

# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

## Definition

A process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making that decision. The level and nature of participation is usually described in terms of the openness of the process to the public, explained with respect to typologies such as eight-level scale of Arnstein (1969), Figure 40a, or five-level scale of the International Association of Public Participation (2017), Figure 40b.

*Public:* One or more natural or legal persons, and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.

*The public concerned:* The public affected or likely to be affected by, or have an interest in, the environmental decision-making; for the purposes of this definition, non-governmental organizations promoting environmental protection and meeting any requirements under national law shall be deemed to have an interest.

## Related terms

Landscape governance, Land use conflict, Public participation process, Scenario, Scenarios, Scenario techniques, Stakeholder

## Keywords

Community involvement, Ladder of participation, Public involvement, Stakeholder involvement

Typology of eight level of citizen participation which contains rungs of "power"

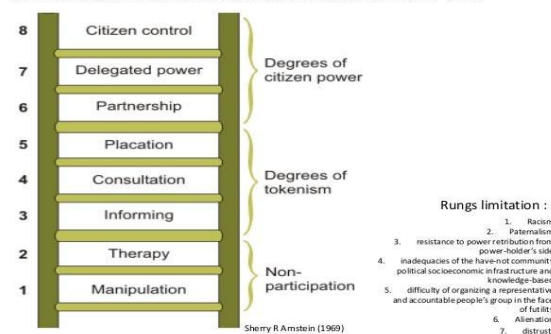


Figure 40a Ladder of Participation. (Source: Arnstein 1969)

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Figure 40b IPA2'S Public Participation Spectrum. (Source: http49)

## Source

Arnstein S.R. 1969: A Ladder of Citizen Participation, JAIP, 35(4): 216–224.

European Parliament and of the Council 2003: Public Participation Directive. European Parliament, Strasbourg.

(<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003L0004>)

http50: [www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide-introduction-public-participation](http://www.epa.gov/international-cooperation/public-participation-guide-introduction-public-participation)

http51: <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>

http52: <https://www.iap2.org/?page=pillars>

## Translations

Bosnia and Herzegovina Građanska  
participacija/Sudjelovanje javnosti  
Bulgarian участие на обществеността  
Croatian Sudjelovanje javnosti  
Czech Účast veřejnosti  
Danish Borgerinddragelse  
Dutch Publieks participatie  
Esperanto Publika partopreno  
Estonian Avalikkuse kaasamine  
Finish Osallistamis  
French Participation publique  
German Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung  
Greek Διαδικασία δημόσιας διαβούλευσης  
Hebrew ציבור שיתוף הליך

Hungarian közosségi részvétel  
Italian Partecipazione pubblica  
Islandic þátttaka almennings/opinber þátttaka  
Latvian Sabiedrības līdzdalības  
Lithuanian Visuomenės dalyvavimo  
Montenegrin Učešća javnosti  
Polish Partycypacji społecznej  
Portuguese Participação pública  
Romanian Participare publică  
Russian участия общества  
Slovakian Účast verejnosti  
Slovenian Sodelovanje javnosti  
Serbian Партиципација јавности  
Spanish Participación pública  
Swedish Allmänhetens deltagande