



Informal Participation Methods

- An Addition to Formal Urban and Spatial Planning Systems -

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MINIPART aims to identify the most appropriate participation methods tailored to all stakeholders in mining areas.

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IMPROVING PARTICIPATION IN SPATIAL PLANNING OF MINING AREAS

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Identified problems

Legal participation methods are limited in:

- Variety
- Inclusiveness
- Adaptability to populations with specific needs

Unclear understanding between:

- Methods
- Approaches
- Techniques
- Tools
- Channels



Criteria to categorize participation methods

1. Communication mode

- Online
- Face-to-face

2. Number of required participants

- Solitary
- In pairs
- Groups

3. Type of communication

- Verbal
- Non-verbal
- Mix of verbal and non-verbal

4. Location/setting

- Indoors
- Outdoors

5. Presentation of materials and outputs

- Text-based
- Visual-based
- Mixed

6. Purpose (close to Arnstein's Ladder of Participation)

- Education, informing, training (improving participants understanding and quality of their future participation)
- Show for passive review
- Show for active review
- Involve in collecting data
- Involve to get ideas
- Involve in formulating solutions
- Self-involvement and development of solutions



Criteria to categorize approaches

1. Iteration frequency

- One-time participation
- Two-time participation
- Multi-time participation
- Continuous participation

2. Involvement phase

- Problem Identification / Needs Assessment
- Conceptual (Visioning / Idea Generation)
- Drafting (Plan Development)
- Draft commenting (Feedback and Validation)
- Decision-Making / Plan Approval
- Implementation
- Monitoring and Evaluation

3. Inclusiveness of stakeholders (number of participants)

- Everybody
- Interested parties
- Representatives

4. Initiators (depending on interest)

- Individuals and/or groups of general interest (local community)
- Groups of particular interest (unions, investors, industry representatives, professional associations, etc.)
- Government
- NGOs
- Planners
- Academia / Researchers
- Mixed

5. Inclusiveness of stakeholders (regarding the sector)

- Anybody (General Public)
- Civil Sector (NGOs, Community Groups)
- Private sector
- Business sector
- Governing sector
- Academia
- Experts
- Specific mix

6. Flexibility

- Open options (you can give any answer or suggestion)
- Closed options (you can choose only between offered options)



Informing participatory methods

- Posts on social media
- Television
- Flyers
- Reports ...

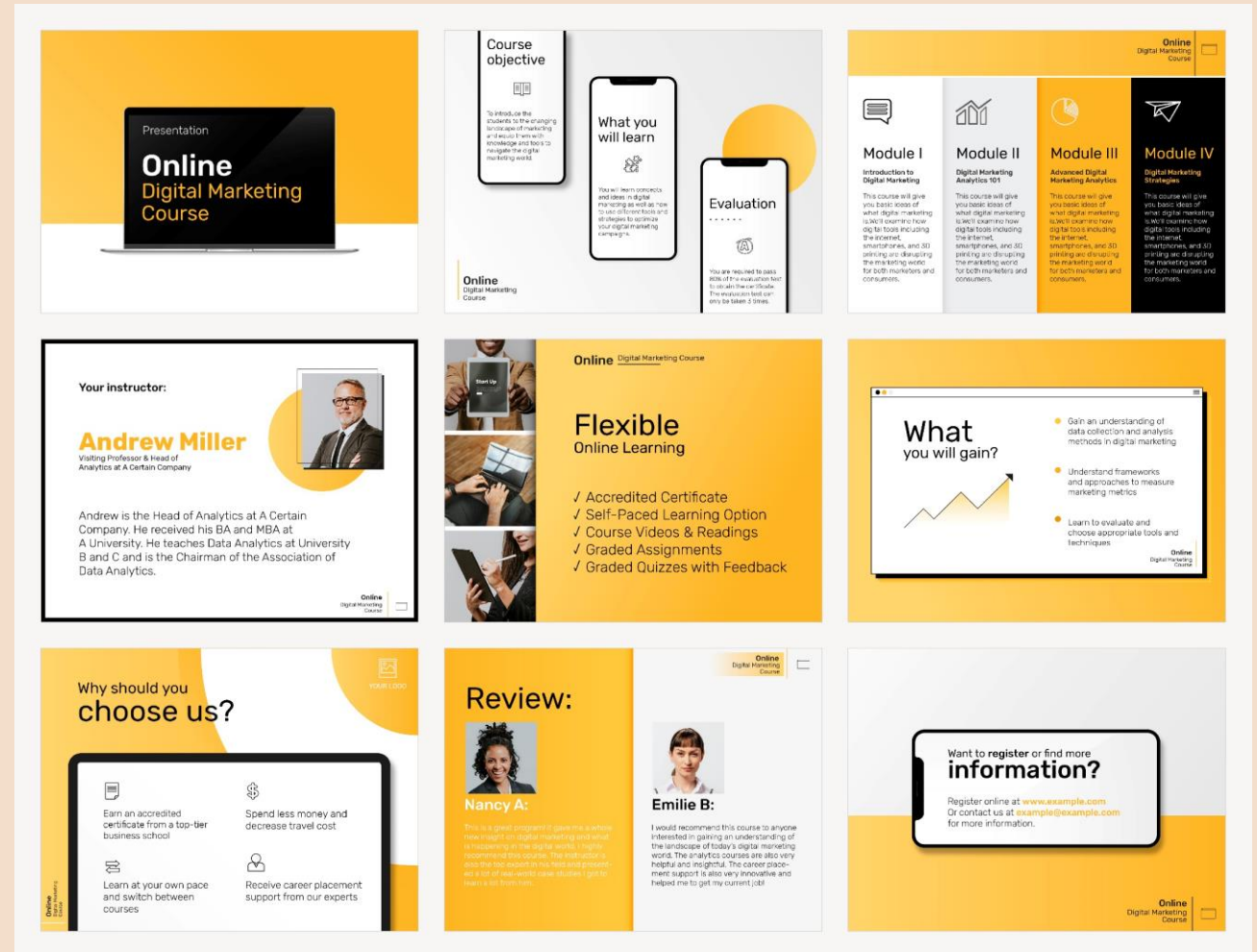


Image sources: FreePic



Independant engagement (no interaction with other participants)

- Submitting comments
- Fulfilling a questionnaire
- Voting ...



Image source: Chat GPT





Working with other participants

- Workshops
- Focus groups
- Discussions
- Seminars ...



Image source: AI generated (Copilot)

Formation of specialised groups



Image source: FreePic



Standardised-document format

- Social Licence to Operate
- Community Benefit Agreements
- Corporate Social Responsibility ...



Image source: FreePic



Conclusions

Legal participation methods must be enriched by use of informal participation methods for increasing meaningfulness:

- (1) Inclusivity and Richness: Informal methods often engage a broader range of people, including those who might not participate in formal processes. This inclusivity ensures diverse perspectives are considered.
- (2) Building Social Capital: These methods help build social networks and trust among community members, which can be vital community resilience. Therefore, they (3) Enhance Public Consensus.
- (4) Improved Understanding of the Issue: Leads to more informed and contextually relevant planning understanding and outcomes.
- (5) Promptness: Some informal methods can enable quick responses to emerging issues and demand less time. A clear distinction between methods, approaches, techniques, tools, and channels enables the effective evaluation and meaningful application of participatory steps.

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Thank you for your attention

Project partners:



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