


VOICE&VOTE

LIVE MEETING

18-19.09 2023
WARSAW, POLAND

Iceland
Liechtenstein
Norway



Active
citizens fund

NOTES FROM THE MEETING

1. **Challenges** during the implementation of deliberate participatory process:

- Political support → How much to include them?
- Political manipulation → How much to include them?
- Logistic on a national level
- Money
- Media attention – big topic of communication.
- Communication between partners → The whole process is led by more than one, like NGO, local government, or institution for example. You need to cooperate, communicate, and coordinate. Communication between them is important so everything goes smoothly.
- Education of the experts → we need to understand the whole process and what we are doing there, what is happening.
- Involving all the people in a group work/facilitation role → we need to balance discussion, ex.: between someone too shy and someone who talks too much.
- Recruiting people
- Motivating people to keep focus.
- Having enough time & capacities for planning and for facing ad hoc problems.
- Continuous reporting and outputs → it is very complex process so we should know what the output is of faze 1. Then we can use it to faze 2, we can prepare materials. It is connected to the proper gameplan.
- Proper gameplan
- Monitoring and evaluation – methodology → we need to know who is responsible for m&e and how to define success of the whole process. It is a challenge to settle this in advance.
- Facing ad hoc issues and problems and quick solving them.
- Inclusive approach of the whole process and secure all the conditions for the inclusive approach.

And how to overcome them

→ mentorship

Many of these challenges are very connected.

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2. Barriers to initiate deliberative participatory process:


- Political will
 - We don't know what will happen with results.
If not
 - Results will not be implemented.
 - So, no use to start.
 - Or excuse
- Costs
 - Sometimes it's the lack of projects we can apply for to gather money for the process.
- Lack of capacities
 - Lack of understanding & knowledge, eg. What is citizen assembly. When people don't understand what the deliberative process is, there is no demands of such processes from government.
 - Who should do it.
 - Lack of demanding
 - Competences – next step?
- Lack of motivation → We have no skills/experiences/knowledge how to do it. Difficult process to prepare. There are many levels that we should know and be prepared.
- Lack of civil education
 - Lack of knowing what deliberation and participation is.
 - Expecting effect right now/right after finishing the process
 - Why to do deliberation, which is expensive, take time and effort, if we have the government to do this.
- Lack of knowledge of what will happen next, what to do with the results, how to use them.
- Election timeline
 - Yes, always before election.
 - It gives both opportunities and barriers.
- Process, which is unpredictable, it gives less motivation to do them.
- No history of previous relation & co-working NGO vs. local government. Trust between those entities is also a barrier.
- Bad experiences from previous processes.
- State of democracy in particular countries.

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- How to invite/address/select people to participate in a process
 - especially when bottom-up process
 - basic list of addresses
 - where to take data from about people
- To do first process in your country
 - when NGO or institution have no professionals to do the process
- How to legitimate process & convince people to participate in such processes.
- Lack of independence when one of organizers is in fact stakeholder.
- Difficulties with formulating the topic and lack of knowledge what was done with the topic → un motivating to make strong process.

3. Enabling factors – what can help in initiating deliberative participatory process?

- Social trust
- Acknowledgement of partners needed in the process.
- Strong (& independent) institutions → it can be helpful.
- Existing models and inspirations → esp. from abroad.
- Helpful and motivated political (municipality) representation.
- History and culture of other (esp. easier) participating process (especially in schools, youth – oriented).
- Motivated & resilient organizers.
- Resources (especially financial).
- Topping matching the community's needs/interests. It is easier to make the process when the topic is important and relevant for people.
- Elections happening soon/good timing → it is easier to lure people when elections are coming. Or when is some important for community event happening.
- Sharing know-how & good examples between politicians (e.g., sending delegations) → not only on the level of organizers or people but also on the political level.
- Available and up to date data on the demographics & addresses.
- Network of organizers.
- Researchers' support → experts and people who knows the subject.