

# How to participate in energy policies as a citizen

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## Why public participation?

- **As a citizen, you can have a meaningful impact on a decision-making process**
- **It is an opportunity for mutual education of everyone involved**
- **It can lead to community capacity building and development**
- **At the EU level, engaging public in a policy-making process is of the essence:**  
“The significance of citizen participation in public policy processes has been acknowledged not only at the national, but also at the international level. Thus various forms of consultation involving CSOs have become a standard practice of major multilateral, intergovernmental organizations, including the United Nations, the World Bank, Council of Europe, and the EU.” - *The European Center for Not-for-Profit Law*<sup>1</sup>

## The goals of public participation (and their meaning)<sup>2</sup>

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Inform</b>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.</li></ul> |
| <b>2. Consult</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.</li></ul>                                                                                    |
| <b>3. Involve</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.</li></ul>       |
| <b>4. Collaborate</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.</li></ul>    |
| <b>5. Empower</b>     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.</li></ul>                                                                                               |

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.ecnl.org/dindocuments/274\\_Brochure%20on%20citizen%20participation%20ENG.pdf](http://www.ecnl.org/dindocuments/274_Brochure%20on%20citizen%20participation%20ENG.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/imported/IAP2%20Spectrum\\_vertical.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.iap2.org/resource/resmgr/imported/IAP2%20Spectrum_vertical.pdf)

# The public policies process



## Levels of energy policies

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Global</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change)</u>, Paris Agreement</li></ul>                                                                                                            |
| <b>2. EU</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>2020 / 2030 / 2050 Energy Strategy</u>, Renewable Energy Directive, Energy Efficiency Directive, etc.</li></ul>                                                                                          |
| <b>3. National (CROATIA)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Energy Strategy of the Republic of Croatia, Low-Carbon Development Strategy</u>, National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, National Action Plan on Renewable Energy, Law on Energy Efficiency</li></ul> |
| <b>4. Regional</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Regional Energy Strategies</u> and Action Plans for Counties</li></ul>                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>5. Local</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Covenant of Mayors</u>, Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans</li></ul>                                                                                                                            |

➤ To find out more about each level, click on a square part you are interested in.

Each level is regulated in a way that enables public participation.

## Best practice examples

➤ **EU example: Debating Europe**



**About:** Debating Europe is a project in partnership with Friends of Europe and Europe's World. From the start, they've taken a *bottom-up* approach, with the citizens very much in the driving seat of the debate, asking the questions they want answered and putting forward their opinions for the politicians to react. It's also been a European debate, not just a national one; citizens and policy-makers from every country in the EU have joined in.

**Result:** Since its launch in 2011, Debating Europe has interviewed more than 2,500 policy-makers and experts from across the political spectrum. This includes the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, 250 MEPs, 65 national ministers and state secretaries, 41 national MPs, 13 EU Commissioners, 8 Prime Ministers and the Presidents of the European Council, the European Commission, and the European Parliament. Each has agreed to answer some of the 100,000 comments sent in to

them from citizens online.

**Link:** <http://www.debatingeurope.eu/>

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➤ **Croatian example: Project CENEP (DOOR)**



**About:** The overall objective was to support the development of structured dialogue and formalized counselling between Croatian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and public authorities in development, monitoring and evaluation of the national policies in the field of energy efficiency. The specific goal was to develop a socially responsible national policy in the field of energy efficiency through public consultations and discussions.

**Result:** Activities that have been carried out through the project were: 2 polls on energy efficiency in households and 5 regional focus groups and round tables with energy experts, aimed on giving recommendations of measures to be included in the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency.

**Link:** <http://door.hr/portfolio/cenep-2/>

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