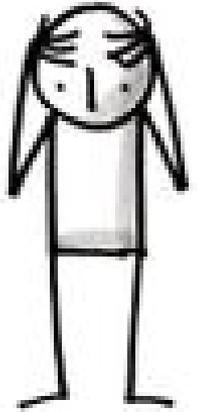


# From European Citizens in Movement to CLEARing Participation

just

# LET IT BE MESSY



REINFORCING LOCAL PARTICIPATION FOR A DEMOCRATIC EUROPE  
International Conference

27 november'15  
Loulé | Portugal

“Education either functions as an instrument which is used to facilitate integration of the younger generation into the logic of the present system and bring about conformity or it becomes the practice of freedom, the means by which men and women deal critically and creatively with reality and discover how to participate in the transformation of their world”.

Paulo Freire



“If we can **redefine** apathy, not as some kind of internal syndrome, but as a complex web of cultural barriers that reinforces disengagement, and if we clearly **identify** what those obstacles are, and then if we can work together collectively to **dismantle** those obstacles, then anything is possible.”

Dave Meslin



# Do I know how to participate?

Developing the necessary skills, embracing the required attitudes and using the essential knowledge are the three basic competences that should be developed in order to engage in participatory democracy.



# The CLEAR model

**C**an do

**L**ike to

**E**nabled to

**A**sked to

**R**esponded to

[Vivien Lowndes, Lawrence Pratchett and Gerry Stoker]



## From institutions to collectives

Stressing out the dimension of citizen participation on the “res publica” isn’t a new idea: for John Stuart Mill, participation at the local level was a way of aspiring to higher wills, essential to feed the spirits and develop intelligence, a way of socializing towards norms and social values.





## Participatory Democracy and Equal Opportunities

a capacitation strategy for local intervention agents



**CLEARing Participation**  
Active Citizenship for  
Sustainable Democracy



COMMUNITY-SHARED RESPONSIBILITY  
TO PROMOTE DISADVANTAGED  
PEOPLE'S INCLUSION PATHS





Participation is a process.

Participation involves change.

Participation is learning.

We learn to participate by participating.

Participation is a right (not an obligation).



“Anne Balsamo notes, “Participation is another one of those keywords everybody loves. Who can be against participation? Like kittens, we all should just love participation” (2013). Unfortunately for those who defend it, **participation is messy, unevenly distributed, difficult to predict, prone to spur the forces of reaction, and likely to die out without infrastructure to sustain it.** Kittens could certainly be compared to the forces of participation, but so could mountain lions.”

Elisabeth Losh



Thank you.

