

# Participation and societal engagement in EU decision-making and research

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# Outline

1. Participation as a legal principle of EU law
2. Participation in EU decision-making
3. Participation in science-making
4. Participation in research activities



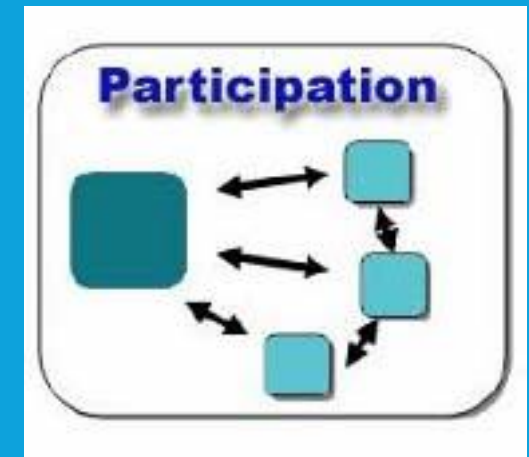
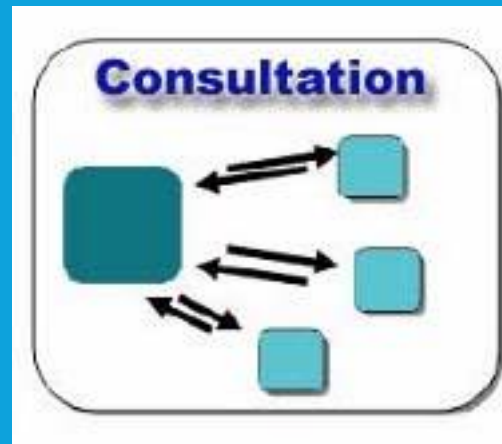
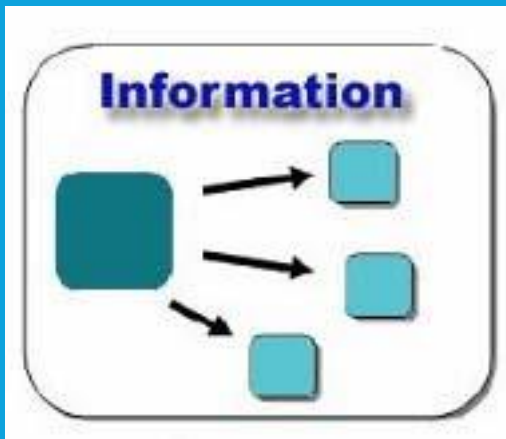
# 1. Participation as a legal principle of EU law

- Art. 11 TEU
  - Obligation to exchange views with representatives organisations and citizens
  - Open, transparent and regular dialogue
  - Consultations
  - Citizens' initiative
- Explicit recognition of participatory democracy as one of the fundamental underpinnings of the Union



## 2. Participation in EU decision-making

- Rationales for participatory engagement:
  - Normative democratic
  - Instrumental
  - Substantive



- Meaning Article 11 TEU
- Make known views and public exchange of views: citizens and representative organisations
- Open, transparent and regular dialogue: representative associations and civil society
- Broad consultations: parties concerned
- Citizens' initiative

- Multiple initiatives
  - Consultations
  - Consumer groups
- Power imbalance



## 2. Participation in EU science-making

- Article 11 TEU
  - EU institutions
  - EU Commission



- ⊘ EU agencies as science providers
- Yet: Art. 15 (1) TFEU

- Founding regulations: need to connect with stakeholders
- Institutional and substantive involvement





# Institutional involvement

- Membership of the management board (EMA, Eurofound, ETF) and/or a (scientific) committee within the agency (EMA)
- Accreditation system of stakeholders who may *i.a.* join meetings as observers (ECHA)
- Stakeholder group (created by founding regulation) (ESA's)
- Stakeholder forum (EFSA) or group (EASA) (created by agency itself)
- Network of representatives bodies (ERA)

# Substantive involvement

- Exchange of information
- Observation
- Dialogue
- Consultation & feedback
- Scientific colloquia
- Round tables



Yet:

- Challenges
- Power Imbalance



## 4. Participation in research



(2011-2014)

- Dominance of industry and/or government (in research programming on health and safety)
- Representativeness public good by means of scientific experts or governmental bodies

- Innovation in food and health: focused on biosciences and marketable applications, and neglect social sciences and broader public interest
- Inadequate consideration normative issues innovation among national research funders in food and health



- Need for communicative exchange between research, business, and civil society actors

what are other  
words for  
exchange of views?



dialogue, discussion, exchange,  
debate, talk, consultation,  
conference, parley,  
conversation, discourse



# Research initiatives

- Empirical research (interviews)
- Stakeholder workshops (SAFEFOODS)
- Interaction and feedback by stakeholders in academic conferences (TARN)
- Dialogue between academics and stakeholders (TARN)



- Awareness scenarios workshops (INPROFOOD)
- Citizens assist in defining research agenda (Dutch National Research Agenda)
- Co-creation (RECIPES)





