

REPORT

Beyond a Minimal Democracy

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Table 2

Participatory Green Transition: Tools and Methods

Chair

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Overview

The group working on the theme "Participatory Green Transition: Tools and Methods" emphasizes the imperative to enhance public awareness and action on green issues. While certain steps have been taken at the European and Member State levels to make the green transition as inclusive and horizontal as possible, much remains to be accomplished. Given environmental challenges like climate change and resource depletion, participatory approaches promise a more inclusive and effective transition. These approaches follow a bottom-up activation path, ensuring the involvement of diverse social needs and risks. Employing tools and methods that empower individuals and organizations to contribute to decision-making processes is crucial for fostering a sense of shared responsibility. Examples include the four cornerstone typologies defined in the PHOENIX Project: participatory budgeting, citizens' assemblies, council conferences, and public forums.

Current Situation and Challenges

A primary challenge lies in addressing the growing lack of trust in institutional politics, a trend that poses a significant risk to climate policy-making. Climate policies are expected to generate distributional conflicts, as evident in the case of the Netherlands. Discontent at the EU level, particularly in rural areas impacted by EU regulations on agricultural emissions, contributed to the rise of right-wing populist parties. For instance, Wilder's party gained consensus in the last parliamentary election. Another aspect relates to lifestyle,

where the western "imperial way of living" must be discussed, striking a balance between individual responsibility and addressing how specific groups and companies profit from climate-degrading activities, such as fossil material extraction.

Recommended Steps

In the "Participatory Green Transition: Tools and Methods" group, the results align with the six challenges defined by the PHOENIX project:

1. Time frame of implementation
2. Complexity of the topic
3. Synergies between stakeholders in a multiscale perspective
4. Behavioral change
5. More deliberative dialogue to synthesize conflicting visions/positions
6. Increasing mutual trust

Building on these challenges, the group proposed a list of suggestions for policymakers, practitioners, civil society, and other socio-political stakeholders. The overarching theme of these suggestions is inclusivity and the need to consider everyone. Transparent processes, especially regarding monetary issues, and a continuous feedback loop from each stakeholder were emphasized (addressing challenge 6). Maintaining an updated and comprehensive stakeholder map was identified as crucial (addressing challenge 3). Lastly, concerning challenges 1 and 2, it is essential to transform macro-scale issues (climate change, poverty) into localized scales and develop local solutions. Understanding the relationship between local and global issues is also vital.