

A GUIDE TO INFORMATION SOURCES ON PARTICIPATION, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Participation Pages (The British Council)

This site contains fundamental information on participation, a typology of participation, examples of widespread participatory approaches, a substantial list of participation discussion lists, and a guide to information sources on participation. (<http://www.britcoun.org/governance/democ/participation/part1.htm>).

The guide provides a selection of resources that can be used as a starting point for research on participation, participatory methodologies, and their applications. It provides general information, networks, on-line full text “reference” guides on participation, sources on more specific fields, on-line training material, electronic discussion lists, and information on training courses and events. (<http://www.britcoun.org/governance/democ/participation/part7.htm>).

Based in London, the Resource Centre at IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) provides a comprehensive service for those seeking practical information on all aspects of participatory methodologies, with a particular focus on their application and integration into institutional structures. IIED has gathered a vast amount of authoritative information in these areas and has become involved in the development of a global network of partner Resource Centres (RCPLA Network - Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action) to help supply reliable information and training on participation. The Resource Centre’s PLA collection includes materials on participatory approaches from around the world. The documentation consists mainly of unpublished literature, case studies and reports, and features material in more than ten languages. New items are added to this expanding collection every month. The PLA database contains bibliographic information on more than 2000 documents and includes a full index, with abstracts, of the journal PLA Notes. The database is fully searchable on the Resource Centre website and is also available as a CD-ROM. The Resource Centre operates a document delivery service. (<http://www.iied.org/resource/>).

The Participation Group at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex, works on participatory approaches to development. Their major focus is in supporting South-South sharing workshops, exchange visits and information exchange between practitioners, local people, government workers, NGO and donor staff. The Participation Group also convenes action research projects, disseminates writing, provides training and catalyses and supports participation networks around the world. The Participation Group Reading Room at IDS holds a collection of about 3000 documents consisting mainly of unpublished, practical information on participation derived from donations and exchanges with practitioners and networks worldwide. The collection database can be searched on the IDS website. (<http://www.ids.ac.uk/ids/particip/readrm.html>).

ELDIS is a gateway to on-line information on development and the environment, focusing on countries of the South. It provides a number of descriptions and links to a variety of information sources, including WWW and gopher sites, databases, library catalogues, bibliographies, full-text documents, email discussion lists, research project information, map and newspaper collections. (<http://>

nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/). The guide is an excellent place to begin a search for organizations and information related to participation. This page provides links to major web sites, bibliographical sources, organizations and discussion lists. (<http://nt1.ids.ac.uk/eldis/pr/pra.htm>).

DIMENSIONS - People's Participation Section (FAO)

This site on the People's Participation section of Sustainable Development DIMENSIONS, includes lessons from the FAO People's Participation Programme, the Plan of Action for People's Participation in Rural Development, FAO's participatory projects and research activities, reports, publications, and more. (http://www.fao.org/waicent/faoinfo/sustdev/PEdef_en.htm).

Resources @ Participation (FAO)

This resource site offers extensive information on participatory development. It contains 1) Library - a detailed annotated bibliographical database of FAO publications or other publications available at FAO in Rome, dealing with participatory topics. 2) Field tools and methods - a detailed database on participatory methods/tools/approaches developed or applied by FAO. Over time this section is to grow and include other methodologies developed outside FAO. Users are invited to contribute to the section by sharing with FAO participatory methodologies developed by your institution. 3) Projects - provides a map-based navigation guide to FAO projects that have a participatory focus/component. 4) Lessons learned - this section is meant to help people in learning from each other's experiences concerning the practical application of participatory methods/approaches in projects. Examples of successful application as well as lessons learned regarding difficulties and obstacles when applying participatory approaches are presented. Emphasis is placed on conclusions, recommendations and lessons learned in projects, to help others avoid the same mistakes and through building on achievements and best practices. (<http://www.fao.org/Participation/resources.html>).

Websites @ participation (FAO)

An extensive list of over 100 hyperlinks to other websites on participation. (<http://www.fao.org/Participation/websites.html>).

Internet Guide for Participation (USAID)

Extensive online guide on participation including hyperlinks on: *Organizations with a Participation Focus/Component, Online Guides to Participation, Selected Web Sites on Specific Participation Topics, On-line Catalogues/Resources for books on Participation*. (http://www.usaid.gov/about/part_devel/docs/webguide.html).

Stories, Lessons, and Challenges (USAID)

This document provides information on USAID's experience with participation. It contains a donor's perspective on participation, past examples of participatory approaches, and discussions on the costs and benefits of applying participation to development work. (http://www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACG035.pdf).

Participation Thematic Team Website (World Bank)

This site is intended for readers who have already decided to use participatory approaches in their professional work. Its intent is also to strengthen the reader's ideas about participation and how they do their work. (<http://www.worldbank.org/participation/>).

Public Participation Campaign Website - Publications

Good Practices in Public Participation. NGO background document for the 4th Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe”, Aarhus, Denmark (1998). It was provided as preparatory material for the NGO session on the theme of “strengthening participatory democracy in sustainable development.” It contains examples of good practices in public participation. (<http://www.participate.org/publications/publications.htm>).

Best Practices Database (UNCHS and Together Foundation)

This searchable database contains over 1100 proven solutions from more than 120 countries to the common social, economic, and environmental problems of an urbanizing world. It demonstrates the practical ways in which communities, governments, and the private sector are working together to improve governance, eradicate poverty, provide access to shelter, land and basic services, protect the environment, and support economic development. (<http://www.bestpractices.org/>).

MOST Best Practices (UNESCO)

The goal of a database on Best Practices is to present and promote creative, successful and sustainable solutions to social problems arising from poverty and social exclusion in order to build a bridge between empirical solutions, research, and policy. Best Practices, in the MOST Database, are model projects or policies aimed at improving the quality of life of individuals or groups suffering from poverty or social exclusion. They are typically based on the cooperation between national or local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local communities, the private sector, and academic communities. (<http://www.unesco.org/most/bphome.htm>).

Sourcebook on National Integrity Systems (Transparency International)

This sourcebook brings together “best practice” in the area of building and maintaining a country’s national integrity system. It discusses the concepts and their application in practice. There is a compilation of “best practice” documentation entitled “TI Best Practice Documentation”: codes, laws, rules, instruments, and other documentation designed to make an integrity system function. (<http://www.transparency.org/documents/source-book/about.html>).

Best Practice Documentation on Transparency

Whistleblowers Protection Bill 1992 (New South Wales) (<http://www.transparency.org/documents/source-book/c/cvF/f5.html>).

The RCPLA (Resource Centres for Participatory Learning and Action) initiative brings together 15 organisations (5 in Africa, 5 in Asia, 3 in South America, 2 in Europe) committed to information sharing and networking within the framework of participatory methodologies and approaches. Partner organisations also share information about trainings, workshops, and events concerning participation. (<http://www.rcpla.org>).

APPENDIX

The objective of this initiative is to enable people to initiate action for self-reliant and sustainable development by acquiring the ability to participate in the various levels of decision making (with community leaders, government officials, donor organisations, and private sector) that impact their lives.



University of Victoria's



Centre for Global Studies



*PO Box 1700 STN CSC
Victoria BC
Canada V8W 2Y2
www.globalcentres.org*

