



# TAIEX-REGIO Multi-country Workshop on Engaging Citizens for EU cohesion policy

*Organised in co-operation with*

*Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy  
(DG REGIO)*

**26-27 November 2024**

**Venue:**

*Tecnopolo Bologna – Manifattura  
Tabacchi  
Via Stalingrado 84/3, 40128 Bologna,  
Italy*

**Beneficiaries:**

*Belgium, France, Italy, Poland  
Romania, Slovakia, Spain*

TAIEX Case ID REGIO 90343

**TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer  
supports the implementation of  
EU Regional and Urban Policy**

Managed by the Directorate-General for  
Neighbourhood and Enlargement  
Negotiations (**DG NEAR**), on behalf of the  
Directorate-General for Regional and Urban  
Policy (**DG REGIO**).



# TAIEX

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER WITH EU EXPERTISE

## Engaging Citizens in Cohesion Policy

### In-person event in Bologna, Italy

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DG REGIO is cooperating with the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in promoting citizens participation in the governance of EU Cohesion Policy through pilot projects.

Thank to this TAIEX-REGIO Peer2Peer Multi-country workshop, participants coming from different Member States will have the change to meet and to share their insights, experiences, and challenges for involving citizens in the implementation of EU Cohesion Policy.

During the workshop, representatives from several Member States will exchange on lessons learnt from implementing of participatory deliberative processes together with civil society organisations in the context of EU funded investments. They will also learn from other experiences in the field of participation involving all levels of governance.

***Data Protection:** Personal data contained in this document is processed in accordance with the privacy statement of the TAIEX instrument in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. The chairperson should inform all persons attending the event that photographs/pictures should only be taken during a set period of time to allow for persons who do not agree to have their photographs taken to leave the room, unless all of the participants have provided their express consent to having their photograph taken.*

*See [https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/taix\\_privacy\\_statement\\_online.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/taix_privacy_statement_online.pdf)*

## Day 1: Tuesday 26 November 2024

09:00 – 09:30	<i>Registration of the participants. Welcome coffee</i>
09:30 – 10:00	<p><b>Opening Remarks and presentation of the activities of the day</b></p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ms Morena Diazzi Emilia Romagna Region</li> <li>○ Mr Amodeo Francesco, European Commission</li> <li>○ Mr David Goessmann, OECD</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Ice-breaker</b></p> <p><b>Discussion 1</b></p> <p><b>Shaping the future: Involving citizens in long-term planning</b> (40 minutes)</p> <p>This session is dedicated to present concrete cases of participation where the public was involved in shaping medium to long term policies and objectives.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Mr Mauricio Mejia, OECD</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cantabria – Citizens Committee in the implementation of Cohesion Funds to support employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marta García Hospital - Regional Ministry of Economy, Finance, Regional Funding and European Funds of the Government of Cantabria</li> <li>○ José Carlos Ceballos – CISE</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GZM Poland – Deliberative process on Public Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Magdalena Jochemczyk – GZM</li> <li>○ Piotr Kocjan (CUPT)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ramnicu Valcea – Citizen Jury on Urban Mobility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Simona Iliescu, City of Ramnicu Valcea</li> <li>○ Gabriela Solomon, Community Valcea Foundation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Emilia Romagna – Students Assemblies to shape the local innovation hubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Daniela Ferrara, Emilia-Romagna Region</li> <li>○ Sofia Galli, Bangherang</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10:30 – 11:30	
11:30 – 11:50	<p>Q&amp;A (15 minutes)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Break</i></p>

<p><b>11:50 – 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>Discussion 2</b>  <b>Working together: Involving citizens and stakeholders in project definition and implementation</b>  <b>(40 minutes)</b></p> <p>This session is dedicated to present concrete cases of participation where the public was involved in defining or implementing projects of a Territorial Strategy.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Eloise Gabadou, OECD</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brussels —Development of participatory methods for the Integrated Territorial Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Marnick Moens – ERDF Project Manager, Brussels Region</li> <li>○ Mathieu Berger – Sociologist, Professor at UC Louvain, Métrolab</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Banská Bystrica – Ideathon on the Integrated Territorial Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Soňa Kariková - City of Banská Bystrica</li> <li>○ Milan, Hagovský - City of Banská Bystrica</li> </ul> </li> <li>• South Muntenia – Local Dialogues on the Integrated Territorial Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gilda Niculescu, South Muntenia Regional Development Agency</li> <li>○ Ruxandra Pavel, Dambovita County Council</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A (15 minutes)</p>
<p><b>12:30 – 13:00</b></p>	<p>Possibility to schedule OECD, REGIO – pilots meetings</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mr Francesco Amodeo, European Commission</li> <li>○ Ms Dominika Chroszcz-Koczerga, European Commission</li> <li>○ Mr David Goessmann, OECD</li> <li>○ Mr Mauricio Mejia, OECD</li> <li>○ Ms Giulia Cibrario, OECD</li> <li>○ Ms Eloise Gabadou, OECD</li> </ul>
<p><b>12:30 – 14:00</b></p>	<p><i>Lunch</i></p>

<p>14:00 – 15:00</p>	<p><b>Discussion 3</b>  <b>Budgeting together: Involving the public in budget allocation (40 minutes)</b></p> <p>This session is dedicated to present concrete cases of participation where the public was involved in shaping the allocation of financial resources or in monitoring their use.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms Giulia Cibrario, OECD</p> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Normandy – Citizen Assembly on culture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fabrice Saint, Normandy Region</li> <li>○ Vincent Soccodato, Relais Culture Europe</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Catalunya – Involving Citizens and Stakeholders in the Budget planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Xavier Mestre, Government of Catalunya</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Lazio – Civic Monitoring of the implementation of the Territorial Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Massimiliano Pacifico – ERDF, Lazio Region</li> <li>○ Luca Masi – ANCI Lazio</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Silesia – Citizen Science on infrastructure projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Barbara Szafir, Regional Development and Transition Department of Silesia</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A (15 minutes)</p>
<p>15:00 – 15:40</p>	<p><b>Workshop</b>  <b>Involving the public in Cohesion Policy: what challenges remain? What actions should be taken to address them? – Part 1</b></p> <p>Moderators: OECD (Mauricio Mejia, Giulia Cibrario, Eloise Gabadou)</p> <p>Facilitated group discussions to identify the pressing challenges identified by the pilots, and map pathways of solutions to support public authorities in their efforts to involve citizens.</p> <p>Format:  Part 1: Challenges (40 minutes, 30 of discussion and 10 of sharing conclusions)</p>
<p>15:40 – 16:10</p>	<p><i>Break</i></p>

<p><i>16:10 – 17:00</i></p>	<p><b>Workshop</b>  <b>Involving the public in Cohesion Policy: what challenges remain? What actions should be taken to address them? – Part 2</b></p> <p>Moderators: OECD (Mauricio Mejia, Giulia Cibrario, Eloise Gabadou)</p> <p>Facilitated group discussions to identify the pressing challenges identified by the pilots, and map pathways of solutions to support public authorities in their efforts to involve citizens.</p> <p>Format:  Part 2: Pathways of solutions (50 minutes, 30 of discussion, 10 of sharing conclusions, 10 of general conclusions by OECD)</p>
<p><i>17:00 – 17:30</i></p>	<p><b>Keynote speech: “Why Participation Matters”</b>  By Anna Lisa Boni, Deputy Mayor for EU/Recovery funds, climate mission 2030: neutrality and transition, international relations, promotion of Bologna twin towers, Unesco porticoes, Municipality of Bologna.</p>
<p><i>17:30 – 18:00</i></p>	<p>Wrap-up and end of the activities.</p>
<p><i>18:00 – 19:00</i></p>	<p><i>Aperitivo offered by Emilia-Romagna Region</i></p>

## Day 2: Wednesday 27 November 2024

09:00 – 09:30	<i>Registration of the participant. Welcome coffee</i>
09:30 – 10:00	<b>Summary of the first day and presentation of the activities of the day</b>
10:00 – 11:30	<p><b>Panel discussion</b>  <b>Unlocking the potential of citizen participation at different levels of governance</b></p> <p>Panel discussion (60 minutes) + Q&amp;A (30 minutes)</p> <p><b>Presentation and Moderation:</b> David Goessmann, OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Caterina Brancaleoni, Emilia Romagna Region</b> - Head of Department - European programmes coordination, planning, support to local institution and territorial development, participation.</li> <li>• <b>Laurentiu Mazilu, Romania</b> - Head of the Open Government Service - General Secretariat of the Government of Romania</li> <li>• <b>Angela Guimaraes Pereira, European Commission</b> - Head of Sector, DG Joint Research Centre - Competence Centre on Participatory and Deliberative Democracy</li> <li>• <b>Francesco Savastano, European Commission</b> – Citizens’ Dialogues Unit at DG COMM</li> </ul>
11:30 – 12:00	<i>Break</i>
12:00 – 12:30	<p><b>Presentation - Leveraging Artificial Intelligence for Citizen Participation (30 minutes)</b></p> <p><b>Speakers:</b> Mauricio Mejia and Giulia Cibrario, OECD</p> <p>From sense-making of large amounts of inputs, to automatic translation, to live facilitation: artificial intelligence tools open new opportunities to support public authorities in the design and implementation of participatory and deliberative processes.</p> <p>In this session, the OECD and experts will present the main findings of the latest and forthcoming OECD work on emerging technologies and AI for Citizen Participation.</p>
12:30 – 13:00	<p>OECD/DG REGIO to present news and updates on Cohesion Policy and wrap up event.</p> <p><i>Wrap-up and end of the activities.</i></p>







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