

## About IAP2 Federation

Founded in 1990 by a group of dedicated P2 practitioners, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2 Federation) has grown into an international federation of over 2600 professionals in 26 countries working to advance the practice of public participation (P2). National affiliates and their members benefit from research, training and networking opportunities with IAP2 Federation peers.

*“IAP2 Federation’s focus on practical tools and best practices has made it a vital resource for developing effective P2 processes.”*

## Training Today’s Practitioners for Tomorrow’s Challenges

IAP2 Federation works with 33 international licensed trainers. Find one in your area: [Trainers List](#) or browse our [Training Calendar](#)

## Become a Member

IAP2 Federation is composed of [national affiliates](#), including Australasia, Canada, France, Italy, Indonesia, Southern Africa, and the USA. Portugal is an emerging affiliate. To become a member, contact your [local affiliate](#) or [iap2hq@iap2.org](mailto:iap2hq@iap2.org)

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## Public Participation Pillars



[www.iap2.org](http://www.iap2.org)

Helping you design and implement effective public participation programs

## IAP2 Federation - The P2 Pillars

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 Federation has developed three pillars for effective public participation (P2) processes. Developed with broad international input, these pillars cross national, cultural, and religious boundaries and form the foundation of P2 processes that reflect the interests and concerns of all stakeholders.

- 1 Spectrum
- 2 Core Values
- 3 Code of Ethics

### Spectrum

IAP2 Federation has developed The Spectrum of Public Participation to help groups define the public's role in any public engagement process. The IAP2 Federation Spectrum is quickly becoming an international standard.

|                           | inform   | consult  | involve  | collaborate  | empower  |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Public Participation Goal | To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problems, alternatives and/or solutions. | To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision  | To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public issues and concerns are consistently understood and considered.  | To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.                            | To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.   |
| Promise to the Public     | We will keep you informed.   | We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.          | We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and issues are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. | We will look to you for direct advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible. | We will implement what you decide.   |
| Example Tools             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fact sheets</li> <li>• Websites</li> <li>• Open houses</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public comment</li> <li>• Focus groups</li> <li>• Surveys</li> <li>• Public meetings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops</li> <li>• Deliberate polling</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen Advisory committees</li> <li>• Consensus-building</li> <li>• Participatory decision-making</li> </ul>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizen juries</li> <li>• Ballots</li> <li>• Delegated decisions</li> </ul> |

### Core Values

IAP2 Federation's [Core Values](#) define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. Processes based on the Core Values have been shown to be the most successful and respected.

#### Core Values for Public Participation

- 1 Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- 2 Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- 3 Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
- 4 Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- 5 Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- 6 Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- 7 Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.



### Code of Ethics

IAP2 Federation's [Code of Ethics](#) is a set of principles that guides the actions of P2 practitioners and enhances the integrity of the public participation process.

#### Purpose

We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.

#### Role of Practitioner

We will enhance the public's participation in the decision-making process and assist decision makers in being responsive to the public's concerns and suggestions.

#### Trust

We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.

#### Defining the Public's Role

We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public's role in the decision-making process.

#### Openness

We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public's understanding and evaluation of a decision.

#### Access to the Process

We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.

#### Respect for Communities

We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to "divide and conquer."

#### Advocacy

We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.

#### Commitments

We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision-maker, are made in good faith.

#### Support of the Practice

We will mentor new practitioners in the field and educate decision-makers and the public about the value and use of public participation.