

PHOENIX

The Rise of Citizens Voices for a Greener Europe

Climate change represents an existential threat to Europe and the entire world. It is an unprecedented challenge, in which different territories, social groups, and stakeholders will have to coordinate at a scale never seen before. **Climate change will not stop at administrative borders.** For this reason, ordinary instruments of representative democracy will not cut it. As we need to foster environmental and social governance, we must not forget the role of democratic governance in stabilising paradigmatic changes, such as the one that the **European Green Deal (EGD)** will entail.

As the EGD will bring substantial changes, citizens, depending on their social and geographic circumstances, will be affected in different ways. This is why active public participation and **confidence in the transition** are paramount if policies are to work and be accepted.

Acronym for 'Participation in HOlistic ENvironmental/Ecological Innovations', PHOENIX is an **EU Horizon 2020 research project** aimed at studying, enriching, and testing in 11 territories participatory and deliberative practices to address environmental issues. The project started in **February 2022** and, under the coordination of the CES - Centre for Social Studies (Portugal), brings together **15 European partners**, encompassing experts, scholars, practitioners, and civil society organisations with strong expertise in deliberative and participatory practices.

PHOENIX's overarching objective is to increase the transformative potential of **Democratic Innovations (DIs)** in relation to specific topics of the European Green Deal. We focus on four topics: circular economy, farm-to-fork, energy transition, and healthy soil and biodiversity.

To achieve its goal, the PHOENIX project can be broken down into five steps:

1- Analyse Democratic Innovations

Study 4 typologies of innovative participatory and deliberative practices.

2- Understand the different contexts

Identify the social and environmental conditions and the impact of the EGD in the pilot territories.

3- Develop the PHOENIX Tangram

Design a portfolio of Enriched Democratic Innovations (EDIs) that can be adapted to different contexts.



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4- Test the Tangram in different territories

Tailor and test the Enriched Democratic Innovations in 11 pilots to address different EGD's topics.

5- Encourage future implementations

Support through an online platform the diffusion, scalability and adaptability of the methodologies assessed in the pilots.

Exciting challenges are on the horizon for the PHOENIX project. After completing the diagnostic phase, in month 12 the Pilots will be launched, involving ordinary people in shaping political decision-making in the context of the green transition. By **enriching participatory and deliberative practices** we believe that we will pave the way to design democratic governance procedures that will allow both to collect the positions of people that usually do not engage in politics, as well as reach a consensus on the best policies for the territories involved.

Because, when dealing with environmental issues, **citizen participation is an absolute pre-condition for policies' success.**

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PROJECT DETAILS

Project title: Participation in HOlistic ENvironmental/Ecological Innovations

Start date: 1 February 2022

End date: 31 July 2025

Duration: 42 months

EU Contribution: 4,975,448 €

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PROJECT WEBSITE

<https://phoenix-horizon.eu/>

SOCIAL MEDIA



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