote upon the recommendations in order to prioritise them and finalise the set.

Where workshops will be organised

According to the work programme national workshops have to be organized in Poland, Italy, Spain, Norway, France, Uruguay and Bulgaria.

When national events will be held

Workshops shall be held for one full day in the period 1 October - 15 November 2023. The optimal option is to hold them on a Saturday since the participants shall be representatives of various stakeholder groups, most of whom are expected to be active working people and one full day during the week will not be a viable option for them. Alternatively, if the organiser has previous experience with such events and considers that in the specific local context it will be impossible to attract policy-makers on a Saturday, the workshop can be held during the week.

Participants

20-25 stakeholders per country, including policy-makers, experts and citizens, recruited by the relevant national project partners as follows:

Country	Partner	Responsible people
Poland 14 November 2023	UNIWARSAW IRMiR	Magda Roszczynska (m.roszczynska@uw.edu.pl); Bogna (bgawronska-nowak@irmir.pl) Jan Grzymiski (jgrzymiski@irmir.pl)
Italy 10 October	UNIVE UNITN	Eleonora Montuschi (eleonora.montuschi@unive.it); Giuseppe Veltri (giuseppe.veltri@unitn.it)
Spain 9 November 2023	UPF	Carolina Llorente (carolina.llorente@upf.edu); Gema Revuelta (gema.revuelta@upf.edu)
France 7 November	MNHN	Romain Julliard (romain.julliard@mnhn.fr) Céline PELLETIER (celine.pelletier@mnhn.fr)
Uruguay 28 October 2023	MEC	Agustina Cabrera (agustina.cabrera@mec.gub.uy) Daniela Pereira (pereira@mec.gub.uy)
Bulgaria 2 December 2023	ARC Fund	Adriana Dimova (adriana.dimova@online.bg)

Recruitment of participants

Recruitment of participants needs to begin right away. About 15-20 policy-makers, 15-20 experts and 15-20 citizens have to be identified and invited to participate as some of them will not be able to accept the invitation and not all of those who confirm will be able to make it on the exact day as a result to unforeseen last minute changes.

Timeline for recruitment and invitation of participants:

- **By 30 July 2023:** Identification of about 50-60 relevant stakeholders
- **Beginning of September: Save the date e-mail invitation**
- Depending on the exact date of each national workshop, **two reminders** about the event has to be sent – one 10 days prior to it and another one on the day before the workshop.

Participants could be recruited by:

- e-mail – a mailing list with the identified stakeholders has to be created by the relevant national partner;
- face-to-face – citizens could be recruited in public places such as shopping centers, libraries, on the street, bus stops etc.
- advertising in local media – announcements about the workshops could be published in local newspapers, including a telephone number and/or e-mail for registration;
- social media – the event shall be announced in different social media such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter etc.
- telephone – if relevant, phonebooks can be used to recruit citizens;
- participants in previous similar activities, organised by the host organisation shall be contacted as well.

Since the topic concerns all societal groups, participants shall represent as many of them as possible. Potential participants include: territorial and/or national level policy-makers (representatives of public bodies on local, territorial and national level); representatives of academic institutions; experts in the fields of science, technology, innovation, environment, climate resilience, energy, sustainable development; representatives of businesses and business associations; representatives of non-profit organisations (NGOs, think-tanks, labour unions etc.); representatives of minority and vulnerable groups (if possible); citizens.

Input

The input to the workshops include four draft scenarios, developed in task 6.2.

Format of the workshops

One full day during the week or the weekend, depending on the local context and the decision of the respective organiser. If the budget and the rules allow, partners might consider some kind of stimulation such as food vouchers, for example, in order to motivate people to come to the

workshops. During the workshops, participants will be divided into four working groups and will deliberate during three working sessions. At the end, they will receive certificates for participation in the event.

Staff needed

- Facilitator – main facilitator who will guide the whole process and give introductions and instructions to everybody, incl. the group moderators.
- Group moderators – one for each of the working groups in the workshop; they will guide the working process in the group and will prepare the flipcharts with recommendations from the respective group in order to be voted.
- Rapporteurs – one per working group; s/he will present the results of the discussions in the working group during the plenary.

Modus operandi of the workshops

Participants will be divided into working groups, each having a group moderator, who will be in charge of guiding the discussion and taking notes on the working process within the group. The outcomes of each working session will have to be written during or immediately after the session. Upon completion of the workshop the moderators have to prepare a **memo on the outcomes and the working process** in their group, including the challenges that might have been encountered during the discussion, and explaining how they have been addressed.

The workshop will be divided into several sessions as follows:

Intro session - a short introductory plenary session, presenting the project, the objectives of the workshop and the methodology to be applied, followed by 3 thematic working groups' sessions. During this introductory session the four scenarios (associative, institutional, digital, epistemic) will be presented in plenary to all participants. After that, they will be divided into four working groups, each of which will focus on discussing one of the scenarios.

Thematic session 1 will focus on discussing, reviewing and revising/elaborating the draft scenarios in order to reduce their complexity and finalise them as the alternative pathways to achieving particular visions for democracy. Each working group will have one scenario on the table and will begin deliberations in order to finalise it. The questions that the participants will need to answer during this session include:

- What is your view for the vision of the future of democracy, presented in the scenario?
- Is the scenario plausible?
- Is the scenario desirable from your point of view?
- Which aspects in the scenario would you like to revise and why?
- What are the roles, responsibilities and interactions of stakeholders (policy-makers, research and academia, experts, businesses, CSOs) in this scenario?
- What is the specific role of citizens in this scenario?

- What are the social, technological, economic, environmental and political challenges in order to achieve the scenario?
- What is the place of digital technologies and artificial intelligence (AI) in future democratic societies and the way they will function?

At the end of the session, one rapporteur per group presents the final version of the scenario.

Thematic session 2 aims at elaborating sets of policy recommendations, based on all scenarios.

On the basis of the results from the previous working session, each group elaborates policy recommendations, based on all four scenarios.

Thematic session 3 focuses on reviewing all recommendations and prioritising them after voting.

After having the list of policy recommendations, elaborated during the previous session, each participant reviews them by himself/herself and votes for the top five recommendations that s/he considers the most important, relevant and desirable ones for the future of democracy.

Output: A set of policy recommendations, listing new methods and/or policies, aiming to strengthen democratic practices in knowledge societies.

NB: National language will be used during the workshops, but output has to be in English. Therefore, all partners have to take enough time to translate the needed input materials into the national language prior to their event and to translate the output of the national workshop into English after the workshop!

At the end of the event the group moderator asks participants to fill-in evaluation forms (to be developed by ARC Fund and translated into the local language by the respective organiser).

Rules during discussion

It is of huge importance that the participants feel respected and comfortable when engaging in the dialogue during the workshop. The organiser shall ensure that participants are familiar with the following rules for good dialogue:

- Think as expert/citizen/member of the community.
- Treat everyone with respect.
- Listen carefully to what others have to say and ask about details if you need to.
- Do not interrupt each other.
- Take part in the discussion.
- Keep comments brief and to the point.
- Take a break when you need to.
- There are no right or wrong answers – there are many possible realities.
- Nobody knows the truth about the future, therefore we are all equal and we try to be unbiased.
- We are ready to see beyond our own convictions and find a common understanding.

The group moderator as well as the main facilitator shall be neutral and should not participate in the debate by expressing their personal opinions. Their role is to guide the process, ask questions and support the group discussion.

The rules to be respected during the discussion should be announced in plenum by the head facilitator, and after this it is the responsibility of the group moderators to make sure they are followed at each table. It is important to also make sure that the participants feel free to speak and express their views during the deliberations at the respective table. A copy of the rules should be placed on each table to remind everybody to follow them.

Draft agenda of the workshops

Draft agenda	
9.00-9.30	Arrival and registration of participants
9.30-10.00	Introductory plenary session
10.00-10.30	Presentation of all scenarios in plenary
10.30-10.40	Coffee break and division into working groups
10.40-12.30	Review and finalisation of draft scenarios
12.30-13.30	Lunch break (catering shall be provided)
13.30-15.30	Elaboration of policy recommendations and presentation of group results to all participants (by a group rapporteur or the group moderator)
15.30-15.45	Coffee break
15.45-16.30	Review of recommendations and voting
16.30-17.30	Wrap up and goodbye

Office materials and equipment

- Sign-up sheet for participants (name, position, e-mail, signature);
- Notepads, pencils/pens;
- Multimedia - for the presentations;
- Laptops or paper for taking notes by the moderators;
- Printed scenarios (one copy per participant) on the tables of the working groups;

- 4 flipcharts where the recommendations will be written in order to be prioritised by voting;
- Post-its for voting;
- Copy of the rules during discussion for each table;
- Evaluation form that participants fill-in at the end of the event.

Room set-up shall be made in such a way so that each working group has a separate table where the group work and discussions will be led by the group moderator.

Catering

Two coffee breaks and a lunch break with food available shall be provided to participants by the organiser. Water shall be available all day.

Next steps

Creation of a final set of recommendations, based on the results from all national workshops, which will be reviewed by the stakeholder panels before being finalised as global recommendations. The task will conclude by developing **D6.4 Recommendations and scenarios for the possible futures of democracy** (ARC Fund) as a compilation of the final set of scenarios, with an emphasis on the global recommendations. Then, UNIVE will build upon D6.4 in order to elaborate **D6.5 Recommendations of citizen democratic participation in science**. D6.5 will be officially endorsed at the final “Democratic ISEED conference”.