



Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process

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Civil Participation: current Council of Europe documents



- Committee of Ministers Recommendation (2007) 14 on the legal status of NGOs in Europe;
- Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority;
- Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process (adopted by the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe on 1st October 2009)

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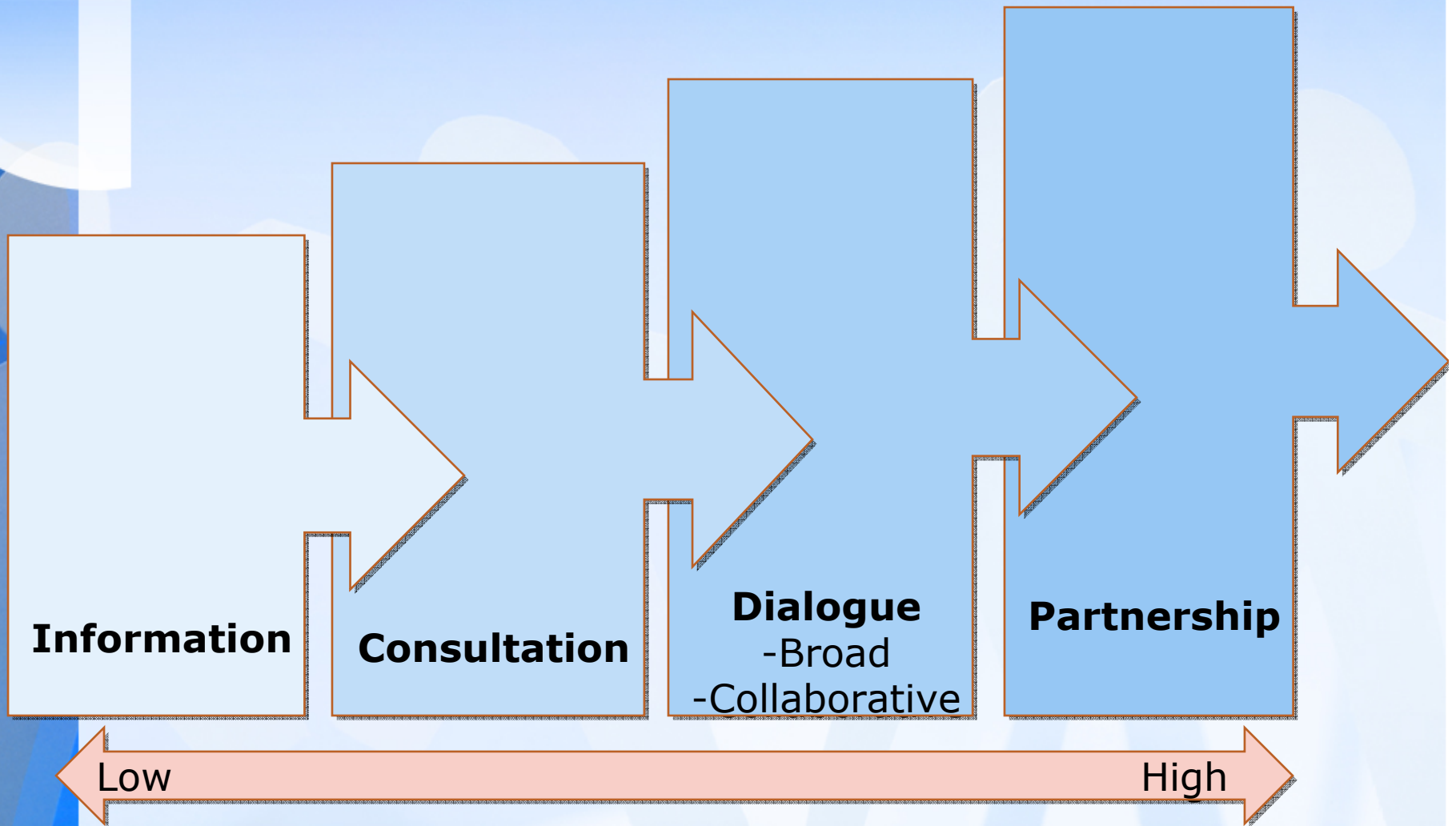
- Non-binding (soft law) standards;
- Guidelines from concrete practical experience (drafters, regional consultations);
- Welcomed by the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress and the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe;
- Implementation at local, regional and national levels (subsidiarity principle)
- Target groups: organised civil society such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and public authorities;

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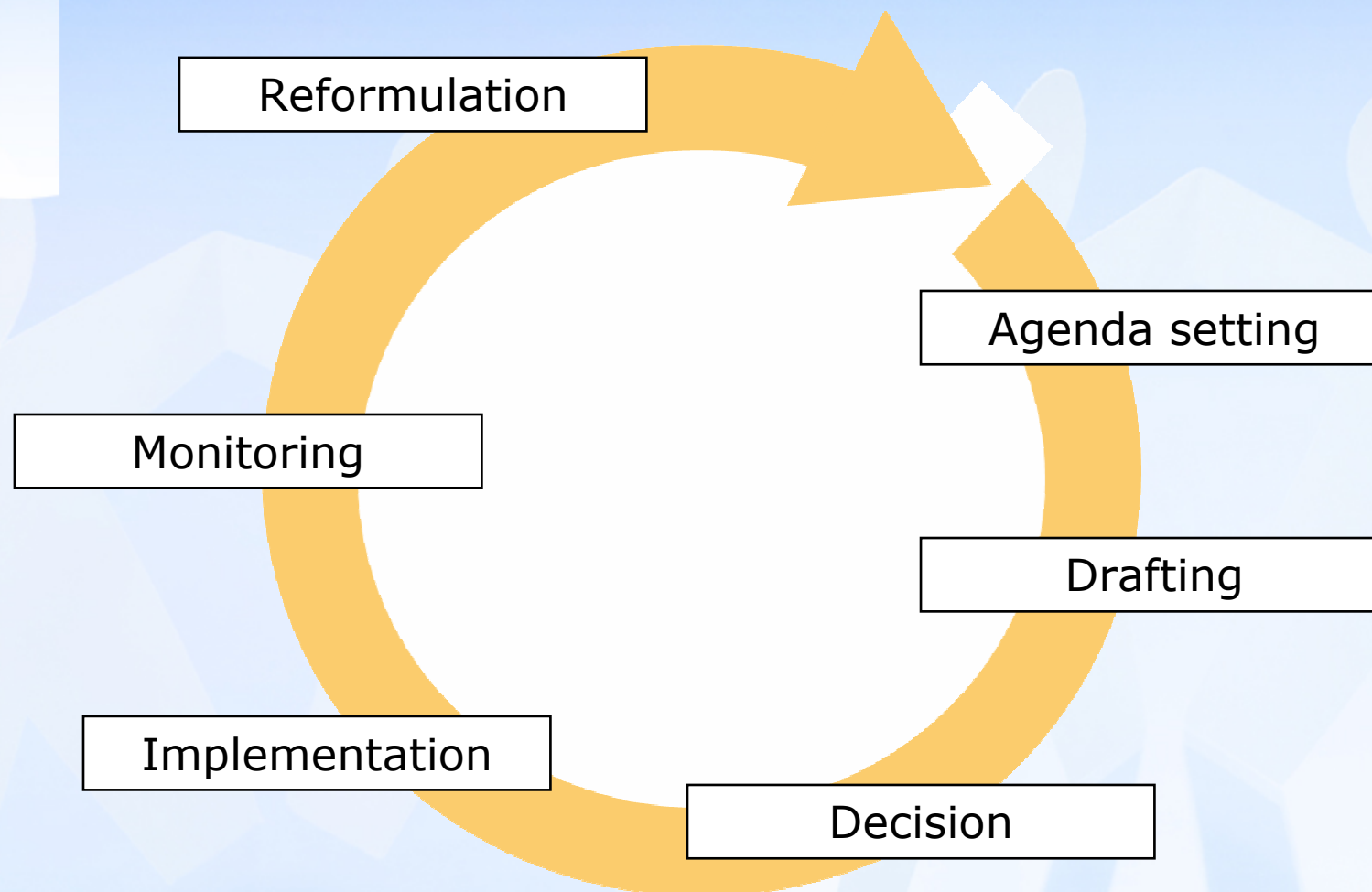


- Civil participation and citizen participation;
- Participatory democracy v. representative democracy;
- Four main principles for civil participation:
 1. Participation as a process, open accessible and transparent, based on pre-defined parameters
 2. Trust: honest interaction between sectors and actors based on respect and mutual reliability
 3. Accountability and transparency
 4. Independence esp. In the rights to advocate positions different from authorities
- Conditions for civil participation

Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: Degrees of Participation



Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: Steps



Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: the Matrix



Partnership	Working group or committee	Co-drafting	Joint decision-making tools	Strategic partnerships	Working groups or committee	Work groups or committee
Dialogue	Hearings and public Forums Citizens' forums and future councils Key government contacts	Experts seminars and meetings Hearings and Q&A panels Multi-stakeholder committees Advisory bodies	Open plenary or committee sessions	Capacity building seminars Training seminars	Evaluations conferences Research studies Working groups and committee	Seminars and deliberative forums
Consultation	Petitioning Consultation on-line and other techniques	Experts seminars and meetings Hearings and Q&A panels Multi-stakeholder committees Advisory bodies	Open plenary or committee sessions Referendums	Events, conferences, forums, seminars	Feedback mechanisms, polls, surveys, questionnaires	Conferences or meetings On-line consultation
Information	Open and free access to information Websites for key documents Campaigning and advocacy Events, conferences, forums Research	Open and free access to policy documents Websites for key documents Campaigning and lobbying Research input	Campaigning and lobbying	Information access Websites E-mail alerts FAQ Public tendering procedures	Open access to information Evidence gathering Evaluations Research studies	Open and free access to information
Levels of participation						
Steps in decision making	Agenda setting	Drafting	Decision	Implementation	Monitoring	Reformulation

Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: Cross-Cutting Initiatives



1. E-participation – Rec(2009)1 on electronic democracy
2. Capacity-building for participation (both NGOs and public authorities)
3. Structures for co-operation between NGOs and public authorities (IM:PACT)
4. Framework documents on co-operation (bilateral agreements, *ad hoc* agreements or programmes, unilateral declarations by governments)

Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: Implementation



Launching events:

- Forum for the Future of Democracy, 21-23 October 2009;

Chairmanships events:

- Ljubljana Conference on Civil Participation in Europe, 12-13 November 2009;
- Lugano Conference on Civil Participation at Local and Regional Levels, 15-16 January 2010;
- Skopje Conference on Civil Participation and Parliaments, June 2010 (tbc);
- Istanbul/Ankara Conference, end 2010 (tbc).

Code of Good Practice for Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process: Promotion



- Video clip (done)
- Interactive website based on the matrix
- Database of Good Practices
- Stands on relevant happenings in Strasbourg, Brussels and other places
- Strategic partnerships with relevant European NGOs and networks
- Interventions in panels and other gatherings

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