



# Youth Participation

## What?

We develop innovative policies

## How?

European network (30 countries)

Expert pool & ICT

## Why?

Active participation of citizens





## Who we are?

- Out of the Box International is a European Network which brings together different actors working on social innovations
- tackling old problems with new project ideas and policy initiatives



## Our role

- to design innovative social projects to respond to the persistent social and economic challenges;
- empowering people's potential and facilitating their active engagement in society;



## NETWORK

\* 30 ORGANISATIONS IN 21 COUNTRIES

- YOUTH NGO
- NGO
- SME
- MUNICIPALITIES
- EDUCATIONAL PROVIDERS
- THINK TANKS



## Expert pool

- based on Communities of Practice
- different expertise and cross sectorial approach

### Ehsan Norouzi



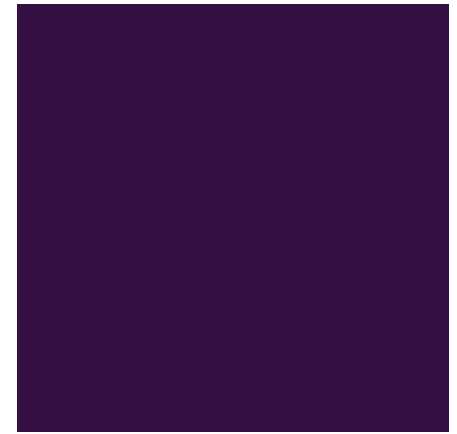
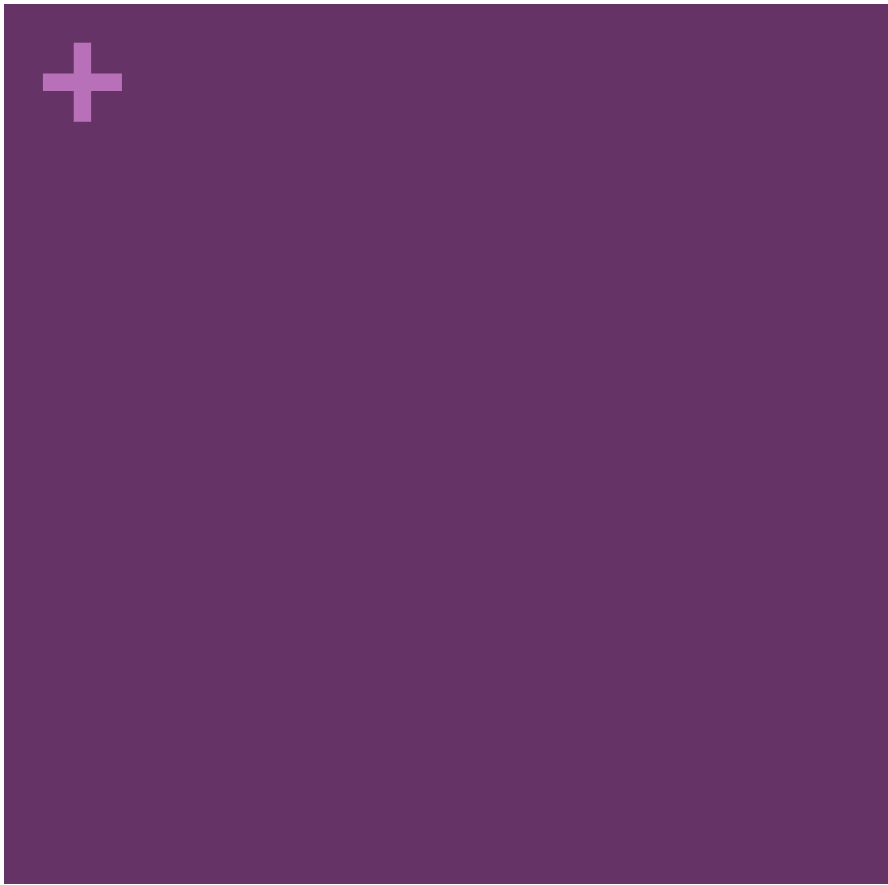
**Country:** Iran/Germany

**Bio:** Ehsan Norouzi is an Iranian techno-politics journalist at Deutsche Welle, in a group of young Iranian journalists who are monitoring social media and Iranian users' activities on cyberspace and covering its political and social impacts, besides

running training programs on web security, privacy and online censorship circumvention. He studied computer engineering in Iran, and since the disputed election in June 2009, he's been living in Berlin, Germany. Since then, he's worked as a freelance journalist and Internet Freedom/Cybersecurity consultant on different ICT projects related to censorship and Internet Governance, mostly focused on Iran and Middle East.

**Areas of expertise:** Internet censorship, Internet security, Multimedia journalism

**Contact:** <http://twitter.com/ehsanism>



## Different levels of Youth Participation



# Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

## Intro



- **Roger Hart** (1992) proposed the first comprehensive definition of the concept of youth participation.
- he described participation as the process of **sharing decisions** that affect young people's life and the life of the community in which they live.
- it is the means by which **democracy** is built and it is a standard how democracies should be measured.
- according to Hart, participation is the fundamental **right of citizenship**.



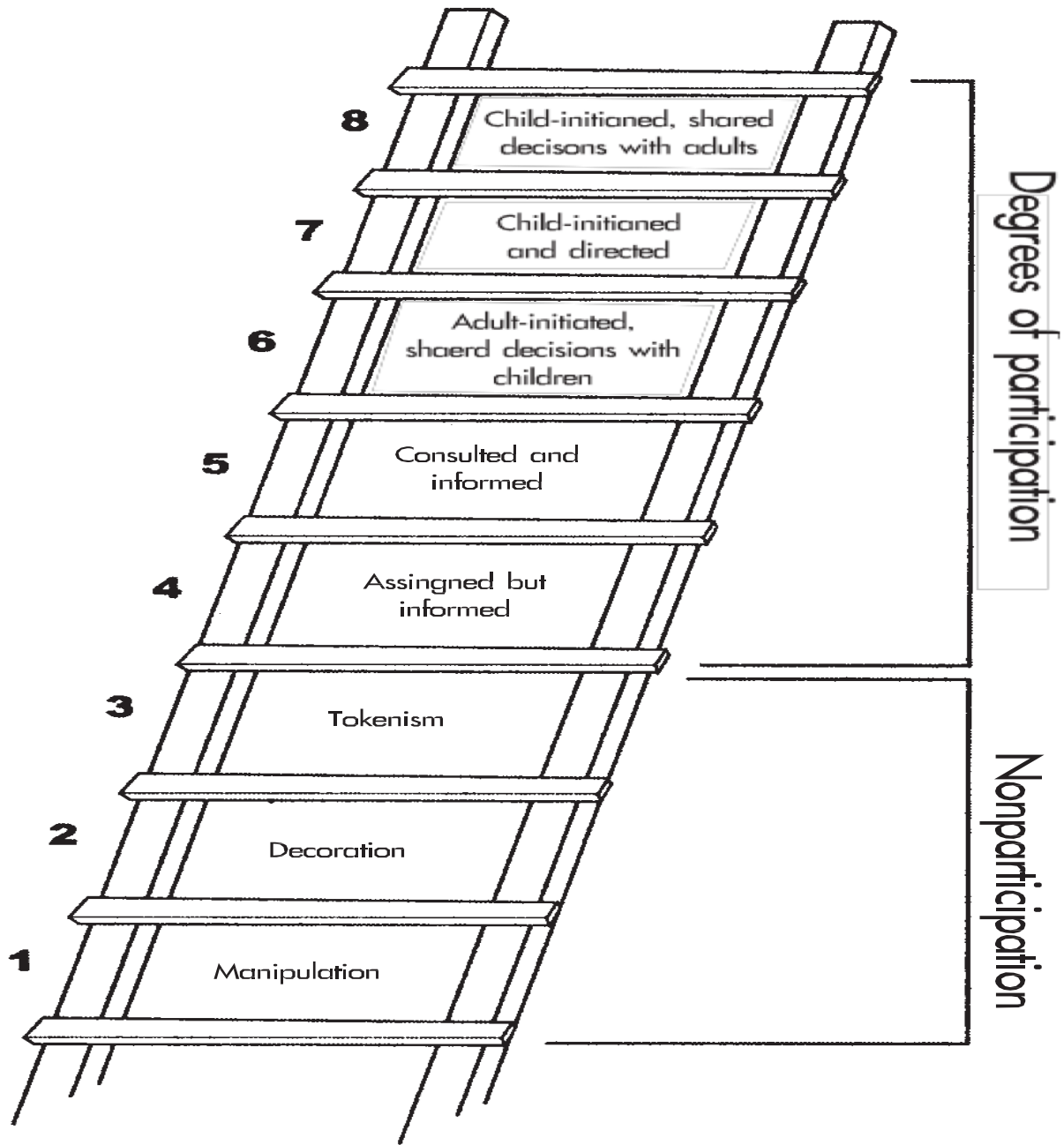


# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

## Intro



- the key element of Hart's definition is **decision-making**.
- he describes participation as a **ladder**, with levels of youth involvement in projects ranging from non-participation to a full participation.
- he identifies eight (8) **levels** of participation.



# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 1.

## ■ **Manipulation:**

- young people have **no understanding** of the issues and do not understand their actions.
- they are consulted but given **no feedback** on how the ideas they shared during the processes are used.

# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 2.



## ■ **Decoration:**

- youth participation involves providing **entertainment** through performances or simply providing evidence of their involvement.

## + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 3.

- **Tokenism:**
- youth appear to have a voice.
- they are invited to sit in conference panels as representatives of youth but provided no opportunity to formulate their ideas on the subject of discussion.
- no process enables them to consult with other youth they are supposed to represent.

# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 4.

## ■ **Assigned-but-informed:**

- this level represents the first level of real participation.
- youth understand the intentions of the project.
- they know who made the decision concerning their involvement and why.
- they have a meaningful role.
- they volunteered for the project after it was made clear to them.

# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 5.



## ■ **Consulted-and-informed:**

- the project is designed and run by adults but young people understand the project and their opinions are treated seriously.

## + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 6.

- **Adult-initiated and shared decisions with young people:**
- although adults initiated the project, decision-making is shared with young people.



# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 7.



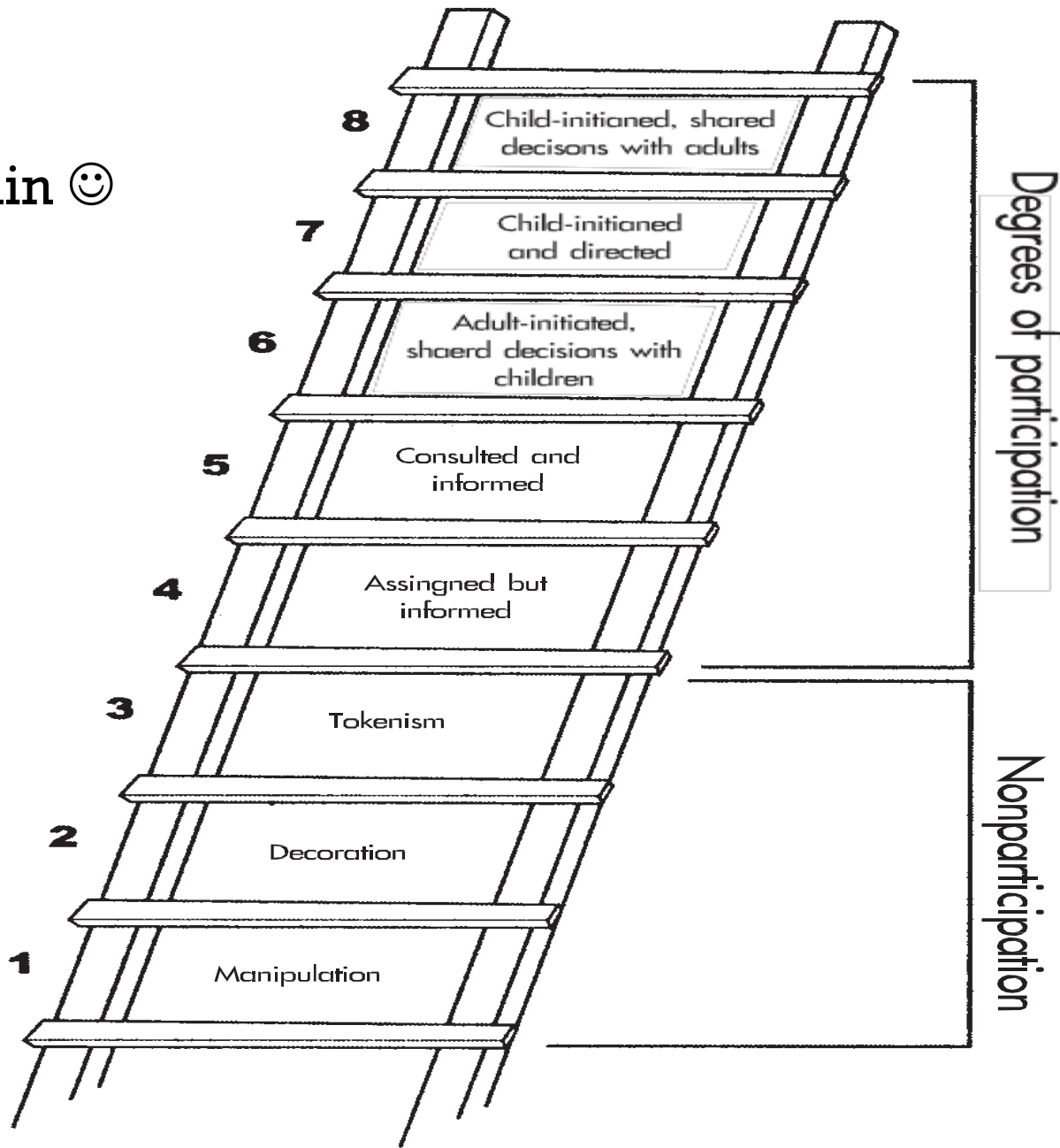
- **Youth-initiated and directed:**
- youth can initiate and direct their own projects and initiatives.
- adults are able to leave youth alone to design their own projects.

## + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation Level 8.

- **Youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults:**
- this is the highest level of participation.
- young people incorporate adults into projects they have designed and managed.
- this kind of participation is very rare. ☹️



And again 😊



# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

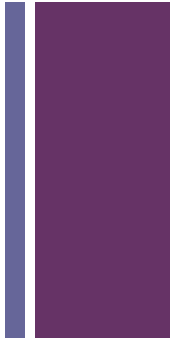
## Conclusions

- the ladder of youth participation is very **popular** and is used when promoting youth participation.
- the ladder is a scale that can be used in different situations **to measure** the degree of youth participation.
- the ladder says nothing about **the purpose** and content of youth participation.



## Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

### How to use this?



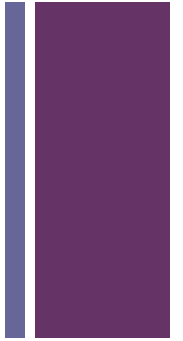
- this could be used to **determine the degree** to which youth are able to express their opinions and how seriously these opinions are taken on board in your project.
- it would be useful to define more clearly what needs to be done (actions) **to increase** youth participation and contribution in projects.
- youth work experience says that **“when young people engage and become active, they will never let it go!”**

# + Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation

## Share with us.



- can you really relate this to your reality?
- what is your experience from your city/region?
- do you have any idea how to increase active youth involvement in city life?



# Alternative Forms

# + Ichmache>Politik

**Ichmache>Politik** is a project of the German Federal Youth Council which uses digital methods (ePartool) to support young people's participation in policy making at a national level.

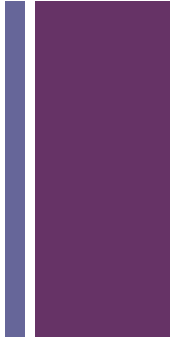
Consultation with young people via the **ePartool** is structured in 'participation rounds' in different phases, from an introductory information phase to the follow-up stages where the (re)actions from policymakers to the contributions.



# + Iceland / Young people's involvement in creating a national constitution



- **six short animated films** about the main parts of the constitution were produced, explaining the subject with a voice-over and cartoon drawings.
- they were accompanied by guidelines for teachers.
- Postcards advertising the project's website were sent to school students, encouraging them to access the site and to air their opinions on the constitution.



“Participation in the democratic life is about **more than voting** or standing for election, although these are important elements. Participation and active citizenship is about having the **right**, the means, the space and the opportunity and where necessary **the support** to participate in and **influence** decisions and engage in actions and activities so as to contribute to building a better society.”





The key findings are that:

▶ co-management, co-production, digital participation, deliberative participation and for some, the concept of ‘participatory spaces’ are seen as the **more innovative forms** of participation;

▶ youth councils and similar bodies, and youth activism or popular protest are seen as the **less innovative forms** of participation;



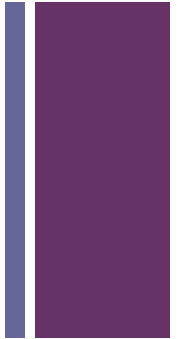


- in general, the **‘more innovative forms’** are **not more or less effective** than the **‘less innovative forms’**;

- these more innovative forms are facing similar barriers to those faced by youth councils and forums in terms of young people’s views being taken into account by public bodies.

**Barriers include:**

- lack of funds and resources;
- lack of political support;
- lack of understanding by public authorities;



+ **Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation**  
**Share with us.**



■ **questions?**

**+ Roger Hart's Ladder of Participation**  
**Share with us.**



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