

NEW WAYS FOR ENGAGING CITIZENS IN THE EU DECISION MAKING PROCESS

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Objective

After 2005 referendum crisis innovative consultative pan-european (e-) consultations were experimented.

The book critically review the main ones.

European citizens consultation (random sample of 1635 citizens of 28 member states were asked to reach a common proposition on the socio-economic future of Europe)

IDEAL-EU (random sample of citizens of 3 regions of Europe invited to reach common proposition on ecological issues)

Europolis (deliberative opinion poll with 350 citizens of 28 member states invited to express informed opinion on climate change and immigration)

SO WHAT HAPPENED...

Main findings

Fascinating participative experiments: multi-lingual/cultural debate; mixing online with off-line; selections method; different objectives of consultation...

Reached interesting civic results: Participants are generally satisfied and better informed; there are clear instance of qualitative deliberation...

But...none of these experiments has been institutionalized: one shot effect. Lot of money and energy wasted...

Reasons

- 1) **No real political willingness to institutionalize them**
- 2) **Topic treated were too general to be useful**
- 3) **The consultative design was not integrated from the beginning in existing decision-making process**

THE 7 **GOLDEN** RULES TO IMPLEMENT EU CITIZENS' CONSULTATIONS

One: No major transformation and/or complexification of the existing decision-making system

Two: A further intermediary reinforcement of the legitimacy (ex: national parliaments) is not sufficient

Three: They should be institutionalized

Four: They should be inclusive and deliberative (by implementing mini-publics) VS purely aggregative approach

Five: They should be efficient (time, resources, organisation) for users and organizers

Six: The issues treated should be concrete and respond to a real need of expertise that only citizens can provide

Seven: No binding impact on final decision

THE IDEA!

MAKE YOUR VOICE IN EUROPE MORE INCLUSIVE AND DELIBERATIVE

Public consultations

This list gathers Commission public consultations in one place and replaces the former Your Voice in Europe website.

Refine results

Contains

Consultation status

Consultation open from

Consultation closed by

Policy area

Consultations (85)

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

Open Public Consultation for the Evaluation of the EU Agencies: EUROFOUND, CEDEFOP, ETF, EU-OSHA

Policy area Employment and social affairs

Consultation period 5 April 2017 - 5 July 2017

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

Consultation on the list of proposed projects of common interest in energy infrastructure - Additional projects in oil and smart grids

Policy area Energy

Consultation period 3 April 2017 - 26 June 2017

CONSULTATION STATUS: OPEN

Public Consultation on the Review of the Significant Market Power (SMP) Guidelines

What is it? e-government tool that legally request different DGs to make an open consultation on legislative propositions. They have the obligation of feedback

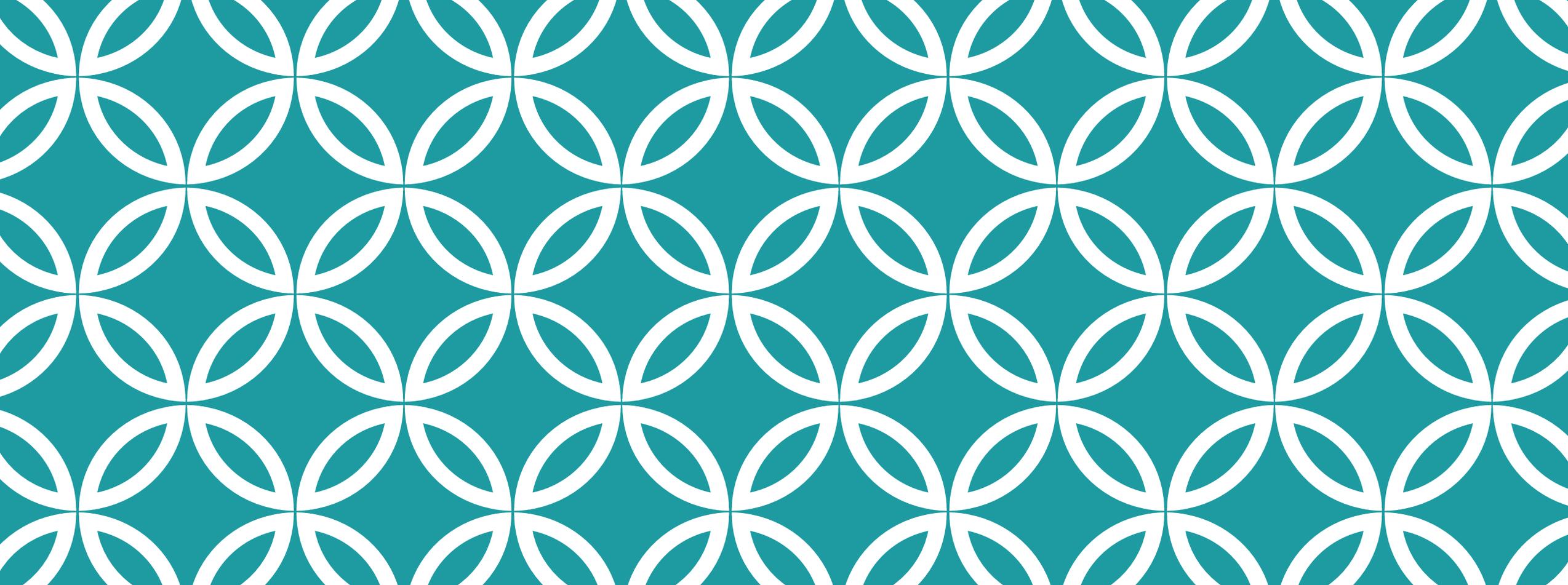
Limits: Mostly used by stakeholders and interest groups. Lay citizens are largely under-presented!

Idea: Organise decentralized minipublics for a selections of important issues in each member states through the intermediary of representations of Commission.

Main advantage: reinforcing opinions/preferences stemming directly from citizens (vs organized groups and stakeholders)

OPEN QUESTIONS I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS WITH YOU?

- Is it legally, politically and administratively feasible?
- How should the issues be selected (selection body, content, etc.)?
- How many issues per year should be the object of citizens consultation?
- How to organize the consultations? How many citizens? How to select them? Should we combine online consultation with f2f consultations?
- Do the representations of Commission have enough competence and human resources for centralizing and co-organizing consultations?
- What should be the outcome of the different national consultations?
- How to summarize the different national consultations?
- How to efficiently advertise the national consultations?



THANK YOU!

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