

# Public participation as measured by Participatory technology assessment (PTA)

## Dimension - Institutional Arrangements

Associated Key Factor:

### Civil society and participation

Data Source:

Publication

Simon Joss and Sergio Bellucci (eds), Participatory Technology Assessment; European Perspectives, London, CSD/TA Swiss, 2002

Refer to publisher details at indicator level

<http://www.wmin.ac.uk/csd/Publications/pubs.htm>

General Availability:

Reporting unit: Country; Policy Sector

### The indicator:

Participatory technology assessment (PTA) refers to those methods and procedures that are used in the assessment of socio-technological issues for involving social actors (including civil society organisations and citizens) in the decision-making process.

### Description

Existence and use of PTA across policy sectors reflects the commitment of policy to an open process of decision-making that involves citizens and civil society organisations besides experts, governments and stakeholders.

### How is it measured?

Methods and procedures covered by PTA include: consensus conferences, citizen juries, scenario workshops, Delphi surveys and voting conferences. Existence of PTA mechanisms can be established per policy sector through the review of legal / policy documentation and interviews with key actors. The scope and success of PTA can be established through case studies and participatory observation. Quantitative performance criteria have still to be defined.

### What are the advantages of the indicator?

Useful in tapping the openness of specific policy sectors to multi-level governance, including participation.

### What are the disadvantages of the Indicator?

Collection of relevant information is both labour and time-intensive as it is policy / country specific. Quantitative descriptive and performance criteria have still to be defined.

### What is the policy relevance of the indicator?

PTA throws light on the existence of a dialogue between the decision-makers and the citizens.

### The Indicator is relevant for the following pathways of the FORESIGHT FOR TRANSPORT exercise:

	Transport Impact	External Determining Variable	Intermediate Variable	Contextual Information
Environmental concerns	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>