



SCIENCE FOR POLICY BRIEFS

Competence Centre on Participatory & Deliberative Democracy

Strengthening EU Democracy

- The European Commission is committed to a [“New push for European democracy”](#) to “strengthen the links between people, nations and institutions in Europe”.
- As part of this commitment, The [Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy](#) provides the tools, resources, research and methodologies to build capacity and best practice in participatory and deliberative democracy across different levels of governance in the EU.

About the Competence Centre

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) has been working on methods to implement citizen engagement in science and policy for nearly three decades and has developed a track record in this field. We are advancing innovation in this area at the society-science-policy interface by researching participatory and deliberative methods across different levels of governance. At EU institutional level we are guiding these processes in-house, with tools, training, networking and engagement spaces while maintaining the Commission a key player in research in this field. The Competence Centre runs citizen engagement projects in various thematic areas with the aim to experiment and develop knowledge and methodologies in participatory and deliberative policy.

Conference on the Future of Europe

The Conference on the Future of Europe is a pan-European participatory process of multiple interlinked events and debates where citizens from all corners of Europe are able to share and discuss their ideas, in all official EU languages, on what they expect from the European Union. The Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy helped develop the Conference’s [multilingual digital platform](#), which plays a crucial role in the entire process, functioning both as the (i) main information hub, providing relevant information to citizens about the conference format, topics under discussion, planned events, and outcomes, and (ii) main participation space, enabling a high number of citizens to contribute online, individually or collectively, with concrete ideas for EU policies around the topics of the Conference. The Conference’s other two main pillars consist of deliberative European Citizens’ Panels and the Conference Plenary.

EU Missions

The Competence Centre is supporting the EU Missions on [Adaption to Climate Change](#) and [Climate Neutral Cities](#) on citizen engagement in the design and implementation. The Mission on Climate Change Adaptation supports at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030 while the Cities Mission involves local authorities, citizens, businesses, investors as well as regional and national authorities to deliver 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030. Both missions are committed to the



local engagement of citizens in the co-creation of societal transformational change for climate resilience and climate neutral cities. The Competence Centre is supporting the design of the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change's research programme in what concerns citizen engagement. As part of the Climate Neutral Cities Mission, the Competence Centre is helping develop a toolkit and assessment framework that encourages and supports cities to co-create carbon neutral projects and actions with citizens that benefit local communities.

STING (Science and Technology for Pollinating Insects)

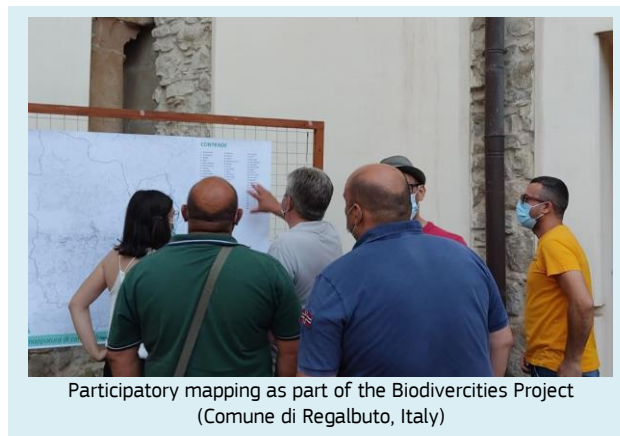
Developed under the framework of the EU Pollinators Initiative, STING puts in place a systematic strategy for the protection of wild pollinators across the EU. The Competence Centre is working on engagement with farmers and citizens on the decline of pollinators to better-understand the issues at stake and let possible solutions emerge to tackle the problem. The project investigates the narratives that structure public discourse on this issue through interviews and media analysis. Building on this knowledge, the project designs and tests strategies for collaboration and co-design. Specifically, the project focuses on i) co-producing new frames and narratives over pollinators' decline, ensuring the attention shifts from honeybees only to wild pollinators ii) designing a blueprint of citizen engagement and constructing an awareness campaign toolbox over wild pollinators.

IMPARC (Environmental, climate and societal impacts of a changing Arctic)

IMPARC informs the now revised Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for the Arctic. In particular, the changes focus on "enhancing international cooperation through engagement and dialogue with Arctic states, indigenous peoples and other partners". Whilst science is key to monitoring the ecological conditions in the global north, it must be recognized that local inhabitants hold situated knowledge of their environment, including skills to recognize change, as well as know-how for adapting to emerging issues related to climate, distributed economic interests and social challenges. The Competence Centre has so far explored in dialogic ways, avenues in which these two systems of knowledge could be brought together. Different individuals from policy, science and indigenous communities were engaged to discuss the challenges of mobilising traditional and local knowledges to develop climate adaptation strategies. Two reports have already been published and the project is now looking into the narrative of "knowledge colonisation", and how in practice different systems of knowledge production can not only co-exist but also work respectfully together to address current climate change adaptation related challenges in the Arctic.

BiodiverCities

The BiodiverCities project aims to enhance civil society participation in local and urban decision-making to build a joint vision of a greener city of tomorrow. The project sits



Participatory mapping as part of the Biodivercities Project (Comune di Regalbuto, Italy)

within the context of the EU Biodiversity Strategy and specifically, the Green City Accord, which is committed to enhance the quality of life of citizens by improving the environmental quality and liveability of cities. Together with 10 European cities, the Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy is experimenting with participatory and innovative approaches to enhance biodiversity in urban areas. It is doing so by engaging citizens on the ground in co-creating visions around urban nature, monitoring, and solutions to improve urban biodiversity. The project also contributes to the mapping of urban biodiversity and ecosystem services at European scale in collaboration with two other cities. The main public output will be an Atlas, presenting the different maps used to co-produce change, highlighting challenges and lesson learnt of the local engagement processes.

COMETS (Collective Action Models for the Energy Transition and Social Innovation)

COMETS is filling the knowledge gaps around energy communities in the energy transition to renewable sources. COMETS investigates and quantifies the aggregate contribution of Collective Action Initiatives (CAIs) in the energy sector at both national and European levels. The project aims to generate and test new knowledge about technical, institutional, economic, social and cultural factors that may facilitate or hinder sustained activities of CAIs. The Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy is coaching research teams in their partnerships with CAIs in six countries to understand challenges they face in development and implementation and how policies can be improved to help support energy communities. COMETS is supported by a grant from Horizon 2020.

Further information

Find out more at our [Knowledge4Policy](#) and [Community of Practice](#) websites.

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