



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



European Political and Governance Studies
Academic Year 2019-2020
Professor: Alberto ALEMANNI
Academic Assistant: Andrea SABATINI

WORKSHOP IN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY EMPOWERING CITIZEN ACTION FOR A MORE TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE EUROPE

14-15 October 2019

DAY 1

Introduction, learning objectives, format, tour de table and expectations.

1. The EU Turn to Participation

One of the answers to a two-decade quest for a more democratically legitimate Union has been to enhance citizen participation through broader access to the EU.

Yet, what does the right to participate in the “democratic life of the Union” actually mean and entail? What is the state of EU participatory democracy ten years after its birth? What can we actually do to improve it?

To address and further unpack these questions, we will be structuring our workshops along the following questions:

- 1.1 Is the EU a democracy? How democratic is it (and compared to what)?
(fishbowl *brainstorm*)
 - 1.1.1 EU model of democracy (*short lecture*)
 - 1.1.2 State of the art of EU democracy: representative vs participatory
- 1.2 Can you think of an example of successful EU participatory democracy action?
And an unsuccessful one? (*one-to-one*)
- 1.3 List all avenues of participation open to the public in the EU (*one-to-one*)
- 1.4 What do they have in common? (*one-to-one*)
- 1.5 Systematize all EU participatory channels based on given criterion (*one-to-one*)

1.5.1 Brainstorming on best taxonomies available

1.6 What's EU participatory democracy? (*brainstorm + groups*)

- a. Definition: a constitutional principle of the European Union b. Genesis c. Timeline d. Treaty basis e. Theoretical background
- b. Systemic approach to EU democracy to assess the state of EU democracy: how each channel link to the rest of the democratic system?

2. The EU Participatory Tool-box (*on-spot exercise*)

2.1 Prepare brief for one channel of participation, structured as follow:

2.1.1 Describe:

- (i) Nature (e.g. primary law, secondary, soft)
- (ii) Design (e.g. top-down vs bottom-up, online vs offline)
- (iii) Purpose (e.g. agenda-setting, oversight, etc).

In so doing, please pick one illustration (be it real or simulated) to make it concrete! (*round 1*)

2.2.2 Score your channel of participation based on:

- (i) Openness: this mechanism is open to whom?
- (ii) Responsiveness: what procedural response the applicant expects?
- (iii) Effectiveness: what the applicant can actually obtained? (*round 2*)

2.2.3 Suggest: How would you improve this channel? (*round 3*)

Wrap up question:

What's wrong with EU participatory democracy? (*brainstorm + lecture*)

Instructions for day 2: (i) Pick one participatory channel and think how you can take advantage of any channel of participation and plan for (ii) The EU Participatory Project.

DAY 2

3. The EU Participatory Project

Experience Showcase - on a volunteer basis - your (individual/group) experience of EU participatory democracy by filing a request for access to document, a petition to an MEP, a letter to a EU Commissioner or service, some observations to a pending/forthcoming public consultation...

4. The EU Participatory Pitch

Sparks talk of 5 minutes each and debrief from instructor and peers.

Q & A

Wrap up question:

How would you rethink participatory democracy in Europe ahead of the Conference on the future of Europe? (*one-to-one + brainstorming*):

Unleash your creativity in thinking whether and how the EU could re-invent – or better use - its participatory agenda.

Debrief and closing

MATERIALS

Please bring with you:

- your laptops
- your attention and intention
- best of your inner self and
- a bunch of team-spirit!

Join and check in Facebook Class in Session:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/192205361702043/about/>