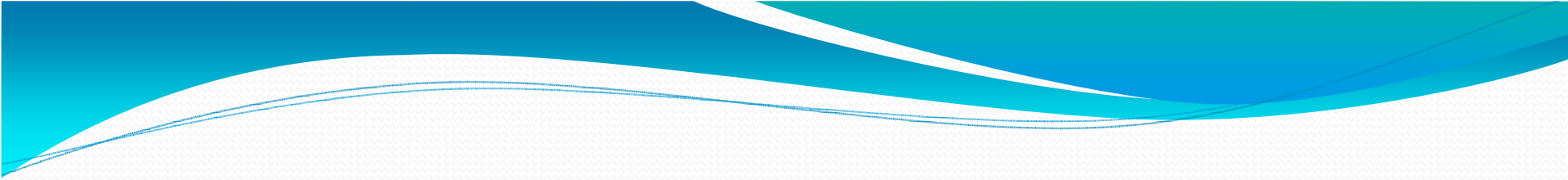


Participation

What is behind this keyword?

Stefan Huber

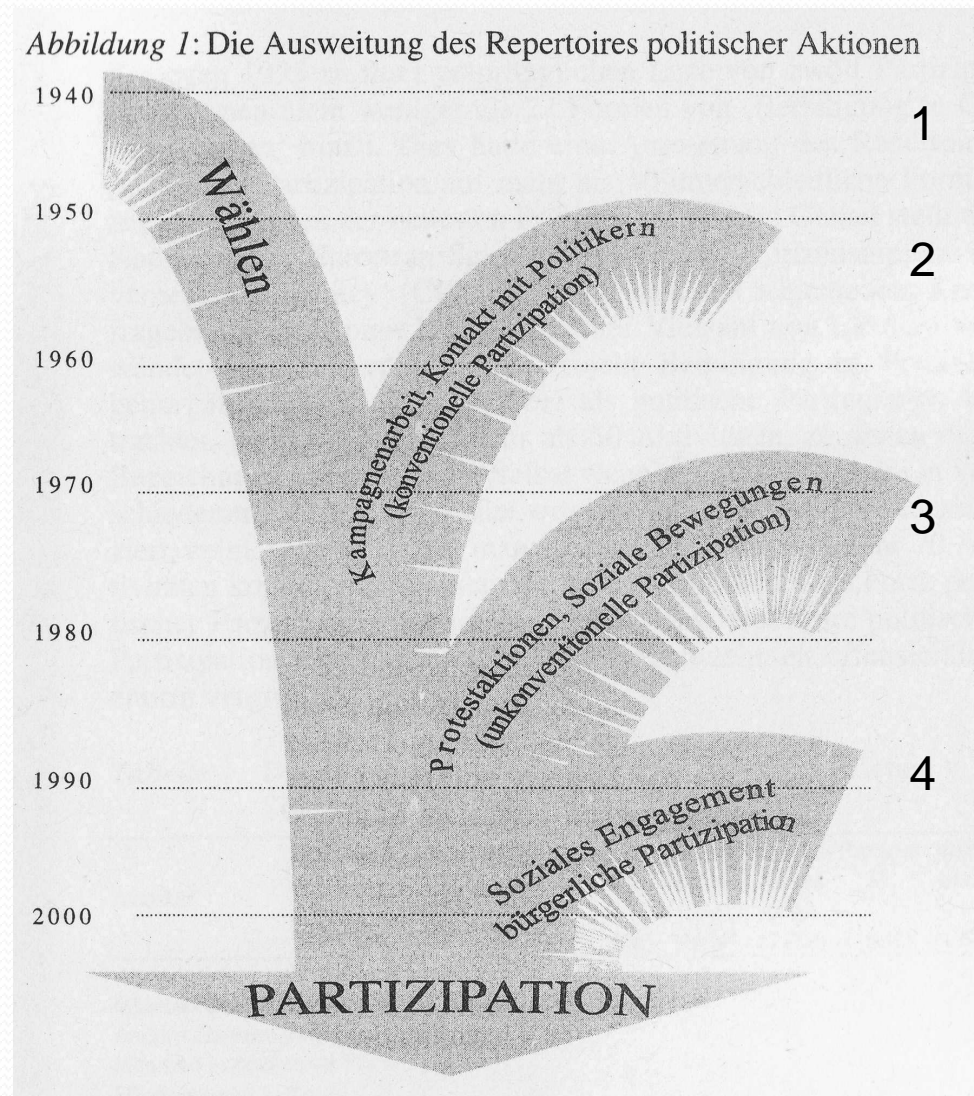


Citizen participation is at the heart of democracy. Indeed, democracy is unthinkable without the ability of citizens to participate in the governing process.

Sidney Verba et al. 1995, S. 1

Participation: Genealogy of a concept

1. **Elections (active and passive)**
2. **Conventional participation**
Petitions, representative participation
3. **Unconventional participation**
Social movements, demonstrations,
strikes und squats
Informal and action oriented
4. **Social engagement**
Volunteering
Associations...



Source: Van Deth, Jan W. 2006, S. 173

Definition

- „Through their activity citizens in a democracy seek to control who will hold public Office and to influence what government does. Political participation provides the mechanism by which citizens can communicate Information about their interests, preferences, and needs whilst generating pressure to respond”

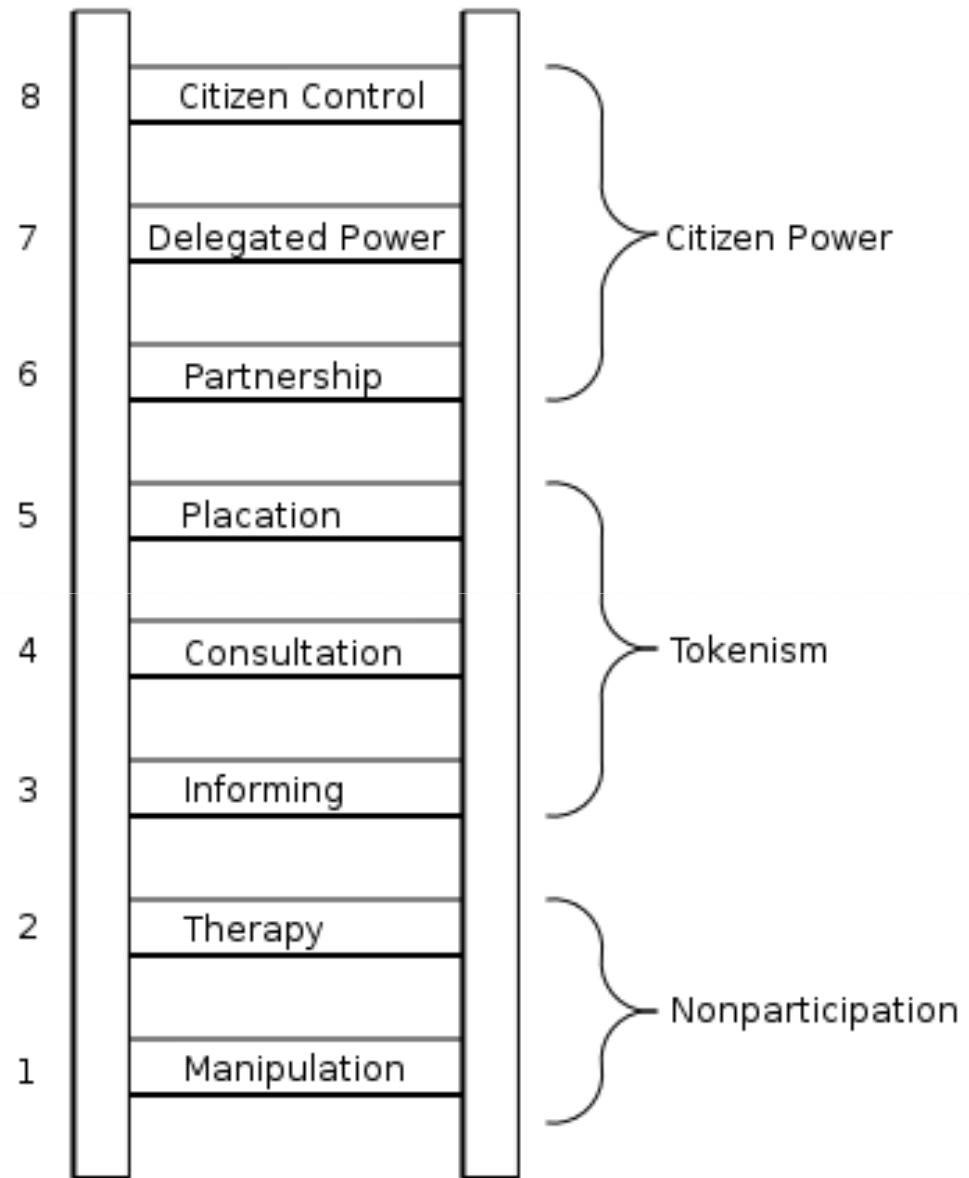
Sidney Verba et al. 1995, S. 1

Definition II

Participation refers to social acts with a specific purpose, oriented by interests. Decisions can be influenced directly or by delegating power. Participation implies taking part in decision making processes by free choice in order to achieve more balanced decisions. The most important purpose is the limitation of authority and dominance. Participation implies to assume citizen rights and duties and presupposes equality of all citizens before the law ensuring that all citizens can participate.

Vgl. Lars Holtkamp et al. 2006, S. 71f.

Ladder of Citizen Participation



Arnstein (1969)

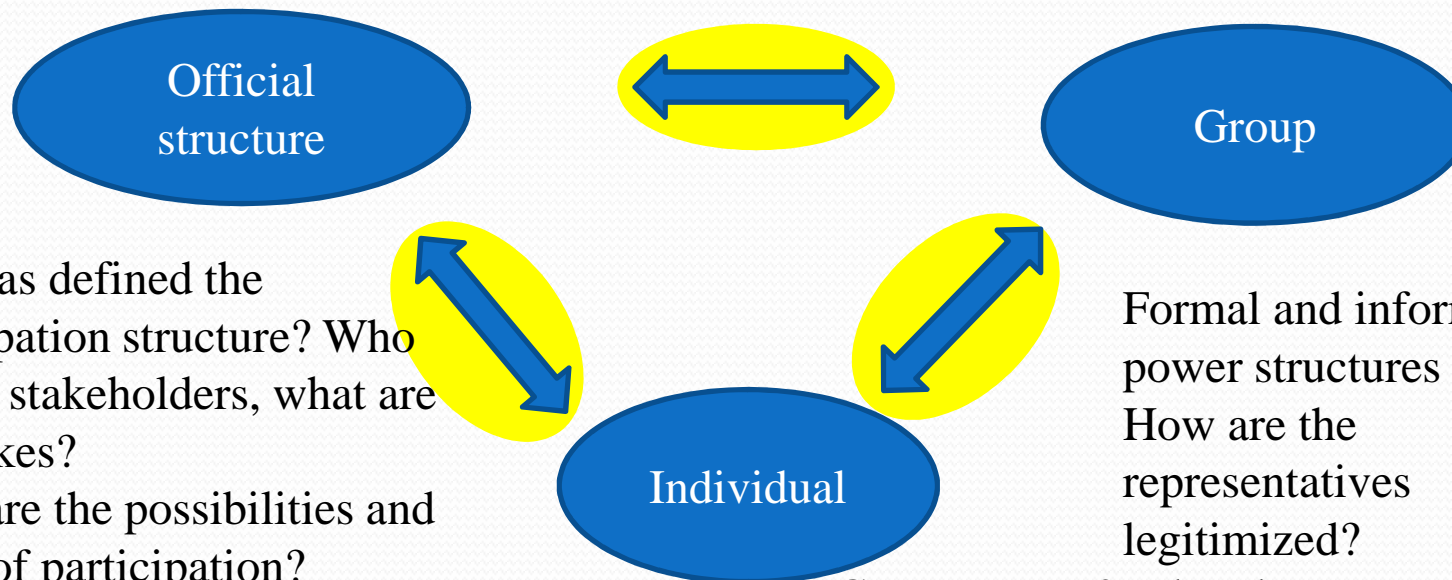
16.10.2010

Partizipation - Stefan Huber

6

Criteria and preconditions

Who lets whom participate?



Who has defined the participation structure? Who are the stakeholders, what are the stakes?
What are the possibilities and limits of participation?

Formal and informal power structures
How are the representatives legitimized?

Competences? What does empowerment mean? Who empowers whom?

How can participation be promoted? What does this mean?

What does „successful participation“ mean?

Criteria and preconditions

- Sustainability
- Guaranteed structures
- Relevant and concrete issues
- Openness
- Legitimacy
- Consciousness about conflicts
- Guaranteed rights
- Decision making influence / power
- Transparency
- Space for self organisation
- Independency

References

- Arnstein, Sherry R. "A Ladder of Citizen Participation," JAIP, Vol. 35, No. 4, July 1969, pp. 216-224.
- Bliss, Frank, und Stefan Neumann, *Zur Partizipationsdiskussion in Der Internationalen Entwicklungszusammenarbeit "State of the Art" Und Herausforderungen*, 1. Aufl (Bonn: PAS, 2007).
- Herzberg, Carsten, *Wie Partizipative Demokratie Zu Politisch-Administrativen Verbesserungen Führen Kann : Der Bürgerhaushalt Von Porto Alegre*, 3. Aufl (Münster [u.a.]: LIT, 2006).
- Holtkamp, Lars, Jörg Bogumil, und Leo Kißler, *Kooperative Demokratie : Das Demokratische Potenzial Von Bürgerengagement* (Frankfurt/Main: Campus, 2006).
- Van Deth, Jan W., 'Vergleichende Politische Partizipationsforschung', in *Vergleichende Politikwissenschaft : Ein Einführendes Studienhandbuch*, hg. v Dirk Berg-Schlosser und Ferdinand Müller-Rommel, 4. Aufl (Wiesbaden: VS Verl. für Sozialwiss., 2006).
- Verba, Sidney, Henry E. Brady, und Kay Lehman Schlozman, *Voice and Equality : Civic Voluntarism in American Politics* (Cambridge Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1995).