

Citizens Consultations on Sustainable Consumption

Call for partners

Dear colleagues and partners,

This is an open invitation to organisations with an interest in public participation and sustainable consumption to join a European citizen consultation on sustainable consumption.

In the framework of the PACITA project (EU FP7-SiS) we will carry out a major citizen consultation activity on the topic of sustainable consumption on October 25th 2014. The citizen consultation will take place simultaneously in at least eleven countries across Europe. We hope that more countries will join us in this effort.

On Saturday October 25th 2014 more than a thousand citizens from around Europe will take part in the citizen consultations on sustainable consumption. At least hundred citizens in each participating country will attend daylong meetings to learn about sustainable consumption issues, make up their minds about them, and express their views. The project will engage ordinary citizens in as many countries as possible in the process of policymaking and awareness raising to sustain a living and healthy planet.

The citizen consultations will build on the World Wide Views method developed by the Danish Board of Technology Foundation as a response to the emerging democratic gap between global policy makers and citizens, as more decisions and issues become global in scale. It is built on the assumption that ordinary people both merit and can have an effective, constructive voice within global political processes.

We would like to invite you to become a partner in this exciting project. Becoming a partner would involve the organisation of a citizen consultation in your country, following the design laid out by the coordinators of the project, The Danish Board of Technology. Participating partners have to find financial support for their own citizen consultation.

The major tasks for the National Partners include; participating in the training seminar in Portugal, recruiting citizens for the national meeting, translating information material from English to your local language, and carrying through the citizen consultation in your own country, and dissemination of the results to relevant policy-makers and stakeholders in your country.

If you would like to take part in the citizen consultations as a “National Partner” and arrange a citizen consultation in your country or region, please email Marie Louise Jørgensen (mlj@tekno.dk) with your indication and a short description of your organisation in English. The deadline for entering the project as a partner is April 1st 2014, as the mandatory training seminar for all partners is held in the beginning of April.

To become a partner in the project an organisation should have the following qualities:

1. Independence of specific interests - may these be stakeholder interests, political parties, social groups etc. - in the issue of biological diversity. Organisations that cannot live up to this must form an alliance with other organisations in their region/country in order balance it out.
2. Have the professional skills necessary to perform a national citizen participation process in a fair and methodologically consistent manner.
3. A reputation as serious, professional, trust-worthy and effective organisation.

The method used in the project will be similar to the method used for the global consultations World Wide Views on Global Warming in 2009 and World Wide Views on Biodiversity in 2012. For further information about the method please consult www.wviews.org.

Please feel free to forward this invitation to other organisations, both inside and outside your own country, who may be interested in and capable of making a citizen consultation.

At the present time the following countries will be carrying out a citizen consultation:

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|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Austria | <input type="checkbox"/> Denmark | <input type="checkbox"/> The Netherlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Belgium | <input type="checkbox"/> Hungary | <input type="checkbox"/> Portugal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulgaria | <input type="checkbox"/> Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> Spain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Czech Republic | <input type="checkbox"/> Lithuania | |

You can find more information on the citizen consultations and the PACITA project on www.pacitaproject.eu/

We hope that you will join us for a European-wide Citizen Consultation.

We look forward to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

Marie Louise Jørgensen
Coordinator of the citizen consultations