

Press Release

Democracy 3.0: The Key to More Successful Citizen Participation

New concept for more citizen participation at national level

Potsdam, April 09, 2019. **How can parliamentary representative democracies be strengthened and revitalised? In the context of the ever more complex future questions society has to grapple with, the study “Bundesrepublik 3.0” (Federal Republic 3.0) presents a concept for more citizen participation at national level. It was developed in a co-creative process where examples of best practice were considered and combined to generate new solutions.**

Increasingly, people in Germany are looking for new ways of making politicians take an interest in the issues that preoccupy them. The FridaysforFuture protests or the Munich popular petition “Save the Bees” are just two recent examples. Many people are keen to get involved and contribute to shaping policy, but not through the usual party-political channels. In the study “Bundesrepublik 3.0” commissioned by the German Environment Agency (UBA), Professor Patrizia Nanz and a team of authors from the IASS and the Institute for Participatory Design (IPG) have now developed a concept for more citizen participation at national level: the **Bundesbeteiligungswerkstatt** or **National Participation Workshop**.

For the study, sociopolitical challenges and difficulties associated with nationwide citizen participation projects were gathered and juxtaposed with various international examples of best practice in citizen participation at local, regional, and national levels. The authors also analysed selected participation concepts based on the procedural roadmap (Verfahrenslinwand) developed by the IPG in 2017.

The case studies examined include the General Assembly of Democracy in the French town of Kingersheim, the citizen dialogue on the Climate Action Plan 2050 in Germany, the Brazilian National Public Policy Conferences, the Citizens’ Assembly in Ireland, the Stadtwerkstatt Berliner Mitte, and the WerkStadt für Beteiligung in Potsdam. The study only drew on case studies that were characterised by democratic innovation or were outstanding in terms of their design and organisation.

The concept of a nationwide participation workshop that emerged from the authors’ analyses is an innovative and practicable model that meets the identified requirements and integrates the best features of the case studies. The authors also provide an overview of the entire



participation process and explain how the participation workshop can be integrated into Germany's parliamentary representative system.

Link to the study at UBA:

<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/bundesrepublik-30>

The study in the IASS Database:

<http://publications.iass-potsdam.de/pubman/faces/viewItemOverviewPage.jsp?itemId=escidoc:4098895:3>

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Funded by the ministries of research of the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Brandenburg, the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) aims to identify and promote development pathways for a global transformation towards a sustainable society. The IASS employs a transdisciplinary approach that encourages dialogue to understand sustainability issues and generate potential solutions in cooperation with partners from academia, civil society, policymaking, and the business sector. A strong network of national and international partners supports the work of the institute. Its central research topics include the energy transition, emerging technologies, climate change, air quality, systemic risks, governance and participation, and cultures of transformation.

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