



Obstacles and Solutions on the Ladder of Citizen Participation: a Systematic Review

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Description / Abstract

This article presents a systematic review of the English-language empirical literature about citizen participation to identify the obstacles to its implementation and the most successful ways to address them. Three sets of variables seem to impact effectiveness: contextual factors, including information asymmetries and public officials' attitude; organizational arrangements, including community representation criteria and process design; and process management patterns, including group dynamics and collaboration quality. Two recommendations stem from our analysis: internalize decisions in organizational procedures, and establish ongoing interactions between government bodies and their stakeholders. We conclude that half-hearted engagement is unlikely to lead to successful citizen participation.

Publication year

2019

Publisher

Public Management Review

Keywords

Types of Participation Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)

Thematic Tagging

Gender Youth Language English View resource

Related IWRM Tools



Civil Society Organisations

B3.03

Source URL:

 $\underline{https://iwrmactionhub.org/resource/obstacles-and-solutions-ladder-citizen-participation-systematic-review}$