

The SPARCS Citizen Engagement Database

20 April 2023

Uta Pollmer, Fraunhofer IMW



Horizon 2020
European Union funding
for Research & Innovation

This project has received funding from the Euro
and innovation programme under Grant Agree
Topic: LC-SC3-SCC-1-2018-2019-2020: Smart



ase for citizen engag

[Browse activities →](#)

Citizen Engagement Database

Aim:

operational tool to support cities in finding the right engagement activities and procedures according to their specific framework conditions (needs and resources) based on practical experience

End user: 1st step: SPARCS cities, 2nd step: open

Sources:

questionnaire responses from SCC1 projects
extensive desktop research
interviews with SCC1 projects

Facilities:

collection of 90 engagement activities and procedures with the possibility to filter the data by relevant criteria (target group, number of participants, effort, need for experts, etc.)

Number of participants

Any number of participants

Any number of participants

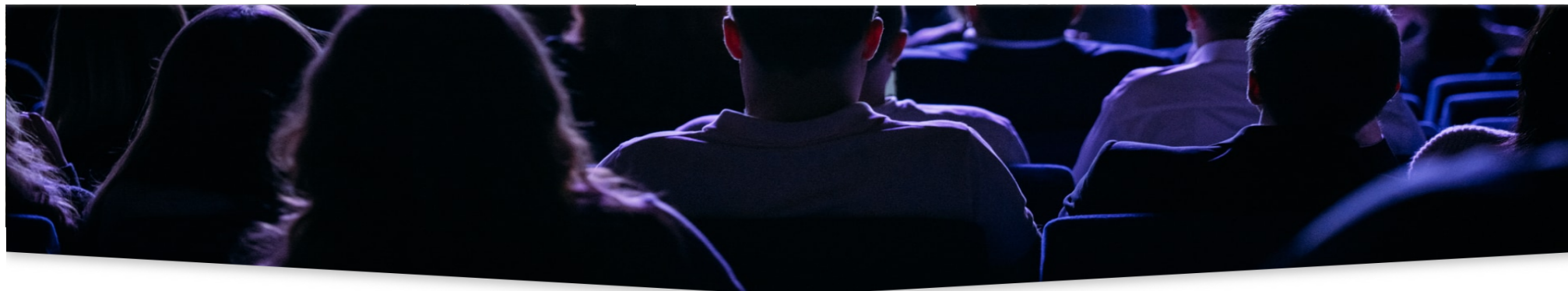
Up to 10

Up to 30

Up to 100

Up to 300

More than 300

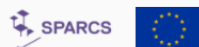


A public database for citizen engagement activities

[Browse activities →](#)

The SPARCS project aims to develop solutions for energy positive districts in order to improve the climate friendliness of cities. But the implementation of technical measures to improve energy efficiency and to include renewables can only succeed if cities involve their citizens in the transformation process and motivate them to help shape it.

This database is intended to support cities in developing their own engagement strategies by briefly explaining a selection of engagement activities and providing further sources. The filters allow a selection according to the city's own goals or framework conditions.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 864242.

[Publishing notes](#) | [Data protection](#) | [Contact](#)

*** Please select the relevant options in the filter categories below to receive a compilation of appropriate activities on the right.



Filters

Title contains

Participation level

All participation levels



Target group

All target groups



Number of participants

Any number of participants



Frequency

All frequencies



Duration/Timeline

All durations/timelines



Implementation

All implementations



Budget

All budgets



Citizen Engagement Activities

1 to 24 from 90 > >>

90 results found

Citizen Panel

Objective: "A Citizens' Panel is a large, demographically representative group of citizens regularly used to assess public preferences and opinions. When conducted online it is sometimes know...

[More →](#)

Conversation Café

Objective: "Conversation Cafes aim to foster a society that actively engages in important social topics, which are newly selected for each gathering, by creating a temporary environment that...

[More →](#)

Participatory Chinatown (Boston)

Objective: "A mixed online-offline engagement process, the goal of Participatory Chinatown was to engage more Chinatown stakeholders in the 2010 Chinatown Master Planning Process" in Boston (...)

[More →](#)

Roundtable Discussion

Objective: "Roundtable discussions are small group discussions where everybody has an equal right to participate. This method can in reality encompass a number of different formats; roundtabl...

[More →](#)

Citizens' Councils

Objective: "The Vorarlberg Burgerrat model, aka Citizens' Councils, was featured in OECD's report on Innovative Citizen Participation. Based on Jim Rough's Wisdom Council model, it aims to ad...

[More →](#)

Forum Theater

Objective: "Forum Theatre uses theatre to achieve social aims. It is a form of theatre that encourages audience interaction and explores different options for dealing with a problem or issue...

[More →](#)

Laddering

Objective: Grunberger and Omann (n.d, p. 9) describe the laddering method as follows: "This method has its roots in market research with the aim to identify consumer relationships to products...

[More →](#)

Liquid Democracy

Objective: "Liquid Democracy is an innovative concept for liquefying rigid structures that limit our democracy. And Liquid Democracy is us: a non-profit association from Berlin dedicated to t...

[More →](#)

Online-Consultation

Objective: "Online consultations utilize the internet to ask a group of people their opinion on an issue (typically a policy in the development stages). An unlimited number of participants ca...

[More →](#)

Citizens' Councils

Objective: "The Vorarlberg Bürgerrat model, aka Citizens' Councils, was featured in OECD's report on Innovative Citizen Participation. Based on Jim Rough's Wisdom Council model, it aims to address community issues in a quick and inexpensive manner through facilitated deliberation" (www.participedia.net).

"The Vorarlberg Bürgerrat method generally involves the 4 steps described below.

Citizen Council: over the course of a day and a half, between 10 to 30 randomly selected citizens work out a joint statement (not open to the public). If there are more than 15 participants, the group is subdivided into two working groups. They carry out their work with the support of two moderators trained in [Dynamic Facilitation](#).

Citizen Café: the findings of the Citizen Council are pre people attending. After some brief introductions by the smaller tables before reporting out to the larger group.

Responder Team: a team including professionals involved monitor their implementation. This team traditionally also

Documentation & Next Steps: The documentation of the conversation among both community members and go

In cases where the Bürgerrat has been sponsored by the municipality, measures that have been taken and/or need to be taken

Participation level	Target groups	
Consultation	Any	

Organizational requirements:

- Project management/Event organization
- Education about the procedure of the activity before the actual activity taking place
- Protocol/Documentation
- Moderator/Facilitator

References:

- The Vorarlberg Bürgerrat model (aka Citizens' Councils). <https://participedia.net/method/6227>
- Citizen Council - Building a Participation Culture. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCYFH-QQ6Rc>
- Bürgerräte. <https://www.beteiligungskompas.org/article/show/169> (DE)

Examples of implementation of the citizen council method:

- Liquid Tank #6 Citizens' Council goes digital! Exception or format for the future? <https://liqd.net/en/blog/liquid-tank-6-die-zukunft/>
- Making a Difference Together: Citizen Councils in Berlin. <https://www.iass-potsdam.de/en/blog/2020/01/making-difference-together/>
- Böhm, B. (2016). Democracy 4.0: Citizen Participation Processes. A German Case Study. <http://www.agree-europe.de/ir>
- Bürger_innenräte in Tempelhof-Schöneberg. <https://www.berlin.de/ba-tempelhof-schoeneberg/politik-und-verwaltung>
- Dialog zwischen Flughafen und der Region Rhein-Main. <https://www.forum-flughafen-region.de/> (DE)
- Schlichtung Stuttgart 21. <http://www.schlichtung-s21.de> (DE)

*** Please select the relevant options in the filter categories below to receive a compilation of appropriate activities on the right.

Filters

Title contains

Participation level

All participation levels

Target group

All target groups

Number of participants

Any number of participants

Frequency

All frequencies

Duration/Timeline

All durations/timelines

Implementation

All implementations

Budget

All budgets

Citizen Engagement Activities

1 to 24 from 90

90 results found

Citizen Panel

Objective: "A Citizens' Panel is a large, demographically representative group of citizens regularly used to assess public preferences and opinions. When conducted online it is sometimes know...

[More →](#)

Conversation Café

Objective: "Conversation Cafes aim to foster a society that actively engages in important social topics, which are newly selected for each gathering, by creating a temporary environment that...

[More →](#)

Participatory Chinatown (Boston)

Objective: "A mixed online-offline engagement process, the goal of Participatory Chinatown was to engage more Chinatown stakeholders in the 2010 Chinatown Master Planning Process" in Boston (...)

[More →](#)

Roundtable Discussion

Objective: "Roundtable discussions are small group discussions where everybody has an equal right to participate. This method can in reality encompass a number of different formats; roundtabl...

[More →](#)

Citizens' Councils

Objective: "The Vorarlberg Burgerrat model, aka Citizens' Councils, was featured in OECD's report on Innovative Citizen Participation. Based on Jim Rough's Wisdom Council model, it aims to ad...

[More →](#)

Forum Theater

Objective: "Forum Theatre uses theatre to achieve social aims. It is a form of theatre that encourages audience interaction and explores different options for dealing with a problem or issue...

[More →](#)

Laddering

Objective: Grunberger and Omann (n.d, p. 9) describe the laddering method as follows: "This method has its roots in market research with the aim to identify consumer relationships to products...

[More →](#)

Liquid Democracy

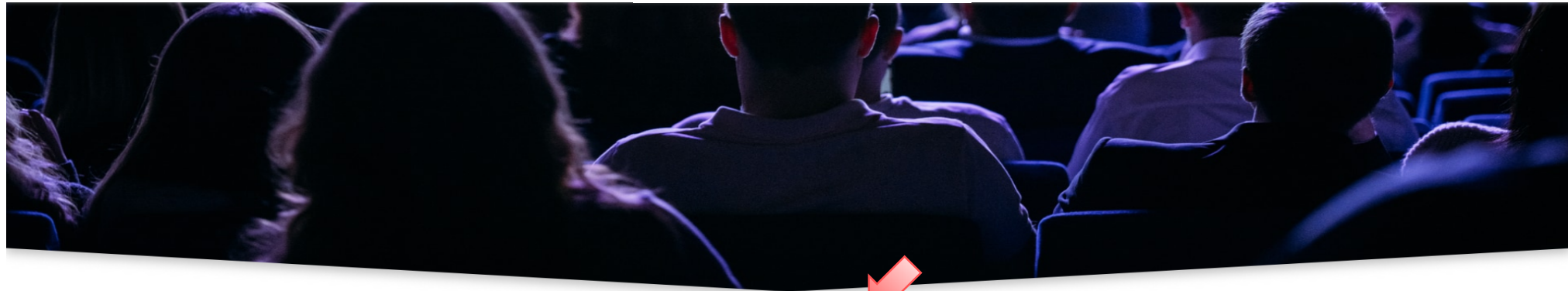
Objective: "Liquid Democracy is an innovative concept for liquefying rigid structures that limit our democracy. And Liquid Democracy is us: a non-profit association from Berlin dedicated to t...

[More →](#)

Online-Consultation

Objective: "Online consultations utilize the internet to ask a group of people their opinion on an issue (typically a policy in the development stages). An unlimited number of participants ca...

[More →](#)

[Erläuterung auf Deutsch](#)**Explanation****1 Search Section**

The Search section consists of eight different filter criteria on the left of the page. You can perform a filtered search to limit the number of results and find your preferred engagement activities more quickly.

You can at any time change the applied filter options and automatically receive the respective results.

A "Clear all" button on the top right of the "Filters" section appears as soon as a filter has been selected. By pressing it, you can immediately clear your filtered search and return to the full list of citizen engagement activities.

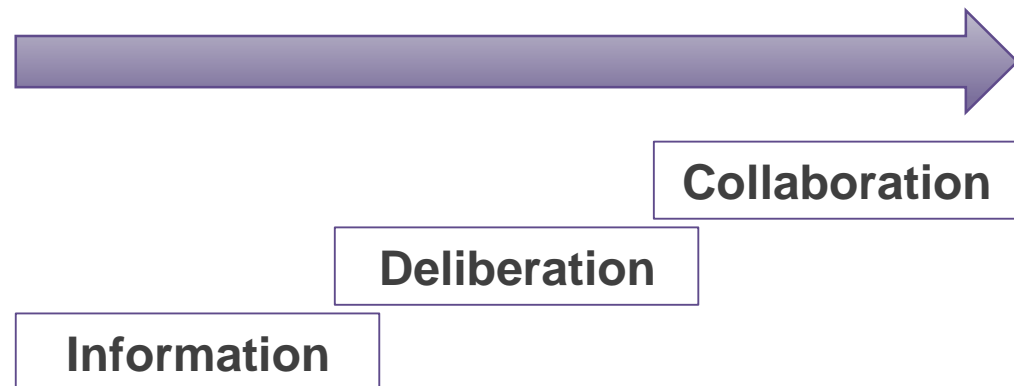
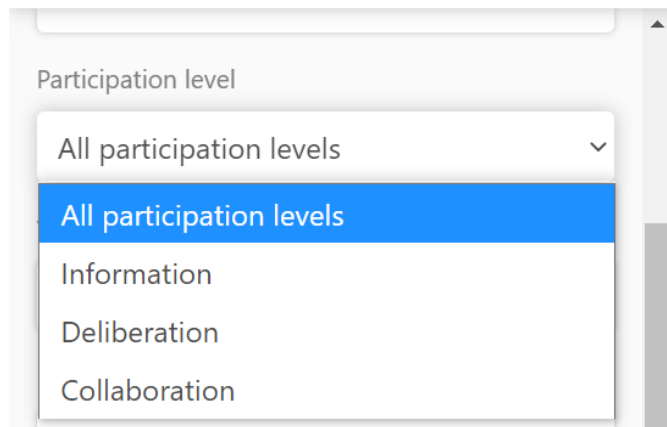
1.1 Title Search

The "Title contains" search bar accommodates a full-text search within the engagement activities' titles.

1.2 Participation level:

The filter criteria related to the different participation levels are implicitly connected with the aim of each engagement activity: The participation level describes the extent of involvement of the public in decision processes, starting with the basic information level, continuing with the consultation level, and then onto the collaboration level. This

Participation Level



Target Groups

*** Please select the relevant options in the filter categories below to receive a compilation of appropriate activities on the right.

Filters

Title contains

Participation level

All participation levels

Target group

All target groups

All target groups

City Administration

Local Businesses

Youth

Public Institutions

Citizens

Experts / Research Groups

Students

Teachers

White-collar workers

Marginalized Groups

Industry and Private Sector

Implementation

Citizen Engagement Activities

1 to 24 from 90

Citizen Panel

Objective: "A Citizens' Panel is a large, demographically representative group of citizens regularly used to assess public preferences and opinions. When conducted online it is sometimes know..."

More →

Conve

Objective actively € selected environn

More →

Roundtable Discussion

Objective: "Roundtable discussions are small group discussions where everybody has an equal right to participate. This method can in reality encompass a number of different formats; roundtabl..."

Citizen

Objective Councils, Citizen P model, it



Number of Participants



[Homepage](#)
[Activities](#)
[Explanations](#)

Participation level

All participation levels ▾

Target group

White-collar workers ▾

Number of participants

Any number of participants ▾

- Any number of participants
- Up to 10
- Up to 30
- Up to 100
- Up to 300
- More than 300

[More →](#)

Open Space

Open Space is a conference format with an overarching topic. Participants then get divided in groups where they decide other relevant topic - related to the overarching one - that can be discu...

[More →](#)

[More](#)

Speed

Speed experti subject

[More](#)

Activating Opinion Survey

In an activating opinion survey people are asked about their views on certain matters. Aim is to identify concerns of citizens. Also. citizens are asked what solutions they

Frequency & Timeline



Homepage [Activities](#) Explanations

Frequency

All frequencies

All frequencies

One event

More than one event

topic. Participants then get divided in groups where they decide other relevant topic - related to the overarching one - that can be discu...

[More →](#)

expertise
subject to

[More →](#)

Duration/Timeline

All durations/timelines

All durations/timelines

1/2 day

1 day

Up to a week

Longer than a week

[More →](#)

[More →](#)

Activating Opinion Survey

In an activating opinion survey people are asked about their views on certain matters. Aim is to identify concerns of citizens. Also, citizens are asked what solutions they envision and how

Fish Box

Fishbowl c
within larg
participate
experience

Implementation



[Homepage](#)
[Activities](#)
[Explanations](#)

Target group

White-collar workers
▼

Number of participants

Any number of participants
▼

Frequency

All implementations

Live event

Virtual event

Hybrid event

Adaptable

All implementations
▼

Activating Opinion Survey

In an activating opinion survey people are asked about their views on certain matters. Aim is to identify concerns of citizens. Also, citizens are asked what solutions they envision and how...

[More →](#)

Written Consultation

Method is appropriate for consulting in depth opinions, however, it is quite time consuming to evaluate the inputs. Agency for providing advice on the process might be necessary.

Fish Bowl

Fishbowl consultation within large groups. Participants experience...

[More →](#)

Participatory Budgeting

City administrators get the citizens' input in a direct manner. It...

Budget



[Homepage](#) [Activities](#) [Explanations](#)

Target group

All target groups

Number of participants

Any number of participants

Frequency

All frequencies

Duration/Timeline

All durations/timelines

Implementation

All budgets

Low

Medium

High

All budgets

Activating Opinion Survey

In an activating opinion survey people are asked about their views on certain matters. Aim is to identify concerns of citizens. Also, citizens are asked what solutions they envision and how...

[More →](#)

Fish Bowl

Fishbowl c within larg participate experience

[More →](#)

Written Consultation

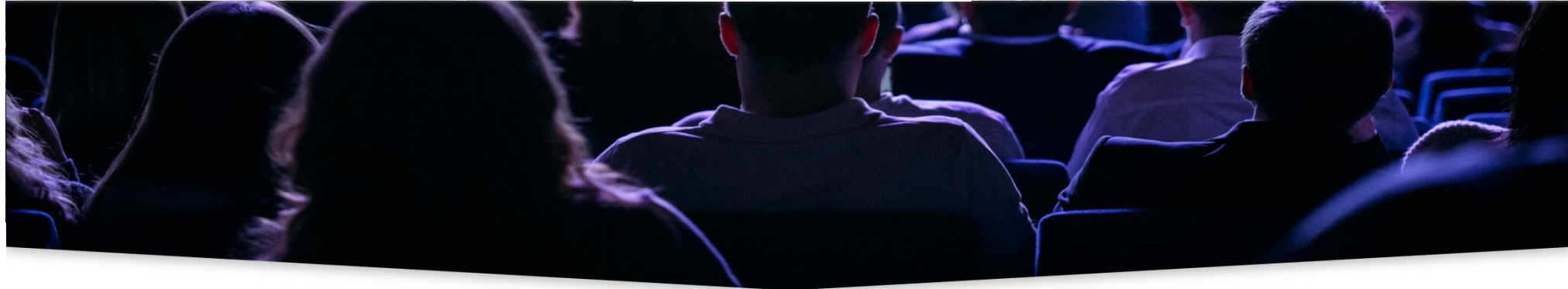
Method is appropriate for consulting in depth opinions, however, it is quite time consuming to evaluate the inputs. Agency for providing advice on the process might be necessary.

[More →](#)

Particip

City admir get the cit method ca manner. H

[More →](#)



A public database for citizen engagement activities

[Browse activities →](#)

www.citizen-engagement.eu

contact: uta.pollmer@imw.fraunhofer.de



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 864242.

[Publishing notes](#) | [Data protection](#) | [Contact](#)