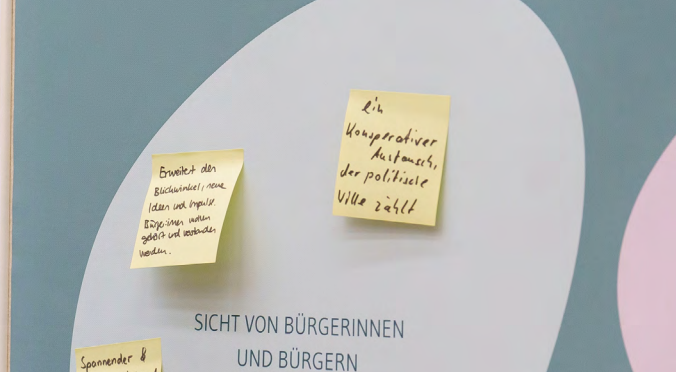




Ariadne/Christian Laukemper



- 1 Acceptance
- 2 Participation
- 3 Transdisciplinarity

AG AKZEPTANZ FACT SHEET (2): PARTICIPATION

THE ROLE OF PARTICIPATION FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION MEAN?

Participation includes many forms and facets. The core of participation is the involvement of Stakeholder from politics and administration, business, the environment and civil society with the aim of developing measures and products that are supported by society. Ideally, these are transparent, active and reflexive, often iterative processes that go

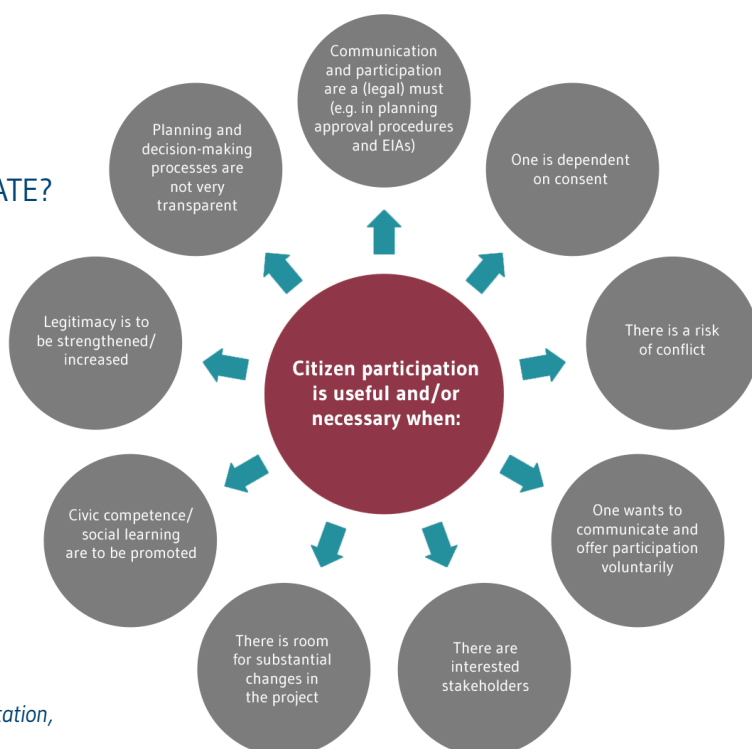
beyond communication and information (Nanz and Fritsche, 2012). For these processes to be successful, they require resources (time, competence, financial resources). Although communication and information are relevant aspects of participation and are a prerequisite, participation is also about exerting substantial influence, shaping or co-determination in (political) decisions.

WHY PARTICIPATE? HOW PARTICIPATION CREATES ADDED VALUE

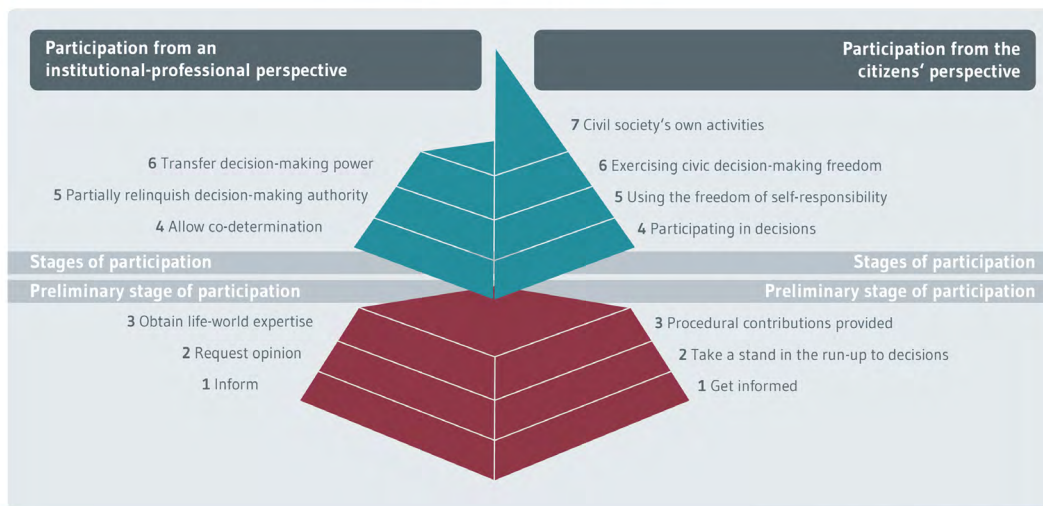
Qualitative participation can create added value for research, stakeholders and society through the joint development of science-based and socially robust solutions:

- More transparent decision-making processes
- Informed public and decision makers
- Development of more robust knowledge and more practical and appropriate solutions
- Increased approvability and higher legitimacy of decisions
- Long-term increase in efficiency/ effectiveness of planning and decision-making processes
- Improved conflict management
- Stronger identification with the topic/project
- Individual learning from the participation process enables social learning
- Strengthening and promotion of democracy

WHY PARTICIPATE?



The Participation pyramid



Source: Straßburger & Rieder, 2014

Methods of participation

Analytical: Actor screening and actor scoping, mapping

For information/communication: Displays, info-/Exhibition booths, newsletter, Website

For consultation: focus groups, Citizens' dialog, future workshop

Involvement of expertise: Citizen consultation, scenario or planning workshop

For co-design: future conference, Round table, citizens' engagement workshop

For co-decisionmaking: Voting, Referendums

THREE QUESTIONS FOR DIPL.-PSYCH. JAN HILDEBRAND

Jan Hildebrand is head of the Environmental Psychology department at IZES gGmbH. He coordinates research on the public acceptance of SynFuels in the project BEniVer (Energy Transition in Transport) and on H₂/PtX technologies in the projects Kopernikus P2X and TransHyDE.



1. What should stakeholders in the energy transition definitely know about the topic of „participation“?

Participation is a relevant factor for the acceptance of energy transition technologies and also for the related decisions. Participation offers the possibility of arriving at better solutions overall through the inclusion of broad stakeholder knowledge. Accordingly, technical projects should always be accompanied by participation options and appropriate participation opportunities should be created early on, especially for local affected stakeholder groups.

2. What framework conditions must be created for a fruitful participation process?

It is important to analyze the local initial situation in order to plan the participation measures; this includes, on the one

hand, an adequate provision in terms of time, financial and human resources. In addition, especially in the case of specific technical issues, affected groups of actors often need to be „trained“ first in order to be able to participate meaningfully.

3. What are the key success factors for a successful participation process?

Successful participation is strongly dependent on transparency and openness, as well as on trusting communication between the actors involved. It should be clarified what the object of participation is (and what it is not), with what goal the participatory process is taking place and how the participation results will be used later, i.e., what impact they can have. In this way, realistic expectations are made possible and later disappointments are avoided.

QUOTED AND FURTHER LITERATURE

- Report: Akzeptanzforschung in den Kopernikus-Projekten. Gemeinsam für eine sozial robuste Energiewende
- Fact Sheet 1: Acceptance, Fact Sheet 3: Transdisciplinarity
- Nanz, Patrizia; Fritsche, Miriam (2012): Handbuch Bürgerbeteiligung. Verfahren und Akteure, Chancen und Grenzen. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung (Schriftenreihe, 1200).

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