

The effects of deliberative democracy on citizens: The case of the first cross-border Euregio citizens' council

In recent decades, various experiences of citizen involvement in public choices have flourished in different parts of the world in response to the crisis of contemporary representative democracy (Bobbio/Pomatto 2007). The so-called citizens' councils are living examples of deliberative forms of participation and show a new way of cooperation between politics, administration, and citizens. They have significant influence on the citizens' identification with their constituency and the challenges that the administration and politics face (Handler et al. 2018). With the reform of its statutes in 2021, the EGCT Euregio Tyrol-South Tyrol-Trentino introduced its first euroregional citizens' council, which took place in Arco (Trentino) in October of 2022. Building on original, empirical evidence obtained within the framework of the Arco council, this chapter aims to analyze the effects on the participants of this cross-border citizens' council, focusing on three main aspects: the informative, the democracy-promoting and trust-building as well as the empowerment function of the council.

Keywords: participatory governance, citizens' council, cross-border participation, EGTC

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