



Draft Agenda  
3<sup>rd</sup> Participatory Democracy Incubator Meeting  
Europe Youth Centre, Strasbourg  
7<sup>th</sup> November 2017

The objective of the meeting is two-fold:

1. Identify guiding principles and practical approaches to enhance the impact of participatory democracy initiatives on city policies;
2. Exchange ideas about the possible setting up of a participatory democracy “advisory body” at the Council of Europe.

Guiding questions:

- (1) Do participatory democracy platforms influence decision-making processes or institutions? How can decision-makers be convinced that launching/supporting participatory democracy initiatives is good for both representative institutions and for democracy?
- (2) What the conditions for making participatory initiatives meaningful and with real impact on political decisions? What decisions/regulations/human resource/capacity-building/communication etc. measures need to be taken?
- (3) Is it possible to develop a set of criteria to assess how meaningful/influential participatory democracy initiatives are? Is there a need for an “advisory body” to carry out such assessments and provide advice to policy-makers and practitioners? Where could such a body be located, and how could it operate?

09:00-10:00: Towards a participatory governance framework – how can participatory democracy influence decision-making?

- Welcoming of participants and Introduction  
*Irena Guidikova, Council of Europe, Head of Divisions “Intercultural Cities and World Forum for Democracy”*
- Keynote presentation and discussion of a background paper “Public Participation and Democratic Innovations: Assessing Democratic Institutions and Processes for Deepening and Increased Public Participation in Political Decision-Making”  
*Jan-Henrik Kamlage, Institute for the Advanced Studies in the Humanities (KWI), Essen (Germany)*

10:00-10:15: Break

10:15 – 12:30: Let citizens co-decide! Pooling of best practices to implement participatory democracy initiatives with a political impact

Moderated exchange of experiences: "How do I convince my politician to consider participatory democracy?"

*Facilitated by Nicoletta Manzini, Council of Europe, Project Officer, World Forum for Democracy*

*Aims:*

- *Creating a mutual understanding within the group: who has done what?*

- *What are barriers and pathways to implement outcomes of PD initiatives? The group should agree on a list of up to ten key challenges.*

12:30-14:00: Networking lunch – lunch tables to discuss solutions to specific challenges

14:15-16:15: Presentation of the Council of Europe's Guidelines on citizen participation in political decision-making

*Paul Rowsell, President of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance of the Council of Europe and Deputy Director, Democracy, Department for Communities and Local Government in the United Kingdom*

14:15-16:15: Focus-group discussions: How do we embed participatory democracy in our representative system?

We take 60 minutes time to identify opportunities to overcome the challenges, to agree on action points that could become all together a roadmap for the incubator. Each group presents its outcome in a 10min (+10min Q+A) pitch presentation.

Desired outcome: We create mini-clusters within the Incubator group to work on concrete follow up steps to overcome the challenge

Tentative group challenge – Motivation\* – Develop a win-win type argumentation to convince decision-makers to design participatory democracy initiatives which can influence final decisions, and engage meaningfully with grassroots initiatives.

*Facilitated by Anthony Zacharzewski, The Democratic Society*

Tentative group challenge – Opportunity\* – Design the process of embedding participatory democracy platforms/initiatives into decision-making: changing local government regulations to make the holding of participatory democracy platforms in a regular/mandatory way; developing skills, know-how; creating participatory democracy offices; training politicians to see the positive dimension of participatory democracy etc.

*Facilitated by Matthew Leighninger, Vice President of Public Engagement and Director of the Yankelovic Centre for Public Judgement.*

Tentative group challenge – Capacity\* – Creating an international structure to observe, assess and advise policy-makers, institutions and grassroots participatory democracy creators on better participatory democracy practice. Feasibility; operational modalities; criteria for assessing participatory democracy initiatives...

*Facilitated by Irena Guidikova, Council of Europe, Head of Divisions "Intercultural Cities and World Forum for Democracy"*

16:00-17:15 Wrap up and presentation of the roadmap for the participatory democracy incubator. The roadmap will be made up of the specific suggestions the group comes up with.

Please feel free to contact Jörn Fritzenkötter ([jorn.fritzenkotter@coe.int](mailto:jorn.fritzenkotter@coe.int)) to exchange and add your ideas to the draft agenda!