



DIGITAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

CAS TECHNOLOGY & POLICY - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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Intersections

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WHO I AM



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Co-CEO Swiss Smart Cities - Innosuisse program

Co-President Smart City Alliance

Board member CH++

Member of the ethic's boards @midata and @city of lucerne

Key Topics:

Digital Participation, Future and Digital Literacy, Inclusive Innovation

Background:

M.A. University of Zurich (Communications, Politics, Psychology)

7 years experience in growing and leading a startup (media & data)

2.5 years experience in academia (Blockchain, Citizen Science)

5 years experience in NPO for human centric digitalisation

WHAT TO EXPECT

- what is **digital public participation** (DPP)?
- what are the advantages and disadvantages?
- What are the requirements for DPP?
- What different types of DPP exist within the policy cycle?
- What are the areas of use with real life examples?
- Why are digital ethics so important in this area?
- Where do you think should we go more digital in public participation?

WORKING DIGITAL – DIGITAL COLLABORATION TOOLS



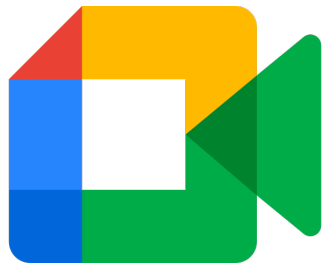
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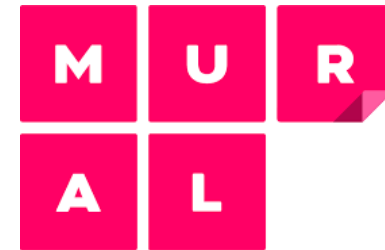
jitsi.org



miro



 slack



...a random selection

WHAT IS DIGITAL PARTICIPATION?

- The term **DIGITAL PARTICIPATION** refers to the **active involvement** in digital society through the use of modern information and communication technology (ICT), such as the Internet. This participation includes access to not only the Internet but also various online services and content.
- civic technology (short: civic tech/ Public Interest Tech) refers to digital technologies for improving **POLITICAL PARTICIPATION**. Specifically, Civic Tech aims to better involve the population in political planning, decision-making and implementation processes through the use of digital tools.

WHY SHOULD WE GO/ DON'T GO DIGITAL?

- task:

Write down at least one advantage and one disadvantage of online participation.

keep the post-its with you

- time:

5min

„MOST KNOWN“ DIGITAL PARTICIPATION PLATFORMS

where do you get normally informed about public issues?

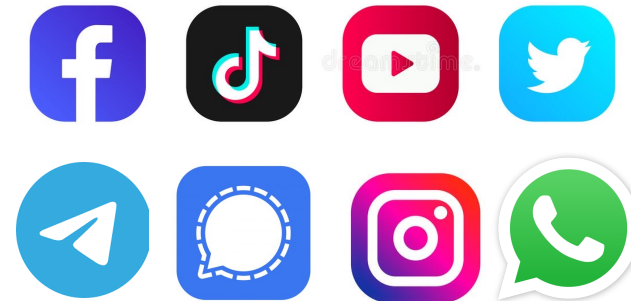
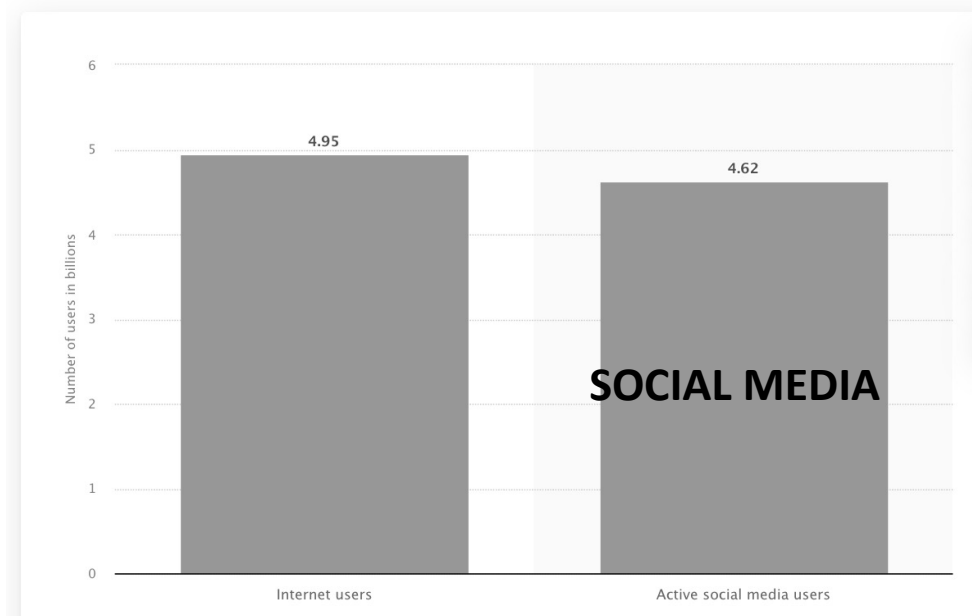
NEWS



Swiss prefer traditional media such as television, radio and newspapers as a source of information for forming political opinions.¹



Global digital population as of January 2022
(in billions)²



¹Bieri et al (2021); ²statistica 2022

REQUIREMENTS FOR DIGITAL PARTICIPATION

What conditions must be in place for a constructive digital participation to succeed?

individual level

- Individual knowledge
- competencies
- attitudes

organizational level

- organizational tools
- processes
- responsibilities

technical level

- technical capacities
- affordances
- routines

societal level

- societal resources
- rules and norms

CIVIC-TECH ECOSYSTEM



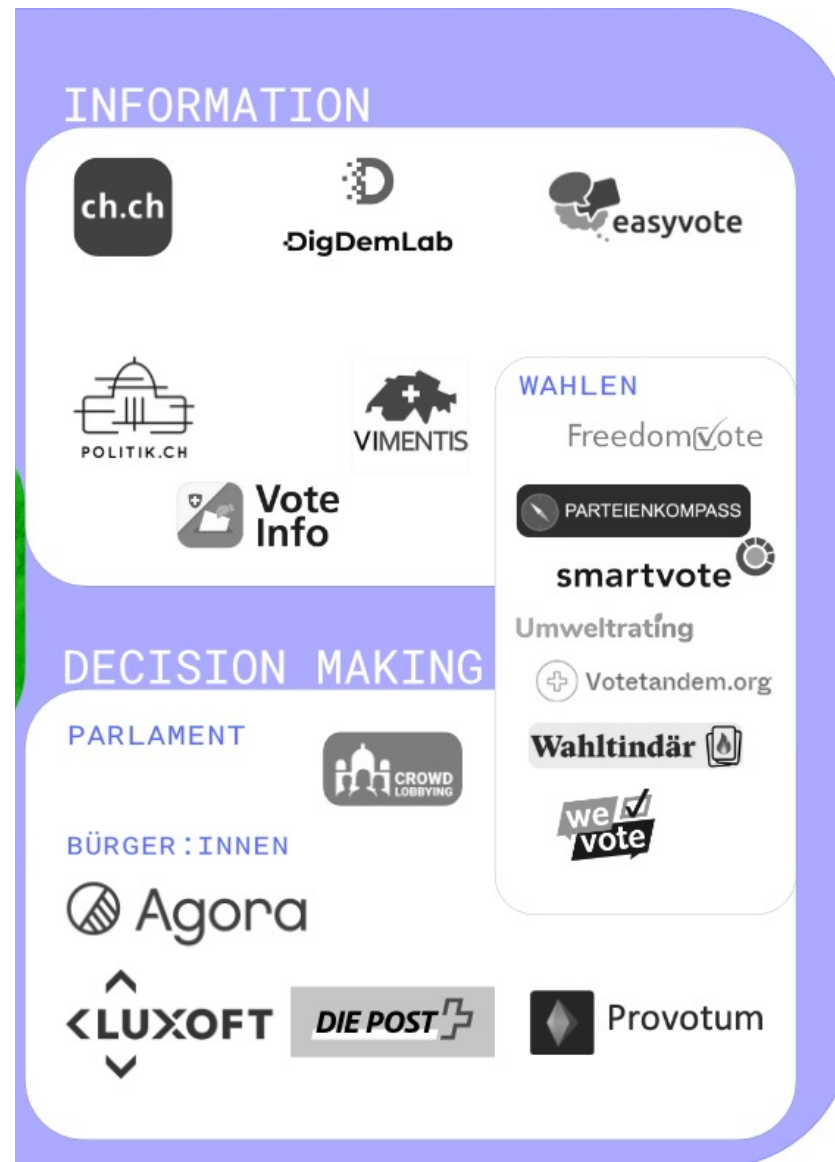
Swiss used participation platforms: <https://demokratie-toolbox.ch>

50 Most international used participation platforms: <https://airtable.com/shrxxpcHHnMc1xZSx>

CIVIC-TECH ECOSYSTEM

eVoting Problems

- scalability of manipulation
- missing public legitimation
- non-understandable for everyone
- higher maintenance cost



Election Tools:

- Questionnaire
- Topic Related
- Non-Voter Inclusion
- Leaving the bubble
- Reminder to vote

CIVIC-TECH ECOSYSTEM

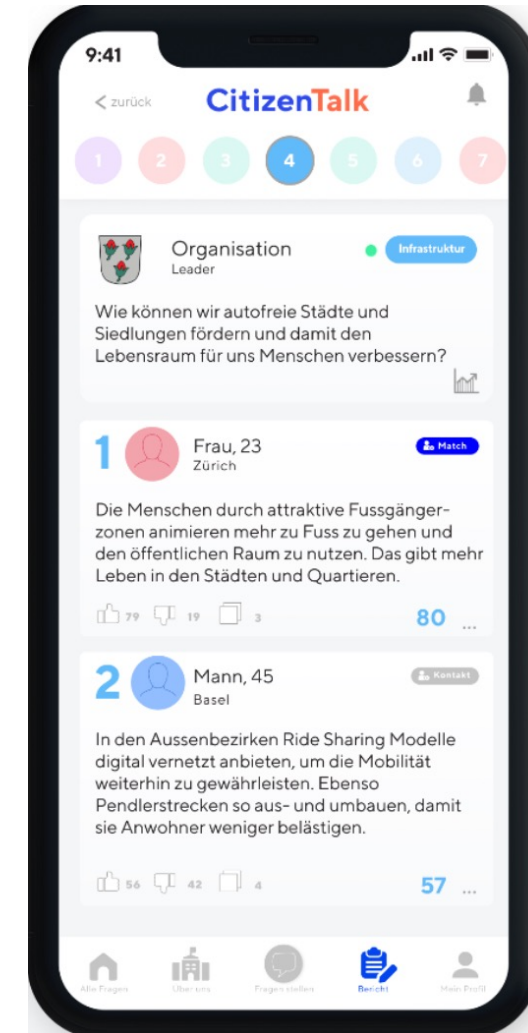


- Idea: Crowd Sourcing (Appel Citoyen)
- Support: eCollecting (change.org)
- Funding: Crowd Funding (wemakeit.ch)

LOW THRESHOLD DELIBERATION





CitizenTalk



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING: SAME SAME BUT DIFFERENT

Participatory Budgeting Schweiz



		
Teilnahmeberechtigung	alle (mit Mobilfunknummer)	registrierte Stadtbevölkerung
Gründungsansatz	Bottom Up	Top Down
Primärer Informationsweg	Onlineplattform (Decidim)	Online (Decidim) und Brieflich
Kampagne	Print: Plakat & Flyer (Quartier-)vereine Medienmitteilung	Plakate, Podcast, Medienmitteilung, öffentl. Veranstaltungen, Kunstobjekte: „Wahl/Telefonkabinen“
Votingkanäle	online	on- & offline
Umsetzung der Projekte		Bürger:innen selbst
Verteilbares Budget (CHF)	40'000 (2020, Quartieridee) 540'000 (2021, Stadtidee)	100'000 (2019) 150'000 (2020)
Einwohnergrösse (Dez 2020)	434'736	140'202
URL	mitwirken.stadt-zuerich.ch/processes/stadtidee	participer.lausanne.ch/processes/budget-participatif

ACTIVIST DIGITAL PARTICIPATION: CLIMATE TICKER



A joint project between
Climate Alliance & Alliance Digital

- 1) Local Climate Rating
- 2) Participation Platform for Climate Action

Goal
to enable the comparison of the climate policies of municipalities and cantons, and to support climate-conscious individuals and NGOs in advocating for local climate measures.

Digital ethics or data ethics, also known as algorithm ethics, is a branch of ethics and practical philosophy that deals with the **moral norms** that should apply to **the interaction between humans and machines.**

What **ethical topics**
do you know in
digital public participation?

DIGITAL ETHIC BY DESIGN AND PROCESS

privacy by design

- decentralized
- anonymous
- data-minimising

crowd sourcing

- inclusion
- public

open source

- transparent
- peer reviewed
- accessible

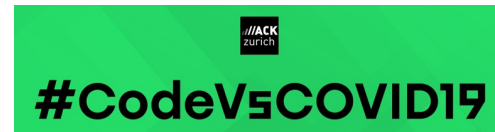
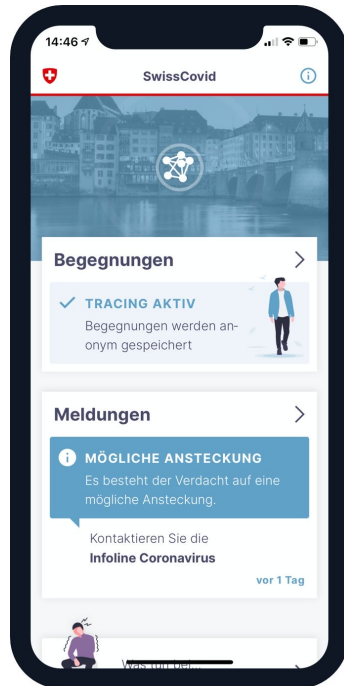
public interest

- cooperation instead of competition

democracy

- public legitimization
- voluntary use

Swisscovid App
proximity tracing app



Public Hackathon:
next step app

march



merge with academia:
project DP 3T

april

2020



Update IOS &
Android API
inspired by DP 3T

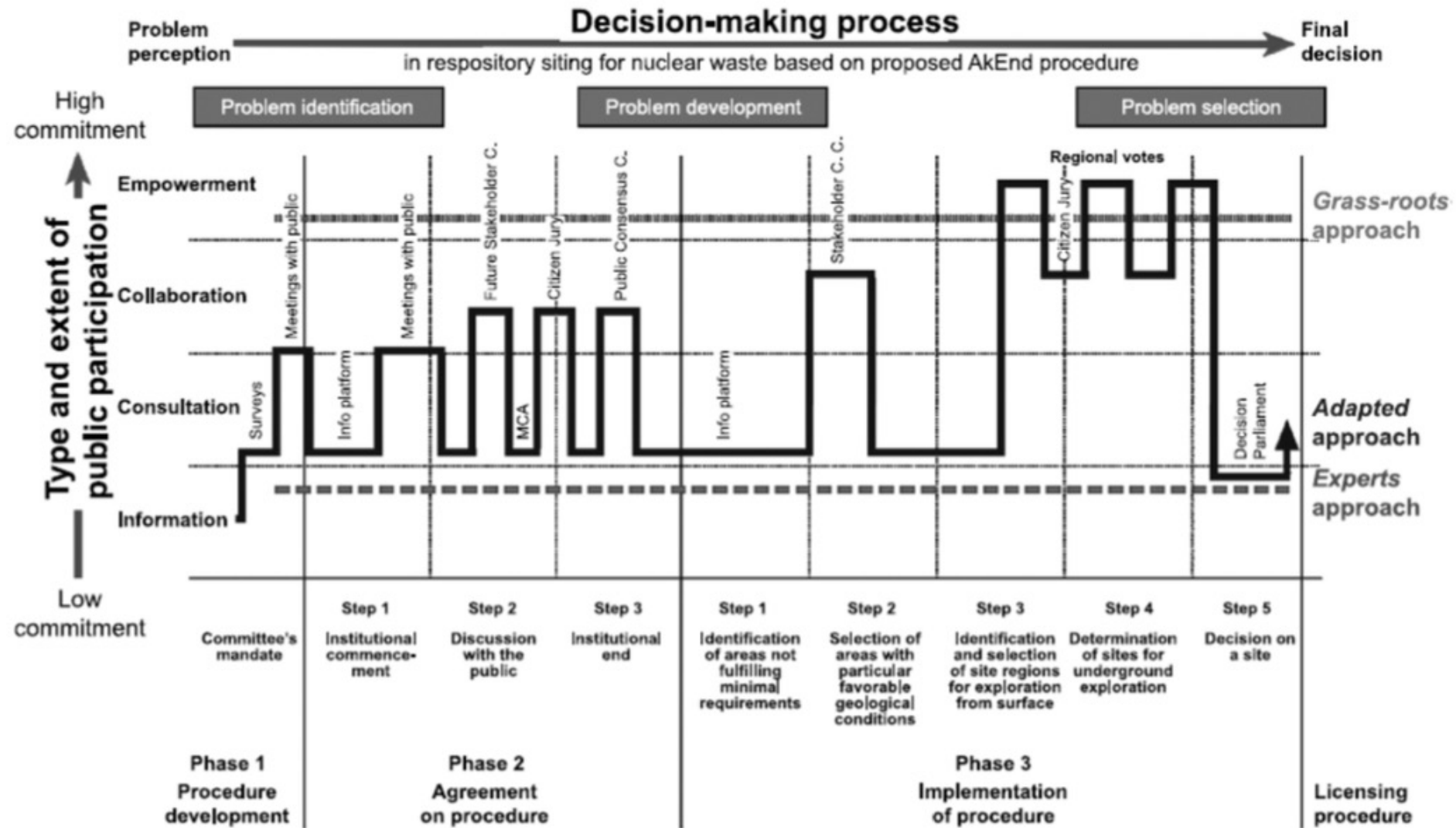
may



parliamentary decision
& launch

june

WHERE SHOULD WE GO MORE DIGITAL?



WHERE AND WHY SHOULD(N'T) WE GO MORE DIGITAL IN DIGITAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION?



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PROS AND CONS OF DIGITAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

• Overcomes distances and other barriers

Accessibility

easy accessible for most

low-threshold ways to participate

Convenience

EASE OF PARTICIPATION [low threshold]

early accessible low effort

Cost-effective

Effectiveness

Advantage: Economical, quick, wide participation, low effort

Transparency

± around 7

Rapid feedback

efficient

Digital tools might enable many people to participate in a shorter time frame than if organized non-digitally

cross-border or cross-regional or cross-cultural deliberation much facilitated

loss of the "human" component

no in-person discussions → polarization

Digital seen as solution to all without considering the problems properly: which problems are we trying to solve with digital participation?

Human Touch

Digital Divide

Digital Excludes some people

Some persons are excluded

Limited engagement

churn

Security

Digital tools introduce a barrier to communication: can we really talk about constructive dialog and deliberations?

Privacy issues

for privacy; people in some dialog in some way

BIAS

Tech Difficulty

(maybe) too many platforms

Accessibility

Digital tools are not accessible to all (no device, no connection, blind, nor inclusion)

access to information on possibilities

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Lasswell H. D. (1956): *The decision process: seven categories of functional analysis*. Bureau of Governmental Research, College of Business and Public Administration, University of Maryland.

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<https://www.peoplepowered.org/digital-guide>

Matrix of 50 most used digital participation platforms: <https://airtable.com/shrxxpcHHnMc1xZSx>

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<https://www.ubique.ch/blog/die-geschichte-der-swisscovid-app/>

<https://www.digital-literacy.live/>