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The Meaning of Participation
abstract Abstract

The Meaning of Participation:
Participation in political decisions is a controversial topic. In general it is often seen as positive and sometimes even necessary from the public's site.

Such discrepancies are looked at and if the virtual outcome of the examined Consensus Conference on Radioactive Waste is exceeding a mere consultation of the public. Key questions are: Who is why operating the consensus conference? Who is taking part? How are opinions and decisions (in both directions) being influenced by formal and informal hierarchies?

The way of opinion formation is critically analyzed and there are premises worked out that would be required for actual democratic participation.