

Citi-Adapt:

*Communicating design decisions for
citizen engagement in climate adaptation
action via a serious game*

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**Earth
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Knowledge Integration Team (KIT)

What do we do?

We co-design climate, air quality and health resilience services, while facilitating knowledge exchange and technology transfer of state-of-the-art research at local, national, and international levels.

Engagement & knowledge co-production
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Operationalisation
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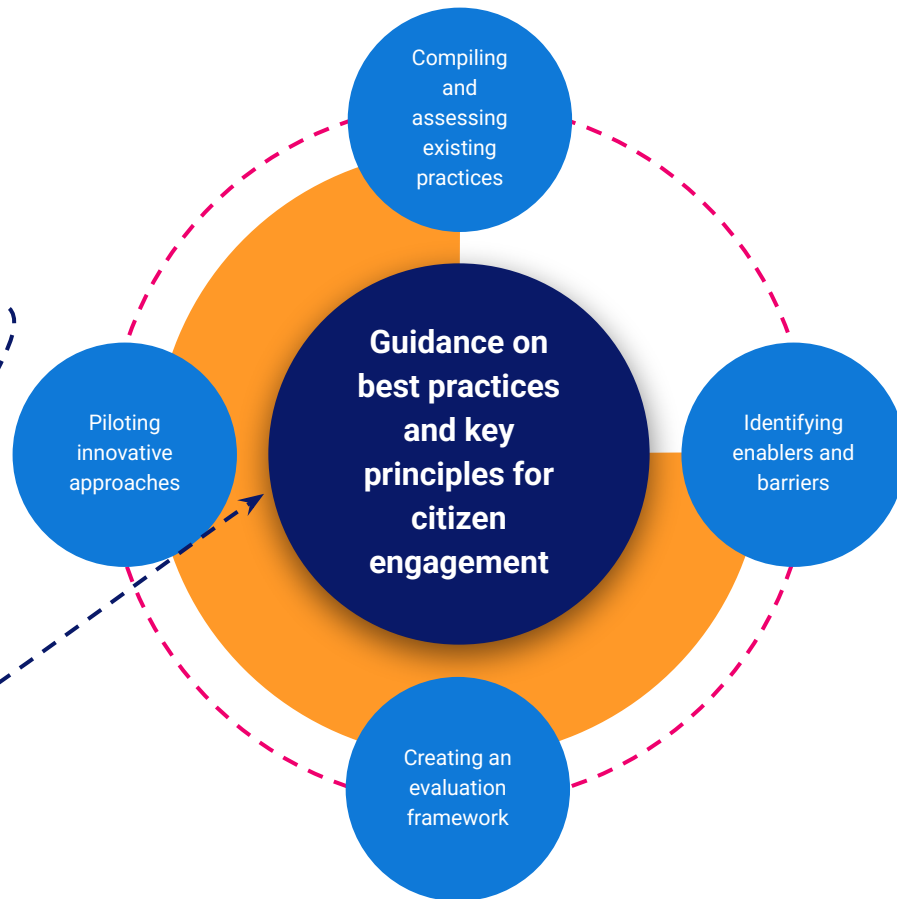
A Gathering place to cO-design and co-cReate Adaptation is a project aimed at supporting the Mission of Adaptation to Climate Change by actively **involving communities and regions** in climate actions, fostering resilience, and promoting societal transformation.



Citizen engagement research in Adaptation AGORA

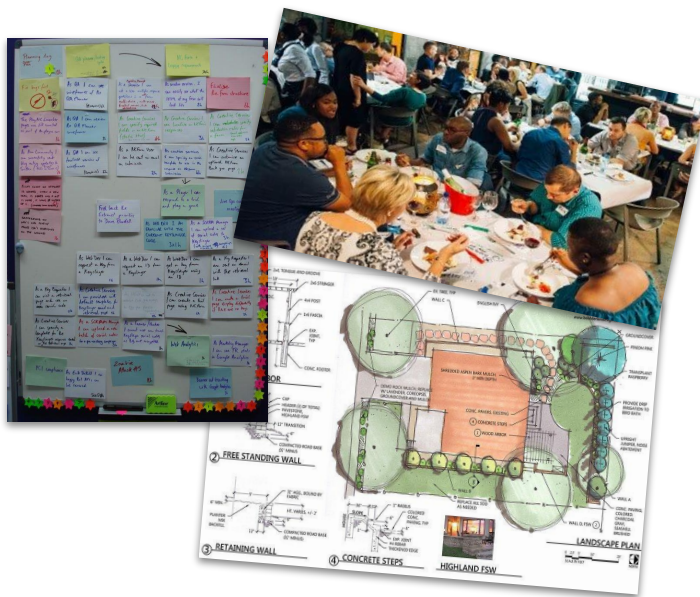
Adaptation AGORA will provide a comprehensive package of digital tools and **co-developed frameworks**.

These tools and frameworks will facilitate collaboration and information exchange among citizens, civil society organisations, academics, experts, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and other relevant actors.

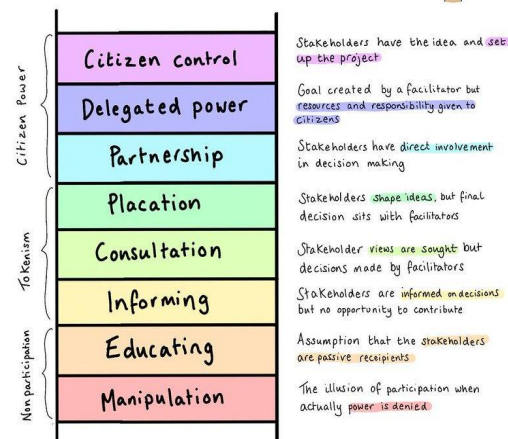


1 minute introduction to citizen engagement

- Extremely fuzzy boundaries
- Enormous range of diversity
- Design (and implementation) can influence outcomes



Ladder of Participation (Arnstein, 1969)



©Creative Clinical Psychology

Synthesising decades of research and practice

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Evaluating Public-Participation Exercises: A Research Agenda

Gene Rowe and Lynn J. Frewer

Science, Technology, & Human Values

Vol.29 No. 1 (January 2004) pp. 512-552 (40 pages)

Published by Sage Publications, Inc.



participation, and the variety of ways (mechanisms) in which it is operationalized, will be discussed. The article then focuses on the crucial issue of how one determines that a particular participation mechanism or exercise has been successful. In addressing this issue, the dearth of high-quality empirical evaluations will be highlighted, along with the lack of any comprehensive framework for conducting such evaluations.

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RMETS



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Public participation, engagement, and climate change adaptation: A review of the research literature

Stephan Hügel | Anna R. Davies

First published: 27 Mar 2023

5 CONCLUSION

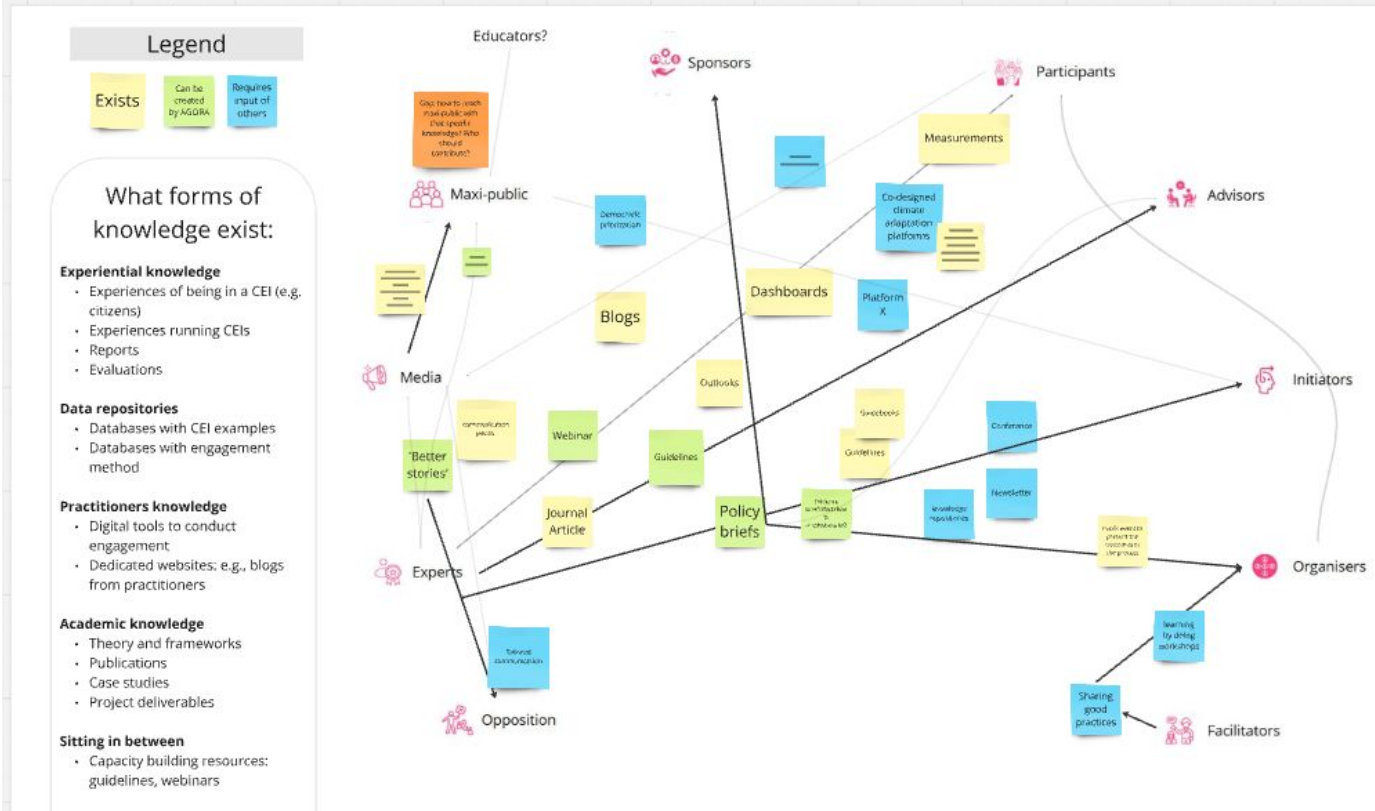
This review has examined the corpus of research captured in a bibliographic database which combines attention to public participation and citizen engagement with climate change adaptation, and suggests an expansion of the research agenda to include the following issues:

1. How public participation in climate change adaptation is addressed in gray literature and policy documents;
2. Patterns of public participation in relation to adaptation with respect to drought, changing patterns of disease and agricultural viability and also other extreme weather events beyond flooding;
3. The nature of public participation for climate change adaptation in local adaptation policies and community practices;
4. The extent, form, and findings of evaluation efforts with respect to the impacts of extending public participation in climate change adaptation;
5. The geographical distribution of both funding for research and the locus of research.



The challenges of communicating findings (again)

TOPIC B: Knowledge transfer



Choosing a type of citizen engagement initiative (CEI)

Game overall description

Player 1

CEI type

Citizen assembly

Player 2

Climate market

CITIZEN ASSEMBLY

REQUIREMENTS

Ass	Pre	During	Post
1	2	2	1

Design choices:

- Requires 'random selection'
- Requires 'trained facilitators'

Gives:



good outcome points

AGORA evaluation pillars

- Mutual learning
- Fair engagement
- Better collaboration
- Tailored knowledge

Design choices

Game overall description: design choices

Player 1

Player 2

CEI type	Assess.		Pre	
Citizen assembly				Hold briefing with initiator and local stakeholders
				Independent research of previous CEIs
Climate market				Spend 3 months living in-situ

Next steps

- Simplified version
- Trialling
- Design
- Adding complexity
- Online and offline?



Thank you

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www.adaptationagora.eu



Abstract

<https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu25-18809>

Climate adaptation action is increasingly both local and urgent. Reasons for including citizen and community voices in decision-making range from securing climate justice to generating more apt solutions and increasing public acceptance of interventions. More broadly, attempts to rebuild public trust in democracy and public institutions has led to a surge in citizen engagement initiatives for decision making in a whole range of subjects.

This confluence of trends has generated an ever-growing knowledge and experience base and countless publications that call for citizen engagement in climate change adaptation efforts, provide best practices for citizen engagement, and occasionally both. However, the enormous breadth of the intended audiences means that in almost all cases, these best practice guides focus on citizen engagement in general.

As part of the Adaptation AGORA project – a 3-year Mission Adaptation project that brings together researchers and practitioners from 12 institutes from across Europe – we have spent two years mapping European adaptation-related citizen engagement initiatives (CEIs), interviewing experts across the CEI value chain and carrying out interactive workshops in attempt to identify best practices. The variety of adaptation contexts and wide range of possible (positive and negative) outcomes and impacts from CEIs pushed us beyond only looking for universal good practices to also consider those that lead to specific outcomes, like generating more just decisions, being tailored to the local settings in which they apply, promoting mutual learning, or producing improved collaboration.

We find that choices taken when designing initiatives are key to the achievement of different goals. Some general good practices can almost universally be applied, like setting a clear objective, and ensuring effective communication before, during and after the initiative. However, beyond these straightforward observations, the variety of primary and secondary objectives (awareness raising, allocating public resources, generating ideas, creating guidelines, forming long-term plans etc.) and the myriad of contextual factors (scale, scope, location, resources, familiarity with citizen engagement etc.) frustrate identifying the best practices to pursue among a surfeit of potential actions. Essentially, what is often missing from existing best-practice guides is a framework to prioritise what can be achieved with limited resources to meet the identified goals. Indeed, the relative merit of different practices in achieving different goals is well understood only by a few seasoned experts, and frequently a challenge to communicate.

Hoping to facilitate discussion and the exchange of different perspectives, we propose a serious game, Citi-Adapt, that seeks to visibilise the trade offs and push collaborative teams to collectively seek better design choices in the pursuit of different goals in unique contexts. Citi-Adapt allows us to add in different constraints, to situate CEIs in different contexts, and for different actors to walk in each other's shoes. It can be played in two ways – 1) exploring the types of resources required to achieve certain goals; and 2) identifying possible outcomes based on available resources – and we would be delighted to present it and hear your thoughts as we move to building a prototype.