

## CIVIC DIALOGUE Workshop 2015

April 9 – 12, 2015- Wales – UK

### REPORT



## CIVIC DIALOGUE Gathering : April 9-12.2015, Wales, UK

in co-operation with PLANED, Pembrokeshire



### Background

Main goal is to deal with the **topic of dialogue between different stakeholders**. We want to focus on this kind of dialogue when it aims at either influencing policies having a strong impact on territories (e.g. agriculture, food, environment, social cohesion) or at contributing to the solution of local or regional issues of sustainable rural development. We want to give **priority to participants who are drivers in this kind of processes and are ready to share their know how!** We also want to invite participants to give a short presentation on their field of work and expertise.

Our local partner **PLANED** has a rich experience in facilitation of participative development processes especially on community level since more than 20 years.

### Field trips: learning where we are (See detailed information in Annex 2)

#### 1) Community Hall " Maenclochog"

*"The bells of our thoughts are the bells we find in the land of the stone and the song of the wind"*

Maenclochog is a small rural village quite independent from other communities. It's an agricultural region with a rich culture

#### Trends:

- house prices are raising so it becomes difficult for local people to settle.
- Small farms become bigger farms

#### Milestones:

**2004** Access to European funding. PLANED stepped in with professional people. They got seed money to do a feasibility study. Main goal was to find ways to keep the community engaged. Important factor: it's a time taking process.

**2005** The community was setting up a company so that they were able to apply for subsidies. They had to prove that they can own or rent the community hall (former church hall)



**Challenges:**

- not too many people want to do the work in the board
- no new people are coming in; it needs a driving person to take new steps

**2) Hermon - PLANED Office: What is PLANED?**

*"The greatest resource of any area are its people, their skills, knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment"*

PLANED is a 27 years old company. They act as "local katalysts" and moderate the dialogue between stakeholders and decision makers. Since 1991 they have managed LEADER (I, II, III). They are encouraging participation following the principle of a participatory democracy trying to get political representatives involved.

Actually there is a network of 40 active communities from 100. PLANED does not work with towns.

**Community Association Forum:** PLANED is involved in supporting the development of community associations and forums in Pembrokeshire. It's important to take care that the community is well represented (all groups and drivers). Members can be elected, esp. officer positions

**Community Council:** The Community Council is a locally elected body that the Association or Forum will sit alongside and will support. PLANED works with Community Councils to ensure engagement from all sections of the community. Community Councils are public representative bodies in UK, Wales communities do not have the same power like in AT, FR

**Action Plan:** is a document of consensus that creates confidence. It is dedicated to the community and to decision makers.

**Networking:** the building up of networks is dedicated to interlink different communities dealing with similar topics, e.g. community halls, sustainable agriculture, heritage, festivals & events, valuing the environment, business networks.

PLANED is facilitating the process rather than taking a voice for the community

**Challenges:**

- to involve young people

**3) Hermon - PLANED Office: The story of Hermon**

*"One key factor of success: make sure that the momentum is kept!"*

**Milestones:**

**2004** The community Association was founded

**2008** In order to prevent the closure of the local school where children are taught through the Welsh language the community bought the school house mainly through private funding.

**Activities:** running the place of the school house is expansive, so they are looking for additional activities/ sources of income:

- founding of a young farmers club
- community volunteers renovating the school building

**New projects:**

- switch to sustainable heating (decrease the dependence on gas/ oil; become a low carbon community); the heating of old houses is very expensive: wind turbine project. Try to find funding through: Lottery Funding, Country Council, Welsh Government, UK government (environmental aspect!)
- increase the business options: a cafe is opening

**Challenges:**

- second homes who often have different interests/ different level of readiness to get engaged. Proposal from SE: involve them as shareholders!



- official institutions might be afraid that people become too independent

#### 4) Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network

*“Information is more powerful than grants.”*

##### **Milestones:**

The network was launched in 2006 in consultation with stakeholders and the agricultural community.

The aim of the network is to bring farming/environmental organisations and farmers in Pembrokeshire together to identify, discuss and take forward new ideas and opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture e.g. climate change, renewable energy, novel crops and positive land management.



##### **Activities:**

The Network is innovative in that the project is working cross-sectional, generating greater awareness and understanding of sustainability in the farming industry (which represents 5% of the economy). PLANED does not have a definition of what Sustainable Development is but promotes practices that does not pollute, or that look after the environment. By working together events are planned in partnership thus avoiding duplication allowing information to be shared to all sectors and practitioners. The project seeks to bring about an attitudinal change on the part of the farmers, assisting them to identify opportunities and recognise the benefits of sustainable practices around key areas such as positive land management, renewable energy, recycling in relation to their businesses, prior to making business decisions and by identifying and developing new opportunities thus helping to sustain incomes and jobs in the rural economy. The Network enables and encourages local collaboration, delivering local empowerment and innovation by exchanging best practice. There is a need for such networking to facilitate collaborative and more effective working with the agricultural sector, to contribute to and be consulted on proposals and plans.

With over 1350 farmers on the members' mailing list and around 500 regularly active at seminars the network provides a valuable service.

##### **Some examples discussed with the group around “Civic Dialogue”:**

**“information is more powerful than grants”.** Meetings are organised quarterly to discuss ideas and development opportunities. This can be done through:

- awareness meetings within the farming community
- seminars / informal trainings
- group visits
- open days /workshops
- annual conferences

This is an open platform that gives voice to the average farmers working with other schemes (not only members of the Unions). The keys for success are:

- trust (built over 20 years and without breaking confidentiality),
- actions (not only talking)
- patience (give information, plant a seed giving capacity building to the farmers)
- consensus building (when there are organisations interests)

One example of successful Dialogue has been on the “Fire” topic: instead of treating farmers as criminals, dialogue helped understanding why they used fire. This led to practical solutions such as training to farmers to sow the grass on time and realise controlled burning and to inform the Welsh government on the dates to adapt them (uplands etc.). A Pembrokeshire Wildfire group was launched in 2012. <http://gwlad.gov.wales/generalnews/pembrokeshire-wildfire-group/?lang=en>

## What we have learned on Civic Dialogue

### Key factors for development:

- there has to be a driving person
- it's important to keep the momentum
- need for enthusiasm
- need for an organisation, constituted group
- crisis as a catalyst
- successful development stimulates further developments
- a community needs space to meet!
- stay flexible! Follow the local needs, not just a plan!
- Failures need to be discussed, you have to learn from them.
- Creating a sense of equality (decision-makers / civil society): attitudes, listening, respect, inclusive
- Importance of building trust and confidence (through time, collaboration in projects, transparency, no hidden agendas)



### Challenges:

- need for an organisation; people who have the skills and a neutral broker
- dialogue between civil society and public sector (dialogue is stronger within civil society or within enterprise but not across the public sector)
- how to keep the spirit alive - people become tired of struggling and frustrated with local development
- importance of having a mandate to talk for someone; in which part of the process there is a need of people who have a mandate.
- involvement of "former" local people and of newcomers
- how to involve new/ young people ("closed clubs") - lack of well paid jobs ; young people are "taught" to leave and not to become a farmer
- danger in small communities of powerful people that are on all/many committees

## Questions to PLANED: Key elements for civic dialogue(See Annex 2)

### Importance of Civic Dialogue

- For PLANED, dialogue means working with any collective group, to ensure that a collective voice is articulated.
- It is about filling the gap but the catalyst is never from PLANED. The catalyst is always about a challenge, an opportunity or an issue to solve in a community.
- Civic dialogue is a goal within itself - that often implicates a conflict with the funding philosophy. Impact of Civic Dialogue on sustainability: it probably will have more impact than just giving a training session and then move away.

### The process of dialogue, what are the key factors of success:

- Building a trusty relationship: with time, experience, answering expectation



- Continuity is important for trust - there might be drawbacks in the process when funding is ending.
- It's important to have knowledge about the community/ group to work with
- Action is important - not only talks.
- It's not always the obvious target - there might be "soft targets"

### Engaging People

- New and young people: the action planning process allows the participation of people that don't like Official - Public meetings because anybody can come and give their views.
- How to engage those who don't want to share power: the techniques of moderation (toolkit, respect, based on democracy) are a way to give the power to the group and not to a specific person
- Be aware that people engage on interest level : informal networks are a good option.!
- Develop good relationship with civil servants over years - and invite politicians to dialogue with citizens, inform and provide them evidences on particular issues (through the Networks).
- PLANED maintain neutrality... except if it is about taking a specific view on processes way of work



### PLANED internal life - Weaknesses

- too little promotion of themselves
- government doesn't pick up success stories going back on PLANED involvement
- others are copying their ideas, but PLANED doesn't want to break the trusty relationship with the communities putting a brand on it and it is a dilemma, as it sometimes limits their options for funding.
- They practise what they preach: maintaining also an internal dialogue. It is important because it helps learning, and they can trust each other expertise understanding what is their decision making, through dialogue.

## What do EU policies provide for civic dialogue (See annexe 3)

### State of the art

- civic dialogue is identified as important
- there is a lack of trust, missing impact and political will
- many participatory tools come from the local level
- many tools are in a process of improvement

### Challenges

- main challenges with regard to: impact - language problems - access
- the process needs time and resources
- training is important
- democracy is under threat

### Questions

- how to move from consultation to dialogue, co-decision
- what balance between talking and doing?
- When and how can we use the many tools that exist on EU level in order to improve CD?
- how can we use the EU tools to get organised?



## Framework of EU policies

### Ongoing processes in the environmental/rural sector:

- EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment - (2014/52/EU)
- Protected Areas Natura 2000 (Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC , Regulation Life (EC No1293/2013))
- Water framework Directive Directive 2000/60/EC
- CLLD Community- Led Local Development in European structural investment funds (LEADER)
- Aarhus Convention, Agenda 21 (UN)

Many of these environmental directives / policies do recommend participatory processes . But is limited to a "MAY " and in few cases are compulsory (SHALL) . The choice is up to the Member States. When participation processes are not a keystone of the Member state democratic processes, their implementation is unsure, ; civil society might have a role to play to be sure these processes will take place and with good practice.

In general, whether mandatory or not, we miss information and guidance on the nature / extent of the participation required and the ways participatory processes should be carried out. This leaves a large margin to interpretation.

### Comments

- need for a definition what we mean by stakeholder (usually citizens are not included).
- participation on local level is only for organised c.s.o groups already involved.
- difficult access to these participative / facilitation tools: difficult to find out where they are, to get access
- it needs a well considered decision if it's worth going for that big processes
- it needs time to get prepared or identify allies
- threat that inhabitants/ stakeholders feel overloaded and frustrated by being "participative"
- Aarhus convention vs. data privacy: in the planning process (NATURA 2000) they were not allowed to show any measures on a map
- Who selects / have the capacity to understand (expertise) what are the important points?

## Market of initiatives

The "market of initiatives" is an offer to share your project/experience with other participants in a "market place". It's up to the participants how they want to do that: with tables to put posters, leaflet etc.. There is space for a brief presentation and discussion.

The presentations are organised in small groups in parallel. The following list gives an overview about the initiatives presented:

Topic	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country
Scottish Rural Parliament	Vanessa	Halhead	Scottish Rural Action / European Rural Community Alliance ( <a href="#">presentation available on our website</a> )	UK
Estonian Village Movement	Anneli	Kana	Estonian Village Movement Kodukant	EE
Civic Dialogue in France	Lucie	Anizon	Institut de la concertation ( <a href="#">presentation available on our website</a> )	FR
Design social mobilisation	Nils	Philipps	Hela Sverige Skall Leva (All Sweden Shall Live)	SE
LEADER experience	Sandra	Fridrihsone	LAG Saldus District Development Agency	LV
NATURA 2000	Carsten	Burggraf	Landcare Association ( <a href="#">presentation available on our website</a> )	DE

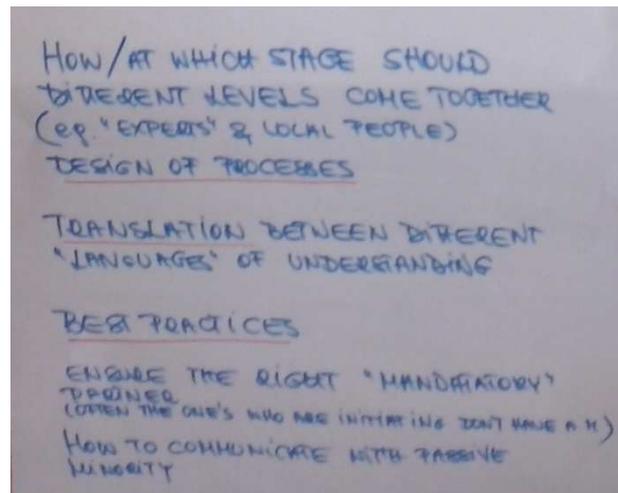
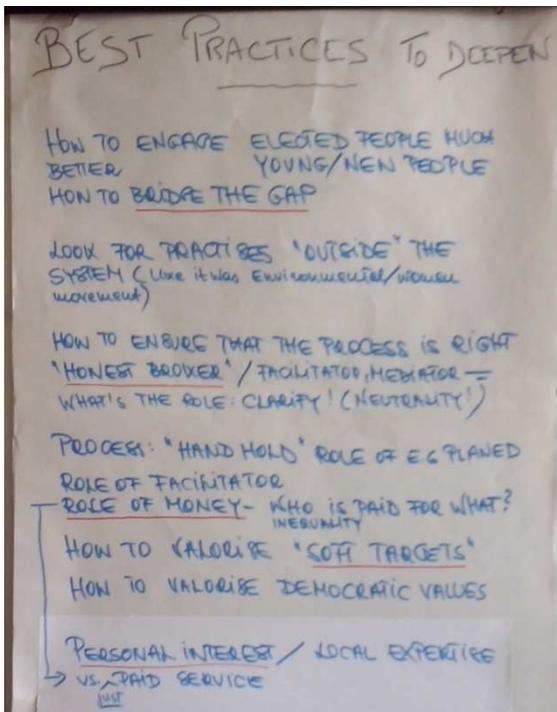
Topic	First Name	Last Name	Organisation	Country
Animating rural communities	Dragan	Roganovic	Network for Rural Development of Serbia	SRB
Food production	Milos	Homola	Ekotrend Slovakia	SK
Environmental aspects on business	Aleksandar	Gvozdic	Mission of People of Good Will	SRB/KO

You can find some of presentation in the annex.

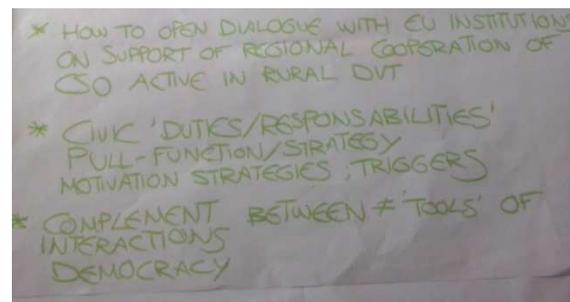
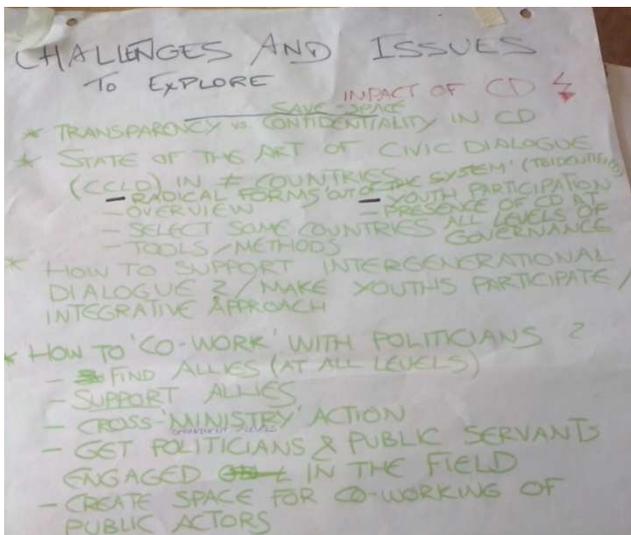
## World cafe

In the world cafe participants exchanged more deeply on what they have learned during the workshop. On that basis they focused on good practices to deepen and on what are the challenges issues to explore further.

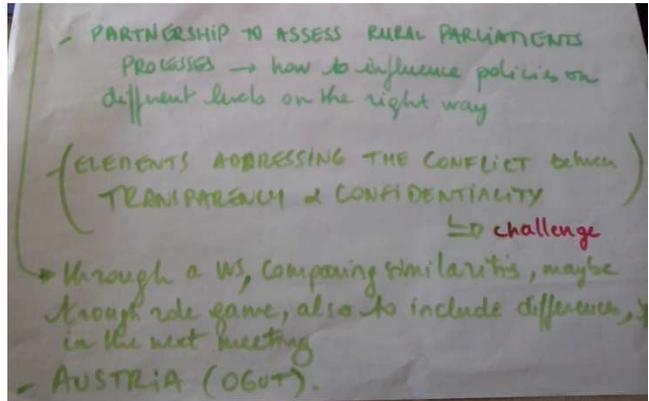
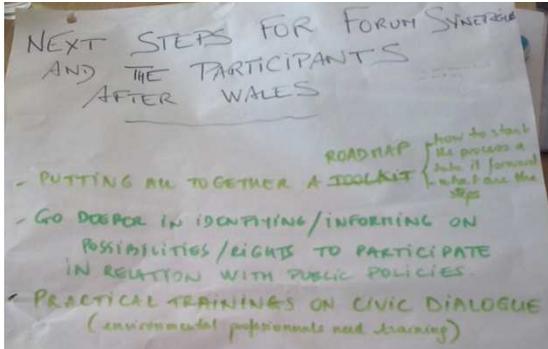
- Best practices to deepen



- Challenges and issues to explore



▪ Next steps



## Training session by PLANED

Sarah Hughes and Jessica Morgan are leading participants through the moderation process they normally follow in their work with communities.

As key elements in the introduction, before entering into the process description, they highlighted the following points:

- As a previous activities: having personal talks to different interest groups in their places (the district council, associations representatives, etc) to know what people would expect from the process. Those people will report back to the people they are in contact with.
- Transparency on the process: starting from the whole vision of the community and then focusing on specific aspects they are interested in. Report is sent - not only to participants - with all the information compiled from the workshop.
- Respect of the process (6 workshops - with people from the same place)



## Steps



**"What is special to your place?"** People bring an object or something. That is unique or special for them in their community.

They ask people to talk on the object they brought or if they haven't, to talk on the sense of place of their villages, "what makes it distinctive and special".

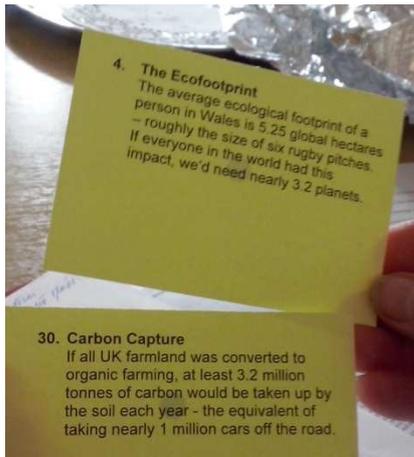
All these elements are compiled into a Drawing to give a common vision (a pretext for discussion): it doesn't matter if you have been leaving there for decades or only a few weeks, everyone can contribute.



**"Community audit":** 18 questions are posted around the room on panels. People are asked to get up and to answer them as individuals (writing). Questions such as: "Where do people work, what services are there in your village, what transport is available locally?"

Then they give a 2nd round to see what others have answered and to discuss informally (with a cup of tea!). It is good to receive information on what is available in the community but also a good opportunity for people to talk.

*(Participants are given 20 minutes to answer the 18 questions, they come back in the evening to add info, stick what they agree with...)*



“Explore sustainable development”-“How is sustainable development relevant to you, in your local community, thinking in the impact you have more widely?”

PLANED uses a sustainability toolkit (designed together with the Economics Foundation). Different small cards with sentences and information are distributed (yellow = statements; green= figures etc...). People choose a card which means most to them (they agree with; they have an opposite view etc...) and react on it.

->it enables people of different levels to communicate on the same level. The discussion is carried out in small groups on different tables, it is a way to discuss the issue: exchange even if you have opposite views on a topic, small steps they can do to make a change etc...

->Each group prepares a poster representing their discussion.

They feed back to the plenary (no consensus needed).



“SWOT of the communities”: in small groups, people have post-it notes(3 for threats, 3 for weaknesses, 3 for strengths, no limit for opportunities 1 post-it = 1 opportunity) and have 30 min to categorize and put down for each what is their feeling in relation with the local community. They are all posted on panels, but the feed-back in plenary only focuses on opportunities, also to finish with a positive impression.

Coming to opportunities:Outputs are taken to the next workshop, approx. 2 weeks after

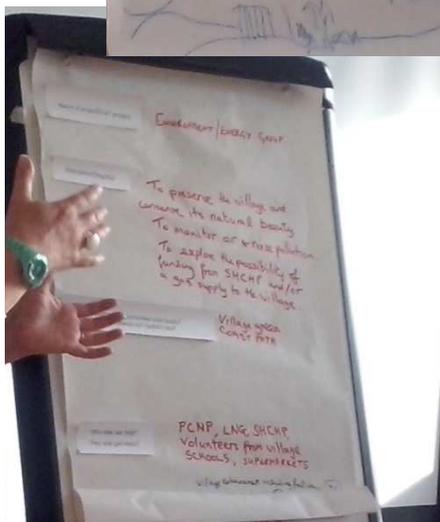


“Drawing the future - your ideal community”: People will have received the results of the former workshop and will define “what they would like their community to be in 10 years”. They create a collective vision though a drawing (group of 5-6 people). It doesn't mean it will happen (unless they make it a project).

“Skills & Resources audit”: people discover their skills (personal: negotiation, enthusing; practical: sewing, gardening; technical: architecture; recreation: football; mentoring: nursing, counselling) and needs, listing:

1. What they have, 2. What they could exchange, 3. What they need (training needs).

It is the same process as the Community Audit. Some of the connections that are created are not recorded (people meeting electricians in the next door)

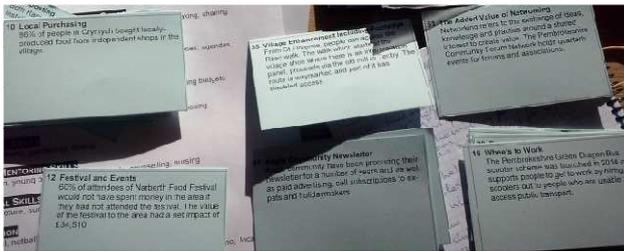


“Project planning”: People will sit on a table (not with their friends) and pick up a project from selected themes that emerged during the “opportunity workshop”. They will have to define:

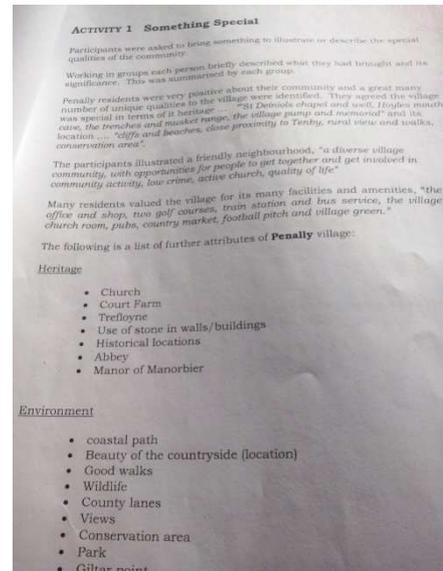
- name of the project:
- description:
- strengths and opportunities that exist locally
- who else can help
- what actions needs to be taken and when

Even if they think about the threats, they don't try to tackle them: they work on something which is achievable.

Blue cards show examples of projects from Pembrokeshire (to broaden) or statements (giving also background information)



- **“Action Plan ”:** all the information will be compiled - by PLANED - in an Action Plan which will be presented to the Community Forum (to confirm they agree with the Actions Plan). The information on threats can be sent to the Parish council and County council.
- **Monitoring on what and how it is implemented?:** according to the project topic, PLANED try to guide or redirect to heritage / economy agency etc... It is also substantial information for the LAG Action Plan. Funding is also sought through the Lottery etc..



## ANNEX 1 - PROGRAMME

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### Arrival: Thursday / Welcome & introduction to the programme

- Welcome by our hosts and Forum Synergies
- Activities by PLANED

### Day 1: Friday/ Discovering Pembrokeshire and PLANED activities

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#### 1) Morning: Field trips

- visit of 2 - 3 field experiences including discussion with local people

#### 2) Afternoon: Working groups

- main issues / questions / ideas raised during the field trips

#### 3) Early evening: Plenary - feedback on visits

- Short feedback on the visits by each group
- debate and exchange
- Introduction to the "market place": speakers briefly present the topic they will present

### Dinner & international buffet

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### Day 2: Saturday/ From European policies to real activities

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#### 09:00 - 10:00 Introduction - Policies: 9:00 - 10:00 (Plenary)

Which European policies are promoting Civic Dialogue? E.g. Aarhus convention, Water framework Directive, Natura 2000. Short overview

*Marina Guedon (Forum Synergies)*

10 experiences of Civic Dialogue

*Philippe Barret (Forum Synergies)*

#### 10:00 - 12:30 "State of the Art" Civic Dialogue in different countries: Market of initiatives

Presentation and exchange of initiatives and participants in a "market place":

1st round: Scottish Rural Parliament / Rural Development Agency in Serbia

2nd round: Village Movement in Estonia / Civic Dialogue in France

*Short break*

3rd round: Design social mobilisation / LEADER experience / NATURA 2000

4th round: Animation of rural communities / Food production / Environmental aspects on business

#### 12:30 - 14:00 Lunch

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#### 14:00 - 16:00 "World Cafe"

Share what we have learnt during the workshop and what we propose for the follow up:

table 1: good practices to deepen

table 2: challenges and issues to explore

table 3: next steps for Forum Synergies and the participants after Wales

3 rounds and plenary

*Short break*

#### 16:30 - 18:00 Training Session moderated by PLANED

"How we encourage and support civic democracy through participation and engagement"

### Dinner & official closure

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### Day 3: Sunday / Departure

## ANNEXE 2: Field trips -more background information

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### Hermon

#### INTRODUCTION & WAY FORWARD

The intention of the Action Plan for the communities of Glogue, Hermon and Llanfyrnach is to describe issues and ideas identified by residents, which if addressed over the next few years, would sustainably improve their quality of life, economically, environmentally, socially and culturally.



Inviting and involving all ages and representatives from the whole of the community in the preparation, adoption and implementation of the Action Plan, stresses the benefits of an integrated approach that can be achieved through working together, e.g. through community social enterprises. The aim is to attract public and private sector support and funding alongside community investment of time, effort, and resource, to implement the initiatives described in the Plan.

#### BACKGROUND TO THE ACTION PLAN

In August 2000, a Community Appraisal Report for Glogue, Hermon & Llanfyrnach was compiled on behalf of a partnership comprising the Hermon and District Welfare Association and Menter Preseli by Dr. Lyneth M. Davies.

In the spring of 2004 representatives of the communities of Glogue, Hermon, Llanfyrnach, of the Crymych Community Council and of PLANED discussed proposals to prepare an Action Plan for the three villages which lie within the Crymych Community Council area. It was agreed that a single plan was more likely to reflect the existing conditions and aspirations of the three villages than separate appraisals and proposals.

Two Visioning exercises were held in April and May 2004 and the results of these exercises formed the basis for the first Action Plan that was adopted at a public meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2004 following the circulation of the Draft Action Plan to households in the communities of Glogue, Hermon and Llanfyrnach.

A community forum, "Cymdeithas Cwm Arian" was established in order to coordinate and take forward the proposals contained in the Action Plan.

Following an approach from Cymdeithas Cwm Arian in early 2010 it was agreed to update the original Glogue, Hermon and Llanfyrnach Action Plan as part of PLANED's *Towards One Planet Living* project. This was done by holding a community workshop on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2010 where local people reviewed and updated the original Action Plan by adding proposals, ideas and comments which could contribute to the long term sustainability of the community.

#### GLOGUE, HERMON & LLANFYRNACH - A SPECIAL PLACE

The community meeting of June 2010 revealed that the community is forward thinking with strong sustainability awareness, keen to maintain strong local services, resources and facilities, to better use technology; recognise the value of locally sourced food and try to secure better rail and transport links. There were concerns about food wastage, packaging and the attitudes existing in a "throw away" society. There was a recognised need to keep banks, a post office, a surgery and shops and a realisation that the decline of such facilities resulted in people going into towns to do their weekly shop adding to the spiral of decline of local services and facilities.

As well as concerns about the decline in local shops and services there were also concerns about the bigger picture and global issues such as worries about the environment, Carbon emissions, nuclear and waste issues and importing food when vegetables are thrown away for no good reason are of concern to the community. There was a wish for local, organic and Fairly Traded food, and a community owned recycling centre.

Apathy and a "don't care attitude" was thought to be present in a generally throwaway society and there was concern about waste, packaging, food miles, increased traffic and vanishing varieties of fruit and vegetables.

At the workshop a picture emerged of a vibrant, active community that valued its culture, heritage, natural surroundings and quality of life. Living in what was felt to be a close knit community provided the opportunity for children to have a childhood in a safe environment and the relaxed pace of life gave rise to a friendly community spirit. The Welsh language is seen as important and is used throughout the

Community which is proud of its Welsh heritage and history. The natural environment with its green landscapes and accessibility to the Preseli Mountains and the Pembrokeshire Coast was greatly valued and linked in closely with an appreciation of a unique cultural heritage which featured the railway, quarries, mines, agriculture, church, pre-historic stones.

The active nature of the community is demonstrated by its many varied events such as the horticultural show, Celtic Blue Rock Festival, clubs and societies such as the YFC and Cylch Meithrin (playgroup) amongst others.

There exists a positive, forward thinking outlook and 'have a go' attitude that demonstrates aspirations and acceptance of the challenge of strong local development in all areas of community life. This outlook and attitude is embodied in the ethos and workings of the community forum Cymdeit has Cwm Arian.

#### **PROPOSALS OF THE 2005 ACTION PLAN AND PROJECTS COMPLETED SINCE**

##### **Cwm Arian - 5 year plans**

It does seem a lifetime ago when in 2005 we were sitting in the old canteen at Hermon School discussing the next 5 year Action Plan and how we wished to develop new community initiatives in the area of Cwm Arian (Hermon, Glogue and Llanfyrnach)

Over 5 years later we can look back at many fantastic and socially important achievements. The main discussion point for 2005 was the purchasing of Hermon CP School from the local authority to ensure that we retained a meeting place for the community. The primary school closed its doors in the summer of 2006 and by 2007 we had a rental agreement and purchasing option. Following considerable enthusiasm, fundraising and a cooperative share offer we managed to purchase the site in early 2008. The share offer raised £50,000 and with the village hall fundraising that had taken place over many decades we clinched the deal. A Welsh Government grant known as CFAP allowed us to ensure the site was usable and that there was no need to borrow monies to complete the purchase. The site now is moving into a further development phase and a £380,000 additional expansion is being completed that will give a 150 seater hall and stage as well as additional offices and meeting spaces. The site will be promoted as a rural resource centre to attract conferences and training opportunities for community groups in West Wales. The site will also allow additional local groups to use the modern facilities and offer additional local services.

Back in 2005 renewable energy and recycling featured heavily and with support from PLANED and the Pembrokeshire National Park we were able to clinch £8,000 of feasibility funding to have a professional report on what renewable energy was possible in Cwm Arian. The report high-lighted the most feasible development would be community owned wind turbines. The Cwm Arian Renewable Energy group was formed in 2006 and discussions commenced with the planning department in the local authority. We were able to gain additional funding from the Wales Cooperative Centre to fund a comprehensive business plan and look at grant applications. An application submitted in 2009 resulted in Cwm Arian Renewable Energy being awarded a £400,000 grant by the Department of Energy and Climate Change in London. The funding was there to support the installation of 2 community owned wind turbines and short term funding of staff to support the development. The change in Government in 2010 complicated the release of the funding and currently a met mast wind speed data collection system is being erected. The data captured will allow us to apply for finance and look at additional funding for a scheme that will be in excess of £1.8m. The energy produced will be sold to the national grid and the revenues generated used to fund community and voluntary development in the Cwm Arian and neighbouring communities. There will be a focus on reducing carbon and supporting local people to reduce the use of carbon based fuel.

It is good to note the support from PLANED to the construction of the community stores "Storws" on the edge of the playing field. The Hermon Events Committee coordinated the development of the large stores building that now houses the community marquee and playing field equipment. The site is also used by many of the local groups for storage and building craft items such as the Young Farmers Club county competition.

The Celtic Blue Rock Festival was identified in 2005 as an event that could be supported and developed. It has become a well-known community music event and has seen a fast growth to over 8000 people attending the 2 day event. The issues of licensing and policing have been complex and the committee are hoping to see the event now developed into a social enterprise to work with national event bodies to support community based music events across Wales, The university of Cardiff wish to see a student

foundation degree in music events management working in partnership with the Celtic Blue Rock Social Enterprise. During the season when the rain kept away (which was not often) we did see many local retailers and garages note how they saw trade levels increasing on the back of the visitors attending the festival. It is important that we look at ways of drawing in more economic activities to boost local businesses and create jobs.

There are many other exiting projects at the development stage within Cwm Arian and the key now is to see increased revenue streams allowing a sustainable growth of the community activities. We also wish to ensure that all citizens and community groups have an opportunity to feed in and contribute to the direction and be part of community and social development in Cwm Arian. The community voice and support are the foundation blocks for developing the new initiatives and during the next 5 years of development we will seek ways of ensuring our voices are heard not only within Cwm Arian but also regionally and nationally.

*Cris Tomos - Volunteer and Chair of Cwm Arian*

### **Pembrokeshire Sustainable Agriculture Network**

The network was launched in 2006 in consultation with stakeholders and the agricultural community.

The aim of the network is to bring farming/environmental organisations and farmers in Pembrokeshire together to identify, discuss and take forward new ideas and opportunities linked to sustainable agriculture e.g. climate change, renewable energy, novel crops and positive land management.

The Network is innovative in that the project is working cross-sectorally, generating greater awareness and understanding of sustainability in the farming industry. By working together events are planned in partnership thus avoiding duplication allowing information to be shared to all sectors and practitioners. The project seeks to bring about an attitudinal change on the part of the farmers, assisting them to identify opportunities and recognise the benefits of sustainable practices around key areas such as positive land management, renewable energy, recycling in relation to their businesses, prior to making business decisions and by identifying and developing new opportunities thus helping to sustain incomes and jobs in the rural economy. The Network enables and encourages local collaboration, delivering local empowerment and innovation by exchanging best practice. There is a need for such networking to facilitate collaborative and more effective working with the agricultural sector, to contribute to and be consulted on proposals and plans.

With over 1350 farmers on the members' mailing list and around 500 regularly active at seminars the network provides a valuable service.

## ANNEXE 3: Questions to PLANED in CIVIC DIALOGUE

### DIALOGUE IN RURAL AREAS- PHILOSOPHY AND TARGET GROUPS



1. What community is PLANED focusing on?: Is it a community population, geography, community of interest, or working on a theme?.

Within PLANED the approach is different as each worker works with different communities.

**PLANED works with any collective group.** As there are other organisations working with collective groups they don't duplicate what these organisations do.

Their main work is with **geographical small villages**, under 1000 people. PLANED ensures

PLANED ensures that a **collective voice is articulated** and that the interest of these small villages is represented. Whenever the work can be **adapted to their methods (bottom-up, ensuring it is their innovation and opportunity, putting them in the centre)**. So they will work with communities of interest, ( i.e networks : like farmers 'network) or community of businesses (ex: *rural hotels interested in working together to make promotion of their work for the local economy*), if there is no tourist association they can support them

But they would employ the term "discussion groups" rather than "community" when talk to policy-makers.

2. Do they empower weak groups - what is the priority?

**It is about filling the gap** - (not necessary lack of power but also lack of support).

If the group already exists, they have got the organisation or momentum to go to the place and **ensure that a lively dialog happens**. For instance, *if a group of farmers want to set-up a cooperative joint-venture, they might bring their partners, another community of Wales that have been doing something similar: they will bring the group where it has been done and they will learn from peer to peer.*

3. Is it easier to work with small communities?

It may be easier and quicker not to work with them but it is not sustainable. And it will mean a decision or a project will not be owned by the community, the value will not be place in the community also for the future.

4. Why do they do civic dialogue? What is the catalyst?

The catalyst is never from PLANED. **The catalyst is always about a challenge, an opportunity or an issue to solve in a community.**

They take care of being sure that the person having an idea is the correct person to listen to, quite often the minority voice in a community can be the loudest. It can also be the most destructive. But after years of work, the team know the context and the people.

It is important for them to share beyond the "fiery spirit", to ensure that people have the same perspective and are supported or being questioned on how they are operating.

5. How do they see civic dialogue, is it a goal in itself?

For PLANED, **"Dialogue is the end in itself"**. It is not about transferring knowledge but about **enhancing a process.**

**They do the action planning and have that dialogue, as a goal.**

Of course, it depends how PLANED is funded, how much the funder asks to value Civic Dialogue. Some bodies just want the money to be spent, but what about the process? The community is standing on their two feet because they have the chance to debate some difficult issues, to resolve conflicts, to look at problems and to think how they work together.

However, they sometimes they have to hide the processor it is not so important because the funder cannot quantify it (some criteria for outcomes /outputs are: number of people, time they give, how many jobs were created etc...)

The way they are funded means they could be seen to not have achieved anything because a job, business, building did not get created. So **they work beyond the dialogue stage but they use the outputs that are expected of them to carry on civic dialogue.**

## PROCESS OF CIVIC DIALOGUE - KEY-ELEMENTS - ACTION PLANS

### 6. Elements for success in Civic Dialogue

**Building a trusty relationship** is important: they are seen as the organisation that can provide the paths for the community - but is it not always the expertise, (*it can be having a bank account*). **That comes with time, experience, answering expectation.** It is important also that the staff invests interest (*sending information to a farmer the same day for example*). **Action is important too:** they do and don't only talk about what they want to achieve. Doing things that support the community to results in their actions from their Action Plan.

**Consensus:** It is important to manage the expectations in a process. If a member of the community just wants a new village hall for a tea dance once a month, for him and his fens and they have a huge investment just for that community building no one else uses, is that the right thing for the community? Often the consensus will be: we need to get more groups using the village hall to make it sustainable or why not to use the hall of a neighbouring village?

**Keeping the spirit alive once the Action Plan has been adopted:** if there are actions to achieve, they keep in contact with people on the phone, asking if they need support, linking constantly. Some communities review their own action plan on an annual basis and ask PLANED support. They invite them in a celebration event that credits them in stimulating and supporting the dialogue. For networks that are county-wide, **representatives of the communities share what they have achieved and lessons learnt with others and celebrate that success.** There are about 40 Action Plans active not only local but also on county level (refreshing North Pembrokeshire programme - which is about tourism and economic development "hub concept").

**Implementation of the Actions Plans:** proposals come out from the Action Plan and people suggest how they might progress. Thematic working groups - that are sub-groups of the Community association forum - take them forward. PLANED link them to their networks: Community Energy Network, Heritage etc.. If they are interested to join, they then have the opportunity to share experience, know other people, have access to decision-makers and get the lessons back to their communities.

**Continuity** is important for trust. The relationship can get more trusty the longer you work with people (sometimes over 3 generations of farmers). There might be drawbacks in the process when funding is ending. This is the downside of European funding (3 years, cyclical). **The strength is PLANED is the staff and the contact over these years of meetings.**

**Evaluation:** they don't have something to compare too, but the feedback is that without their process, local communities wouldn't have done what they have done; neither achieved what they have achieved. The process is important when people talk about "**qualitative life change**".

### 7. How do they build capacity through the Action Plans?

Sometimes, the community needs to know the right direction: they sometimes just **transfer the knowledge and skills** about funding available, who to contact, the best way to approach an organisation.

But what does it mean to **build the social capital within a community**, and this community is then able to access directly to resources? In this case, PLANED is out of the picture: what they do is **not quantifiable, in terms of supporting dialogue.** (*for instance, if they suggest to a community to present a project to the tourism agency the number of jobs that are created are not credited to PLANED...*). It is difficult for them to value those soft outcomes that are key for the success (i.e: *the way they are facilitating and making people speaking to each other*).

### 8. Spaces for communities

They do need meeting spaces and discussion space, are they physical or virtual. But it is important before how you want to use them.

### 9. Impact of Civic Dialogue on sustainability

When we talk to policy makers about sustainable development, and we say "if we change the behaviour of a small group of people", or better if "**explore it themselves and make that change themselves** **over generations that can be a bigger impact than just having people making a training session or one person implementing a project.**

PEOPLE ENGAGED - RELATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS - LOCAL AUTHORITIES - LEGITIMACY**10. How to engage new and young people?**

When a group is established, it is difficult for new people to come in. Some forums and associations that are necessarily constituted to apply to funding, do need officers. But some people don't want to go to public meetings or don't like strings approaches. The type of commitment, language or experience of the members can mean that young people are put off. We are white, middle-class, fifty plus year old people engaged, who are very interested and engaged. So, it is difficult to engage young people.

**But the action planning process allows the participation because anybody can come and give their views.**

Another problem is the low percentage of young people, especially in the farming sector: many move away to the University, for jobs, other try to make a living on farms or in the industry but it is often low-paid and seasonal: they have other worries on their mind than their communities. Some come back but there are few opportunities of job other than tourism, public sector and farming - is still considered as third class job. Entrepreneurship is one of the ways to coming back to Pembrokeshire.

**11. Engaging non-residents in processes and incomers as drivers.**

How do they engage people who have moved to an area and don't have the history (baggage)?

**New people might assist to some meetings but it is sometimes difficult to engage them.**

Non-residents is a difficult target. They tried to engage them through festivals and events: they created the festival events guide and Experience Pembrokeshire website for local community events, to attract tourists and people in the local area. They have forms to fill in asking people views on the events (why they are in Pembrokeshire, did the event bring them here, if not, what did?) in order to extract valuable information for the future.

**12. How to engage those who don't want to share power?**

Parallelism is done with a festival experience organised in Denmark with 30.000 volunteers, where people's motivation to engage can be for FUN (social) / POWER / IDENTITY (vanity) / TECHNICAL (specific topic) : they try to create interfaces/spaces for all the categories.

**For PLANED, the techniques of moderation (toolkit, respect, based on democracy) are a way to give the power to the group and not to a specific person.**

**13. Legitimacy of Networks - formal / informal? What relationships do they have with politicians? At what level of the process people would need mandate?**

**If they see an issue, they bring organisations together - informal networks - depending: they don't get too hung up on legitimacy.** At quarterly meeting, as the people that are sitting on the network can be policy-maker or farmers representatives, if a new policy is presented, they have direct feed-back ( it is a mix of bottom-up / top -down approach).

**They don't make the networks too formal because they engage at interest level** rather than meeting you have to go to (county council led committees, National park committees with official representation).

For them, this is about aggregating, putting together what happens across the county. One of the question to the communities, is "how far do they want to go in terms of influencing: do they want purely to have a document that sets the directions for their community or do they want to change the way the government works with them?".

In terms of relationships between stakeholders and decision-makers, the dialogue provides that link and fills the gap that might be there.

**14. How do they work with authorities, how do they involve decision-makers?**

**They spend some time lobbying, inviting politicians, informing and providing evidences on particular issues.**

As some of the consultation are now electronically and are not really dialogue, before the policy decision is made they invite policy-makers to meet and speak to a group of farmers that do not necessarily belong to a Union to discuss it. Or the network can discuss with communities who are interested on the topic how they might respond to it. And it is taken seriously because these are group

of constituted communities. They have developed over the years **good links with Civil servants** but as they move, they have to start a new relationship.

**15. Does PLANED take a specific view or try to maintain neutrality (policy work - consultation from the government etc..) ?**

**They take a specific view about process:** dialogue should be there and the community should be at the centre of the approach.

For specific expertise (ex: farming issues), they will leave the farmers unions to take a specific view and they will be neutral. For example, in the case of sustainable agriculture they try to give information to farmers (what are the environmental and economic benefits) and support (on techniques) but they are not preaching, saying “don’t do that”.

And if they are asked to write a letter of support for a Community Energy Scheme/ Action Plan etc., and their line is *“this community has come through a dialogue process which PLANED has facilitated. We are supportive of the process they have undertaken and we can say that a collective action has resulted in their Action Plan. This proposal is contained within their Action Plan, therefore we can say that we are fully supportive of the process they have been through and then for the resulted actions that have come about”*.

### PLANED INTERNAL LIFE AND DIALOGUE

**16. What is the origin of PLANED?**

It was not by chance but **thanks to a group of light-minded individuals, working with small communities**, focusing on issues such as rural issues, lack of services etc.

It started on a small scale, then to South Pembrokeshire and finally as PLANED, piloting projects and building on success.

**17. Internal dialogue: how do they have dialogue inside PLANED as staff team and board?**

**They practise what they preach.** Having gone through the process of a new ending and new funding, with the RDP coming up we are writing our strategy as an example of our internal dialogue. They started working on it in January 2014, and through a lot of discussions, workshops, facilitation they have achieved a document which is not too broad but meaningful.

**Internal dialogue is important because it helps learning, and they can trust each other expertise understanding what is their decision making, through dialogue.**

The board are representatives of communities, also with different interests and there is a balance on how they take things forward. As there are less funding for rural development, they decide to focus on their Property Development Company or the Community stuff on the site they manage - which ensure their funding. But for them, it is better to go further and together than quickly alone.

**18. Do they sell their services?**

They work on process and it is quite unique. They try to support other organisations - mainly in Wales - to understand and deliver what they do and to value Dialogue and promote it in the right way.

**19. Failures and lessons of PLANED?- promotion and recognition**

**They have gotten frustrated with some European projects that worked very well on local level and the National governments did not pick up on those successes.** They tried to pin them up in a different way and it doesn’t work.

Some innovative pilot projects within Leader have failed and it is a sensation of failure too.

But they built all their projects with an evaluation phase so they evaluate what worked well and what didn’t work. They are constantly learning from it, going and moving.

They got frustrated when some ideas are “stolen” by the Government but only half well implemented. Their main weakness is the promotional and marketing aspect: they prefer to invest in project rather than saying how good they are.

**They don’t want to break the trusty relationship with the communities putting a brand on it and it is a difficulty and a dilemma:** how to sell their services on training, consultancy on what they do without disempowering their communities or take advantage of them.

The County council has competed with them for their work on Leader. They wanted to support communities but they also wanted to ensure they would do it in the right way. They were not seeking

power but to work on the basis of their principles. Sometimes they have to do everything to ensure that what has worked over years is supported on the basis of Ethics and philosophy. With the support of local Communities and other organisations, they were finally chosen as the organisation responsible for Leader but it meant a lot of dialogue and discussions.

## **ANNEXE 4: Participatory processes in the field of environmental and rural policies on the local and European level: Context, overview and challenges**

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- General context
- Tools of citizen / civic participation on the local and European level
- Challenges for participatory processes on the local and European level

### **1. General context**

Citizen/civic participation is identified as important element for our democracies both by institutions and citizens/organised civil society. Also transparency is identified as need to improve government/governance (e.g. Open government partnership).

- what interaction with representative democracy?
- need of time and resources vs. tough public budgets and acceleration of decision making

Many tools exist on different levels of governance and they are in a continuous process of improvement.

- how to learn from past experiences, how to learn from experiences in other regions?
- how to train public servants and decision makers, how to train/prepare citizens?
- how to guarantee an impact of participation on decisions?
- how to make participation seen and work as a process not as a one shot thing? (follow ups, take the time and resources, monitor, evaluate)

Many challenges with existing tools and with the debate on the role of participatory elements in representative democracies in general are true also for the sector of environment and rural issues.

- e.g. how to evolve from participation understood by authorities as information / consultation (bi-directional) to co-decision and dialogue (multidirectional)?

There is need to define and clarify what are the different levels/degrees of participation in these processes:

- Information - Consultation - Consensus building <-> Mediation - Co decision-making - Negotiation / management (there is only dialogue in the last 3 ones)

Many participatory tools and the debate as such come from local governance (e.g. participatory budgeting).

The national level is identified as important place of advocacy as European decisions are today taken on the Council level and as legislation in general and also environmental/rural legislation often leave a large part of interpretation to member states/local governments -> quality and impact of the processes depend on the national/local governments.

Democracy culture is threatened (e.g. in Spain: limiting rights of manifestation and citizenship education) and regressing.

### **2. Tools of citizen / civic participation on the local and European level**

#### **a. European level**

Background:Maastricht Treaty (1993)

European citizenship is not a cross-cutting policy so that there is no responsible “minister” but citizens have to inform themselves about the participatory and citizenship elements according to the policy field concerned.

Not all rights were directly enlarged to citizens of entering member states (e.g. right of free movement, of work).

EU-citizens have many rights in addition and parallel to their rights as national citizens. Third country nationals legally residing in a member state do not have these rights.

## Tools and challenges:

Tool	Challenges
<b>Citizenship rights (art. 20-25 Treaty on the functioning of the EU, TFEU)</b> - general challenge: excludes third country nationals	
<b>freedom of movement, of working</b> -> reside freely in the territory of the member states (certain conditions might exist)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rights have not been effective for all EU citizens directly from the day of adhesion to the EU (discrimination)</li> <li>- right of residence does not concern many people (14 million)</li> <li>- in practice there are still administrative problems and discriminations towards nationals</li> </ul>
vote and stand for <b>elections</b> in municipal and European elections - direct elections since 1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- participation is decreasing</li> <li>- electoral law differ from member state to member state</li> <li>- efforts have been made (nominating a person running for the presidency of the Commission, possibility of European parties, etc.)</li> <li>- allow to participate in other elections</li> </ul>
<b>protection</b> from diplomatic and consular authorities in any country outside the EU where the own member state is not represented	
<b>petition</b> to the European Parliament - website available in all official languages: <a href="http://www.petiport.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/main">http://www.petiport.europarl.europa.eu/petitions/en/main</a>	
apply to the European <b>Ombudsman</b> - website available in all official languages ( <a href="http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/start.faces">http://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/start.faces</a> ) - Emily O'Reilly (since 2013)	
<b>address all EU institutions</b> in your language and receive an answer in your language	
organise or support an <b>European citizens initiative</b> : - addressed to the European Commission - committee of 7 citizens residing in 7 different EU countries, ask the European Commission to propose legislation in a field of its competencies, collecting signatures from 1 million EU citizens in voting age of their member states within in 12 months, respecting a quorum (750x number of MEPs of the country) in at least 7 member states - website available in all official languages: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/welcome?lg=en">http://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/public/welcome?lg=en</a> .	The tool does not work: - half of the proposed ECIs have been declared legally inadmissible -> make the registration procedure less restrictive - many topics require treaty change -> allow ECIs that require treaty amendments to implement - no concrete follow up of successful ECIs -> ensure take-on by Commission - different data requirements for signatures -> harmonisation of data requirements for signatures - eliminate ID number requirements - high data hurdles to sign -> technical problems and complicated functioning of the online collection system -> change online collection signature system - no possibility to collect email addresses in the ECI support form -> add this as an important campaigning tool - automatic date of start of the collection process -> let organisers chose the date - signing age differs from country to country -> lower signing age to 16 - difficulties to understand and organise for small or not organised citizens -> offer a support structure with translation services and funding possibilities - ECI groups do not have a legal status what harms transparency and efficiency -> provide a legal status

Tool	Challenges
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- public awareness of ECI is low -&gt; increase awareness</li> <li>- publication coordinated by ECI Campaign on what does not work and how to make it work:  <a href="http://www.citizens-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Tips_For_ECI_Campaigns.pdf">http://www.citizens-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Tips_For_ECI_Campaigns.pdf</a>; 10 recommendations: <a href="http://www.citizens-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/12_Recommendations.pdf">http://www.citizens-initiative.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/12_Recommendations.pdf</a></li> </ul>
<b>connected rights/tools</b>	
<b>non-discrimination</b> on the basis of nationality	
participate in <b>consultation and hearing</b> processes (by the European Commission) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Website available in all official languages: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/">http://ec.europa.eu/yourvoice/</a></li> <li>- many of the currently ongoing consultations are in the environmental field</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- impact of contributions is not transparent</li> <li>- participation of citizens and civic movements is limited for “hard” topics</li> <li>- questions asked are often about technical options, not about general political orientations</li> <li>- language barrier as well as for the (written) consultation as for the hearing</li> <li>- other institutions are not holding consultations</li> </ul>
participate in <b>Agora</b> processes (by the European Parliament) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- website available in all official languages: <a href="http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20150201PVL00041/Agora">http://www.europarl.europa.eu/atyourservice/en/20150201PVL00041/Agora</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no more Agoras since 2013</li> <li>- responsible MEPs judged the process unsatisfying</li> <li>- plans such as “wiki-citizenship” have been explored but did not come true</li> </ul>
apply for <b>EU funding</b> (various programs: Erasmus+, Leader, Feader, ESF, CAP, etc.)	
contact <b>SOLVID</b> when your rights are violated by a member state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- website available in all official languages: <a href="http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/index_en.htm">http://ec.europa.eu/solvit/index_en.htm</a></li> </ul>	
<b>year of citizens</b> (2013, 2014)	
<b>processes launched by civil society actors</b>	
platforms like arc2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- reach out to the national/regional level</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>
umbrella organisations (Green10, Concord, Social Platform, European Environmental Bureau, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- what link to the (grass)roots?</li> </ul>
G1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no impact on decision makers level</li> </ul>
ECI Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- political will to make the ECI function is not there</li> </ul>
Citizens' Pact (European Alternatives)	
European citizens consultations (King Baudouin Foundation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- no impact on decision makers level</li> </ul>
campaigning platforms (moveon.org, avaaaz.org, change.org, 38degrees.org.uk, campact.de, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- legitimacy, representativity</li> <li>- transparency of funding and decision making</li> <li>- inclusiveness</li> <li>- etc.</li> </ul>

Tool	Challenges
Counter Balance, Bank Watch	
European rural parliament	
etc.	

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David van Reybrouck, Tegen verkrielingen ([http://www.debezigebij.nl/web/Zojuist-verschonen/Boek/9789023474593\\_Tegen-verkiezingen.htm](http://www.debezigebij.nl/web/Zojuist-verschonen/Boek/9789023474593_Tegen-verkiezingen.htm)), Contre les élections (<http://www.actes-sud.fr/catalogue/pochebabel/contre-les-elections-babel/>)/Against elections (<http://www.debezigebij.nl/web/BoekForeign.htm?dbid=45486&typeofpage=1017248>), 2013.

**b. Political framework in the environmental/rural sector on EU level:**

**Reference to Public participation / Civic engagement in EU directives (environment/rural)**

- Aarhus Convention (UN) (2001): Rights: access to environmental information, public participation in environmental decision-making, access to justice on environmental topics.
- EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) (2014/52/EU) :
- Natura 2000 network of protected areas : Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) - Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) - Life Regulation (EC No1293/2013): protection and management of areas to protect Birds, Habitats and wild Biodiversity.
- Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC): River basin management.
- Structural and Investment Funds - 2014-2020-- (Common Provisions Regulation (EU) No 1303/2013): promotion of Community- Led Local Development (CLLD) = in local development projects and programmes like LEADER

**How is it formulated:**

**EIA: Paragraph 2:**

*2. In order to ensure the effective participation of the public concerned in the decision-making procedures, the public shall be informed electronically and by public notices or by other appropriate means, of the following matters early in the environmental decision-making procedures referred to in Article 2(2) and, at the latest, as soon as information can reasonably be provided:;*"

**Water Framework Directive: Article 14: Public information and consultation**

*1. Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans. Member States shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users.*

**Management of Natura 2000 sites**

*Article 6(1): "For special areas of conservation, Member States shall establish the necessary conservation measures involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans, (in general, the BHD does not foresee consultation of the public when implementing the Directives, but in practice many Member States do involve the public on many aspects. These are particularly related to the designation of Natura 2000 sites (Art. 4.4 HD), to the establishment of the necessary conservation measures (Art. 6.1 HD) as well as regards the application of Art. 6.3 HD)*

**LIFE: Programme for the Environment and Climate Action***Article 3 - General objectives and performance indicators**(c) to support better environmental and climate governance at all levels, including better involvement of civil society, NGOs and local actors;***Community Led Local Development in Structural and Investment Funds****Article 5: Partnership and multi-level governance (NEW approach!)***1. For the Partnership Agreement and each programme, each Member State shall in accordance with its institutional and legal framework organise a partnership with the competent regional and local authorities. The partnership shall also include the following partners:**(a) competent urban and other public authorities, (b) economic and social partners; and (c) relevant bodies representing civil society, including environmental partners, non-governmental organisations, and bodies responsible for promoting social inclusion, gender equality and non-discrimination.***Article 32: Community-led local development***1. Community-led local development shall be supported by the EAFRD, which shall be designated as LEADER local development and may be supported by the ERDF, ESF or EMFF. For the purposes of this Chapter, those Funds are hereinafter referred to as the "ESI Funds concerned".*

Many of these environmental directives / policies do recommend participatory processes . But is limited to a "MAY " and in few cases are compulsory (SHALL) . The choice is up to the Member States (and when participation processes are not a keystone of the Member state democratic processes, their implementation is unsure, ; civil society pressure might have a role to play ) .

In general, whether mandatory or not, we miss information and guidance on the nature / extent of the participation required and the ways participatory processes should be carried out. This leaves a large part to interpretation.

Questions to be asked:

- where can/should the European level facilitate local processes of participation?
- did you already participate in one of the European processes?
- do you see parallels with your local / national tools
- do you think there is something usefull?

**c. National / local level****National laws and initiatives:**

- Ombudsmen for the environment (AT)
- Law for local democracy "Démocratie de proximité" - (FR)

**Local**

- participatory budgeting
- agenda 21
- regional/national representations to the EU in Brussels
- direct democracy movements : projects of associations like Démocratie ouverte (<http://democratieouverte.org>): project Territoires hautement citoyens (<http://www.territoires-hautement-citoyens.fr/>) that offers an open method for democratic transition to local/regional authorities with the aim to put citizens in the center again.

## Participants

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