

Public Participation State of the Practice

SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY INCLUDING COMMENTS

September 2016

As promised, we are sharing the full survey results so that folks can see what was identified as important from our 233 respondents. Feel free to use the data as you wish, but please let folks know where you got it and its obvious limitations.

The results summary can also be found on line at:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-T8KSK72X/>.

So, here is the important context:

- Most important, we don't claim to have statistically significant data. It was not really our goal and we did not have the funding or resources to do so
- We created a series of questions that piqued our curiosity as long-time public participation practitioners
- We were looking for input from our peers who are conducting this work
- We reached out to our own professional network, IAP2 USA and Canada, and the NCDD
- Our goal was to gain some insight about how the forces of internet technology and partisan politics over the past decade or so is changing our practice
- And to start a conversation so that we can enhance our understanding and improve as a community of practitioners.

Overall, we find these results heartening. Rather than describing a diminished role and importance of public participation in the face of many challenges, respondents noted that agencies who use public participation continue to work hard to use and promote public input in the important work of governing. While none of us is blind to the challenges, this certainly aligns with our own experience.

Over the coming weeks, we hope to look deeper into this information as we have our own conversations at the IAP2 Conference and beyond. We will be blogging about our own insights and conclusions at www.theparticipationcompany.com and we hope to continue to hear from folks about how we take this great profession into the 21st century.

Thanks to everyone who responded. We hope you find something of interest in these results.

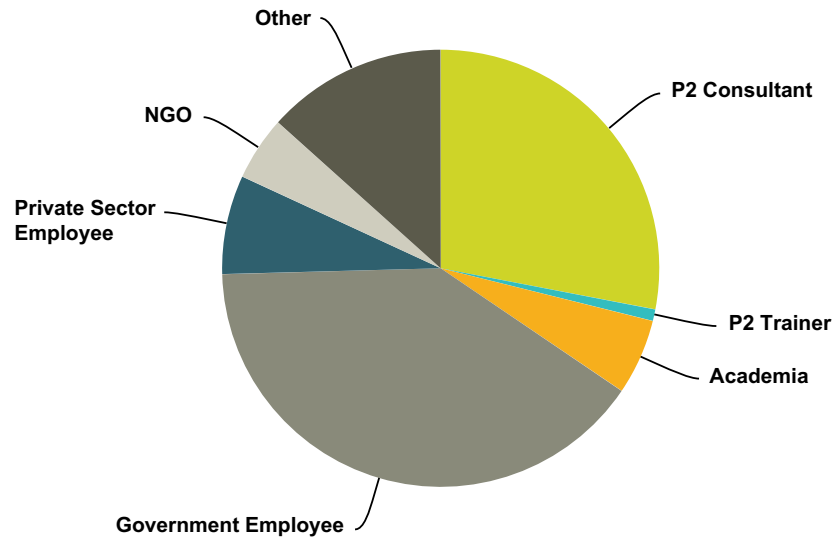
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www.theparticipationcompany.com

Q1 Please classify your primary professional role

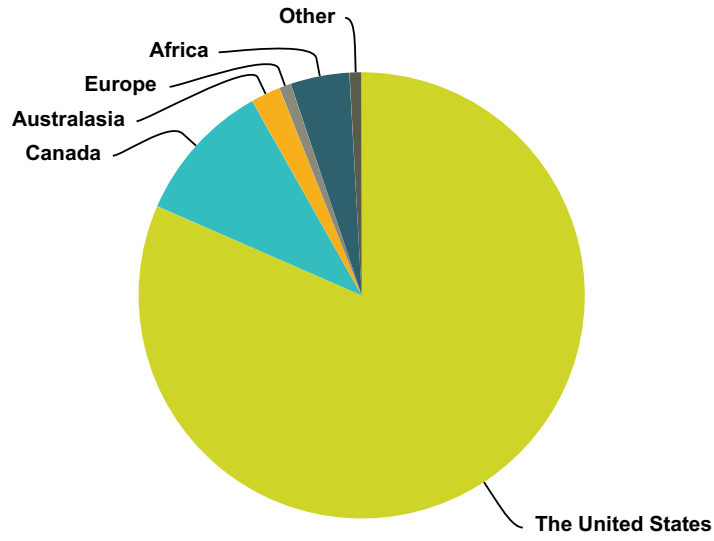
Answered: 232 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
P2 Consultant	28.02%	65
P2 Trainer	0.86%	2
Academia	5.60%	13
Government Employee	40.09%	93
Private Sector Employee	7.33%	17
NGO	4.74%	11
Other	13.36%	31
Total		232

Q2 I work primarily in:

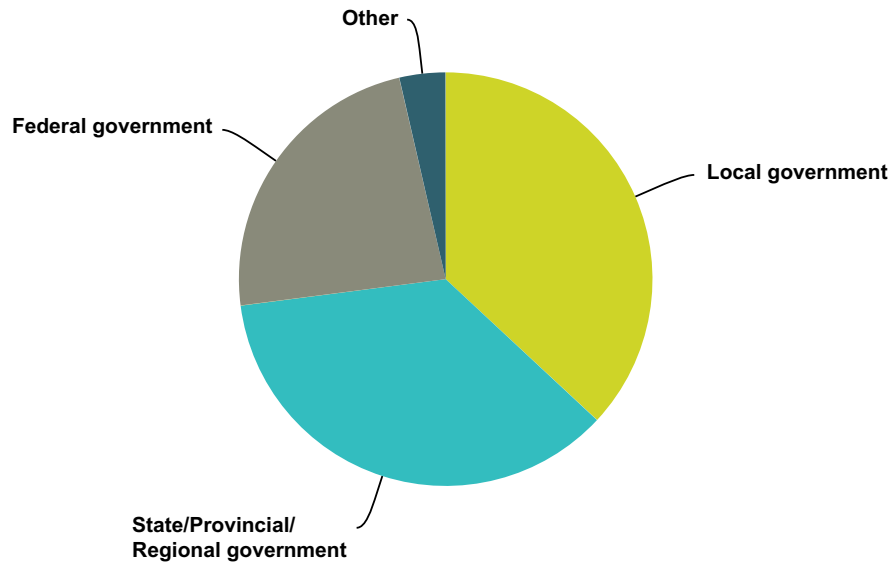
Answered: 233 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	
The United States	81.55%	190
Canada	10.30%	24
Australasia	2.15%	5
Europe	0.86%	2
Africa	4.29%	10
Asia	0.00%	0
Other	0.86%	2
Total		233

Q3 Government employees only, please identify Agency level

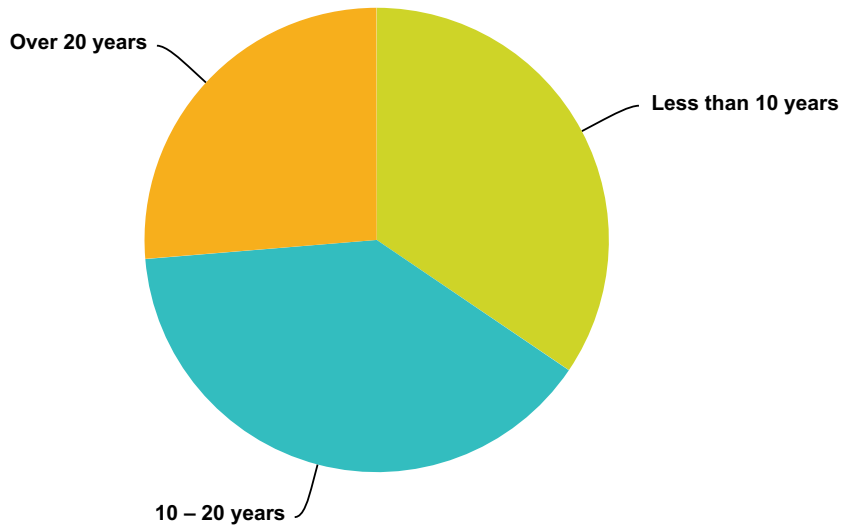
Answered: 111 Skipped: 122



Answer Choices	Responses	
Local government	36.94%	41
State/Provincial/ Regional government	36.04%	40
Tribal/First Nation/Aboriginal government	0.00%	0
Federal government	23.42%	26
Other	3.60%	4
Total		111

Q4 I've worked in the general field of public participation for:

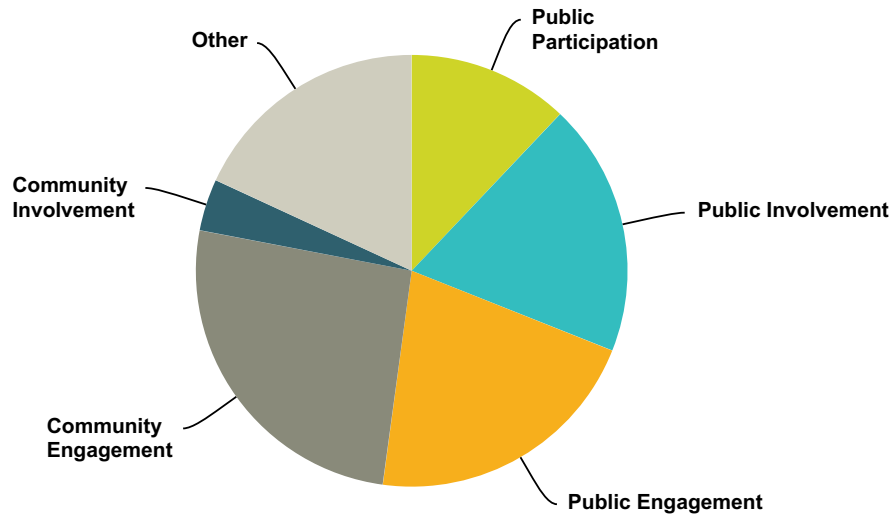
Answered: 232 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Less than 10 years	34.48%	80
10 - 20 years	39.22%	91
Over 20 years	26.29%	61
Total		232

Q5 My peers and I usually refer to this profession as:

Answered: 232 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses	
Public Participation	12.07%	28
Public Involvement	18.97%	44
Public Engagement	21.12%	49
Community Engagement	25.86%	60
Community Involvement	3.88%	9
Other	18.10%	42
Total		232

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Q6 Please rank the following questions according to the scale

Answered: 206 Skipped: 27

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Weighted Average
Input is valuable/ improves decision-making	40.69% 83	48.53% 99	6.86% 14	3.92% 8	0.00% 0	204	1.74
P2 plays important role in decisions	23.30% 48	45.63% 94	14.56% 30	13.11% 27	3.40% 7	206	2.28
P2 should play important role in decisions	82.44% 169	16.10% 33	0.49% 1	0.98% 2	0.00% 0	205	1.20
P2 extremely important to Agency	36.82% 74	39.80% 80	12.94% 26	9.95% 20	0.50% 1	201	1.98
Agency conducts minimum level of P2	9.31% 19	21.57% 44	14.71% 30	30.88% 63	23.53% 48	204	3.38
Agency does not take public participation seriously	1.48% 3	14.78% 30	14.78% 30	25.12% 51	43.84% 89	203	3.95
Agency using evaluation effectively	6.37% 13	20.10% 41	25.00% 51	31.37% 64	17.16% 35	204	3.33

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Q7 Please add any brief comments to better explain the current situation in your country

Answered: 66 Skipped: 167

#	Responses	Date
1	I am new to the US; the level of public participation is lower than in Australia.	8/31/2016 5:32 PM
2	As a public involvement coordinator I feel that I get to push our agency to include it in many aspects	8/11/2016 1:48 PM
3	Public participation influences decisions, but we're not necessarily speaking with the broadest range of the public. Too often it's the people least in need of the positive changes we could create who speak loudest.	8/11/2016 1:55 AM
4	I strongly urge our administration to promote PI from the top in order to stress that we are totally committed to getting opinions and input from the public.	8/10/2016 5:18 PM
5	I think there is a desire to engage the public, but a lack of understanding in how to effectively do so. I feel decision makers care about public opinion, but are unsure of how to most effectively engage them to get meaningful participation, and not just jumbled data points.	8/10/2016 4:22 PM
6	I think discussing the importance of public participation is generational. Just look at who votes in this country. Schools no longer emphasize the importance of civic participation and duty. I believe that it was heavily emphasized on before the 70s.	8/10/2016 3:00 PM
7	Looking forward to see if the professional networks (IAP2, NCDD, ACR, NAF) try to influence participation policy in the new administration	8/10/2016 2:00 PM
8	Negative attitude toward public participation as conceived in the core values; fear of public participation processes taking control of decision making away from decision makers or people who see themselves as decision makers (i.e. staff of elected officials). Perception that if public gets to have real input, the staff will somehow be forced to put their elected officials in an intolerable position (i.e. meaning a decision the staff probably doesn't agree with)	8/10/2016 2:00 PM
9	As a consultant your paid for your opinion and your work. The project rarely includes implementation of the community's ideas and wishes into the actions of the organization. Most organizations cherry pick the public Participation Ideas that they then use or champion. In our City some 5+yrs ago, community visioning activity on Big City parks-"blue Sky" at the time it was thought to be focused on redevelopment and refurbishments the capital updating and meeting community expectations. The city entered a "silent deal for 2million redevelopment of one of these parks without the local community association even knowing. The project co-lead with a TV company is for building a huge awesome play structure for kids. The city used those old engagement reports of how often do we need to talk about this, even though redevelopment solely of play structure was never on the table. This is an important water front park, adjoining it is the City's track and Field facility, across the water is one of the oldest Rowing and Canoe clubs in the country. The water front has community swimming but if the water quality is poor no splash pad for kids. So lots of competing interests, very is scratching their head the consultations don't support the end decision but that was the justification.	8/10/2016 1:18 PM
10	I only know about US DOT and Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Policy. Sometimes State DOTs and MPOs have different agendas (time or money deficiencies). The Feds do not want to slow down their process, but want the public's perspective on what they are getting with tax dollars and must live with.	8/10/2016 1:05 PM
11	From a private sector standpoint where developers are the clients for example: clients do the minimum public participation because they are required by law, regs., etc.; it can be costly; the process can delay their project schedule; and if the project is or becomes a contentious, it is to their benefit to reach out to public.	8/10/2016 1:04 PM
12	in my agency, employees with public participation expertise are not prioritized and are not given any ability to influence process. Many have left the agency to seek employment where there skillset is appreciated.	8/10/2016 12:27 PM
13	I think public participation plays an important role in provincial government but more reactionary - blocking pipelines, protesting policy decisions, rather than proactively seeking public input in a constructive way. I see there being often fear in gov staff that by giving the public information it will be used against us down the road and misunderstanding that public involvement means giving the final decision to the public.	8/10/2016 12:20 PM
14	Our agency, and my program specifically, intend to continually broaden community engagement opportunities through a variety of venues. We are increasing focus on historically under represented communities, building stronger relationships (and supporting) non-profits, and enhancing inter- and intra-jurisdictional collaboration.	8/10/2016 12:18 PM

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15	Public participation/engagement is something that organizations think people want so they say they are doing it. There are many times though that I feel the effort wasn't genuine - they say it's important, but aren't really reflecting what people have said in the process.	8/10/2016 12:13 PM
16	The public does not have sufficient science education to participate in technical decisions. The public is our greatest source of traditional land use management and life style needs.	8/10/2016 12:08 PM
17	Government strives to have public input inform their decisions. It is often however the "how to" that trips them up. Large corporations and companies funded by banks or other lenders that have signed the Equator Principles (www.ifc.org) in the main put a lot of efforts into public participation, and designing their projects with the least negative and maximum social impacts, and often have entire departments devoted to this.	8/10/2016 6:42 AM
18	My experience with clients varies widely but most are committed to meaningful engagement at the staff level. Councils and commissions, though, sometimes overlook the outcomes of an involved public process to respond to a few squeaky wheels at a public hearing. Very discouraging for everyone but the squeakers.	8/8/2016 7:29 PM
19	I work for local City Government. There is a significant amount of importance placed on community engagement in planning, however the agency does not devote enough resources to be successful at it. We currently do not have an evaluation process.	8/8/2016 2:32 PM
20	Some DOTs are enlightened and progressive and some are not and tell you they don't know why there should be public involvement because they have already chosen the best alternative	8/7/2016 2:42 PM
21	Work in resource sector development where public engagement is in part dictated by regulatory requirements. They can be stringent but often hard to convince clients to go above and beyond during times of economic con	8/2/2016 4:48 PM
22	I believe that the extent to which "public participation does indeed currently play an important role in decisions made by government in my country" is heavily dependent on the level and location of the "government."	8/2/2016 4:45 PM
23	I'm an independent consultant with more than 35 years in the field. I am able to choose my clients more than I could 20 years ago. So they typically are quite supportive of good P2.	8/1/2016 7:49 PM
24	Although we do a great deal of public involvement, we don't tend to take time to evaluate the effectiveness	8/1/2016 10:14 AM
25	It's an ad hoc situation. It depends on the sector, the extent to which organisations take public opinion into account.	7/27/2016 1:08 PM
26	Our particular government agency officials are afraid of engaging with the public and then being held accountable to deal with what they hear. Part of this is because the people who are in the field engaging with the community do not have the authority to address what they hear from the community. Thus they end up treating community the same way a baby understands a game of hide and seek. "If I cover my eyes then what I can't see doesn't exist". They are then relegated to only engaging reactively and not proactively. They never see the value that having a relationship before problems occur would provide.	7/27/2016 11:18 AM
27	Most organisations get the need or importance of P2 however they struggle to manage the tensions around political will, cost, time for preparation and clarity of the link between the P2 and the decisions they are making.	7/26/2016 3:25 PM
28	Non-agency stakeholder engagement is not taken seriously within the transportation industry, particularly in southeastern USA	7/26/2016 3:02 PM
29	It is often hard for those involved/engaged to see their involvement reflected in outcomes. Too often, it's a matter of not getting the outcome I want equals I was not heard or being involved was a waste of time.	7/22/2016 6:59 PM
30	It appears that Social Media is taking precedents in the way that the public is voicing opinions, ideas, and beliefs.	7/22/2016 11:14 AM
31	The US Federal government (specifically the Army Corps of Engineers) often pursues the bare minimum efforts to 'check the box' for public participation. Experts in the field are highly under utilized. Despite that public participation often reduces conflict and concern of the citizens impacted by the proposal and ultimately save time and money for a project, many offices have not embraced this functional element. Several senior level officials value and understand the importance of public participation and have endorsed its application agency wide. However, offices are too focused on spending the money, vs the product quality, and care of the community and persons affected by the agency's work.	7/22/2016 7:51 AM
32	It is hard to answer the questions with so many clients. There is variation among them.	7/21/2016 5:09 PM
33	We need to spread positive stories about how different and more accessible models of public participation work for community members and policy makers.	7/21/2016 12:21 AM
34	Our clients determine the level of public involvement activity and it is mostly at the stage of delivering information after plans/designs/decisions are made.	7/20/2016 4:25 PM
35	I was speaking more to my local situation, and particularly in terms of the work I do with them (which is only a portion of the engagement they do--they use more traditional methods as well--but overall I feel they take public engagement seriously. My answer to the first question would change if it included all their public engagement efforts, since the quality is much lower for their conventional methods (surveys, public comment, etc.)	7/20/2016 2:00 PM

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36	I have a strong belief in public participation and think it can make a difference if organizations maximize their efforts to get real public participation and not just check a box. My organization provides facilitation, so setting up the opportunity for public participation is not the part that we are involved with.	7/20/2016 9:45 AM
37	Within my AGENCY, we are committed to lots of engagement. Within the country, I'm afraid that money calls the shots.	7/20/2016 8:12 AM
38	Where I have selected "somewhat", this indicates I have constraints outside my control in relation to this question.	7/20/2016 6:05 AM
39	In US Cooperative Extension we often are both county and state agency (university/Extension) employees. The two employers often value P2 very differently.	7/19/2016 11:15 PM
40	Public participation is more than just a vote. "I like this, or I don't like this" is somewhat helpful, but bringing new information or suggesting a viable alternative is better. Also, some of public participation is from folks who don't understand the laws that drive our actions so they suggest unrealistic things. Better to point requests that require legislation to legislators. We also hear from people who have an unrealistic or conspiratorial idea of what we do or what we are "up to". So that kind of input is a little like seeing which way the wind blows. Doesn't change much, but at least we know.	7/19/2016 8:32 PM
41	There is very little evaluation that occurs. This is extremely poor practice. Public participation is well integrated at the state and local level. Less is done at the federal level	7/19/2016 6:25 PM
42	While my Agency has bought into close attention to public comments, my bureau has strongly conflicting opinions about transparency and real public participation. That impacts us all the way down to the worker bee.	7/19/2016 4:42 PM
43	P2 processes are convened by parties advocating a particular outcome. The typical P2 process is more a PR exercise than a genuine search for new knowledge. Therefore it is rightly viewed as biased by the public, who come with many charged concerns. The convenors might slightly adjust a recommendation based on public input, when what the public wants is REAL & SUBSTANTIVE agency over decisions that affect their lives.	7/19/2016 4:10 PM
44	Distrust prevails	7/19/2016 3:25 PM
45	need ways to get around the federal laws restricting surveys to a small number unless OMB approval....need tools for effective evaluation	7/19/2016 2:37 PM
46	The vocal minority doesn't always represent the true needs of the community.	7/19/2016 2:33 PM
47	Difficult to answer above as we have several clients with differing views	7/19/2016 2:27 PM
48	People & media are using twitter and facebook as a form of "news". Comments and stories that are generated on these platforms are reported in the news	7/19/2016 2:23 PM
49	Some clients value input more than others. Some clients do not want to receive input because it may change their already decided upon plans.	7/19/2016 2:13 PM
50	Public participation often becomes an opportunity for a few disgruntled individuals to bash the government; the more reasonable voices can sometimes be drowned out.	7/19/2016 2:05 PM
51	"Power" does not have to listen. Our system has legal checks and balances but more societal checks and balances are needed, beyond voting, where people themselves -- those not in formal positions of power -- can better feel a sense of their own power and agency over their own individual and collectives lives. How can I, an individual, still be important in the collective life of my community, nation, and world? People require hope for a better future for themselves and their children.	7/19/2016 1:26 PM
52	Government mostly only takes into account public opinion if there is a political incentive. Some organisations in the resources sector are starting to take public opinion more seriously and to act accordingly - mainly to minimise reputational impact. Both industry and government could do more to ensure that they understand stakeholders views and respond accordingly. Stakeholder engagement is often reactive.	7/19/2016 12:39 PM
53	We do take public participation very seriously and go beyond legal requirements relating to consultation. Perhaps where we can improve is on the analysis of how PP is influencing decision making	7/19/2016 9:24 AM
54	In my community, decision makers hear from and base decisions on members/sectors of the public that already have access to them, and do not prioritize creating or resourcing channels for the rest of the community to become informed and engaged participants.	7/19/2016 12:27 AM
55	Formerly worked for Us dept of education - data collection, evaluation tools changed from admin to admin so no consistency and lack of credibility with grantees. Public.	7/18/2016 10:19 PM
56	the practice drives it but there is little acknowledgement of the core benefits of the practice. They know they need it but they do not know what IT is	7/18/2016 5:31 PM
57	lip service but limited authentic engagement	7/18/2016 4:53 PM

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58	At the local level, engagement is usually used either to work small details around the edges, or to push through a change that's already be determined. At a state and national level we're not tapping the collective intelligence of the citizenry in any real/meaningful way.	7/18/2016 1:31 PM
59	While the "have influence over public decisions" dimension understandably dominates assessment of the how worthwhile the effort is, the engagement, "peacemaking" and mutual respect (relatively speaking-- moving from shouting and guns to tolerance) aspects of public participation are as important as upstream qualities which will ultimately lead to better decisions but also many other beneficial side effects.	7/18/2016 12:33 PM
60	VERY weak survey - you clearly don't know how to formulate good questions that will give reliable, accurate results. You need to have NA (not applicable) responses, for example, but that's just one example. Don't waste our time and yours with such stuff.	7/18/2016 12:17 PM
61	May be a weird thing to blurt: current situation feels to me like sometimes the charade of public outreach and engagement becomes real and alive! More often it does not. I have become less interested in this or that tool, this or that method, and waaaaaay more interested in how present or not present our government leaders and staff are and our citizens, ourselves...	7/18/2016 12:17 PM
62	I think my comments are biased by the fact that as a consultant I carefully choose my clients based on ethics, integrity and commitment to do meaningful work. Early in my career I worked with any organization, but now I carefully choose who I want to partner with.	7/18/2016 12:02 PM
63	Government does public participation because it believes it is what is expected. It is the ritual that is required. It then makes the decision based on what it believes is best, even if that is different than the input from the public.	7/18/2016 11:54 AM
64	People are opinionated and like to hear their own voices; fewer care to listen, or evolve their views. Politicians and government staffers are paid to promote the interests of their donors, and to "be professional" (i.e., know the answers).	7/18/2016 11:52 AM
65	Impossible to generalize about the entire United States...	7/18/2016 11:46 AM
66	There seems to be growing increases in "public participation" outside of official government channels, both to generate and advance community solutions and to motivate public and other decision makers.	7/18/2016 11:44 AM

Q8 Please rank the following questions according to the scale

Answered: 195 Skipped: 38

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Weighted Average
General increase in P2 over 10 years	34.54% 67	38.66% 75	15.46% 30	8.76% 17	2.58% 5	194	2.06
More public influence in past 10 years	21.24% 41	43.52% 84	20.21% 39	12.95% 25	2.07% 4	193	2.31
Improved P2 quality over past 10 years	24.23% 47	40.21% 78	13.92% 27	17.01% 33	4.64% 9	194	2.38
Agencies more inclined to engage than 10 years ago	24.35% 47	53.89% 104	11.92% 23	7.25% 14	2.59% 5	193	2.10
Public demanding more access than 10 years ago	51.81% 100	33.68% 65	11.92% 23	2.59% 5	0.00% 0	193	1.65
Public more inclined to engage than they 10 years ago	21.76% 42	38.86% 75	25.91% 50	11.40% 22	2.07% 4	193	2.33
P2 has a positive future in my country	46.39% 90	40.72% 79	9.28% 18	3.61% 7	0.00% 0	194	1.70

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Q9 Please add any brief comments to better explain the current trends in your country

Answered: 42 Skipped: 191

#	Responses	Date
1	Social media has made a difference in getting people involved and the word out. Same with online survey tools.	9/7/2016 3:43 PM
2	In the state of Florida where I mostly practice, state government has passed laws in the past 7 years that inhibit public comment and participation. Despite this some agencies and local governments continue to build PP into some decision making, but there is no top-down support for this.	8/16/2016 10:12 AM
3	Lots of social media trolling, not so much sustained policy engagement outside of commercial lobbying	8/10/2016 2:02 PM
4	I think people want to be engaged more deeply, but I think the people responsible for making decisions and for implementing a public participation process do not value public participation in a best case scenario and in the worst case scenario they believe it is harmful and has to be managed.	8/10/2016 2:02 PM
5	We are trying to take advantage of IT advances to involve more millennials, yet recognize not everyone has access or is knowledgeable about technology.	8/10/2016 1:07 PM
6	It appears the nature of public involvement has not changed except for additional tools/methods. Clients do it because they have to & then later on, the public claims or did not in fact receive any notification about a project. People in general are very busy, especially in metropolitan areas. People are trying to prioritize their time & sometimes have to rely on decision makers to represent properly (as they should & because that's their job anyways). People who are not elderly, etc. typically get involved because of NIMBY - that has not changed for years. Online technology may make the process quicker & easier for someone to give input, but you still have to accommodate those who do not have internet or want the in-person experience.	8/10/2016 1:07 PM
7	As a member of a regional and national movement to increase and improve community engagement, I see continual recognition of the value of authentic engagement practices and outcomes.	8/10/2016 12:19 PM
8	Agencies ARE more inclined to engage the public BUT is it meaningful, or is it "window dressing?"	8/10/2016 12:15 PM
9	The dialog has gotten more strident and less cooperative. Diplomacy and the practice of extended negotiation has been replaced by quips and positions.	8/10/2016 12:09 PM
10	re: last statement above - appetite for P2 waxes and wanes in society.	8/10/2016 12:07 PM
11	see previous response	8/10/2016 6:43 AM
12	I have seen an increase in the importance of public participation from both government and the public, however I do not feel as though the public is more inclined to participate. We constantly have to provide incentives for participation.	8/8/2016 2:35 PM
13	The lack of training and the inconsistency of the limited training has created a huge knowledge gap with practitioners	8/7/2016 2:46 PM
14	I feel as though the vocal minority and those who protest are heard more than those who are trying to provide thoughtful valuable input into a process. There is too much "outrage" and not enough active constructive criticism.	8/2/2016 5:05 PM
15	Many of us went through Bleiker training about 20 years ago and that is when there was a dramatic improvement in our public involvement work. Now, the main change is technology to get people involved. The two Governor's Summits are a great examples of using technology to get a pulse of public opinion, but still meeting with hundreds of people in person.	8/1/2016 10:19 AM
16	Public participation is high in some sectors e.g. charities such as Keep Britain Tidy but relatively low in relation to new infrastructure projects.	7/27/2016 1:11 PM
17	The questions appear biased to the organisation leading the P2. I believe the public are somewhat inclined to engage with org run P2 but are much more likely to engage with community led P2	7/26/2016 3:28 PM
18	It seems that agencies are working harder to engage the public in participation, but, the public seems to mistrust the agencies and are less likely to participate.	7/22/2016 11:18 AM
19	In an age of instant news coverage, people feel more empowered and take ownership of what is occurring in their community. Citizens believe they have the right to know what is being studied, planned, constructed, etc. The Corps of Engineers has not been able to satisfy the public need for information sharing and is extremely behind the curve as compared to some sister federal agency's include NOAA and F&WS.	7/22/2016 7:53 AM

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20	I don't think I see trends. I see some agencies going in positive directions and other agencies in negative. I think I see an uptick at the municipal level. I see less going through the motions and more receptivity to doing things more creatively - at the same time that I see more fear of the public on agency's part and less civility across the board - which depresses everyone's willingness to engage.	7/21/2016 5:14 PM
21	Occupy and the Sanders movement as well as similar movements on the right (tea party, Trump) have changed people's expectations. There are commonalities in method and values regarding public participation in both sides in the US, and we should be focusing and building on these instead of focusing on our differences.	7/21/2016 12:24 AM
22	My answers are again at the local level. For my country, not so much.	7/20/2016 2:01 PM
23	I have seen a greater number of opportunities to participate in public input in the last 5 years than previously.	7/20/2016 9:53 AM
24	Open Government - placing more records more readily available through the Internet - has had benefits and deficits. What's good: you can find out what you didn't know existed, more quickly. What's bad: transparency can have a cost in public focus on irrelevant details.	7/20/2016 8:13 AM
25	This varies a lot depending on the local government. Cities and counties (and states) in the US have very different P2 cultures.	7/19/2016 11:17 PM
26	Hot button issues get attention. That was true 20 years ago. Quality of input and the future of authentic public participation depends on people not believing everything they read on the internet.	7/19/2016 8:36 PM
27	Our lawmakers generally only want public participation on issues that they already know how the public feels. They generally avoid knowing publicly what the public wants until they have sufficiently trained the public.	7/19/2016 4:54 PM
28	More input into the technical side of issues, but not on the fundamental issues. For example, does the road go here or there, vs, do we build the road at all. Focus is on the former, not the latter.	7/19/2016 4:24 PM
29	I think people have always wanted to have impact on decisions affecting them, this desire is not new.	7/19/2016 4:12 PM
30	People are too busy, distracted, polarized to care or to be willing to take time out to participate.	7/19/2016 3:59 PM
31	Skills and expectation have risen. Application by client agencies declining and public's defenses up	7/19/2016 3:27 PM
32	Practices and tools in used in public participation in have evolved greatly in the last 10, but not the resources to use these tools. And I don't see that new tools, e.g. online public meetings, have increased participation much. This is likely because these tools require greater degree of monitoring and staff time, for which we have no resources to provide.	7/19/2016 2:32 PM
33	I think there is very good work going on and people who want to engage in real discussion. However, mainstream media oversimplify complex topics and people tend to be positional from the start in social media posts. Where is the model of civil discourse in our culture? (it's not taking place in leadership...)	7/19/2016 12:59 PM
34	Although some stakeholders protest projects using "rent a crowd", industry on the whole underestimates how well informed stakeholders are about the possible impacts of new developments and their own rights.	7/19/2016 12:41 PM
35	I work at a college where students commute. They are so busy that I don't think they have time to participate. It is not apathy, but rather not a priority in their lives.	7/19/2016 9:59 AM
36	PP in EIA in Zambia is a legal requirement (scoping only) with the regulator deciding if further consultation is required during and post EIA. Consultation carried out is stagnant with very little innovation, beyond minimum legal requirements. Social media is gaining momentum as a platform and the press as a media for influencing decisions remain strong. The public increasingly want information but are generally unaware of their rights in this regards.	7/19/2016 9:27 AM
37	Had more meaningful authentic public participation in 1970's than in 2000 and forward. Career employees had more autonomy to develop good participation models based on local conditions where now too Much central control and one size fits all approach . Also lack of regular budget passage and working under CR's makes it very difficult to plan and execute good processes.	7/18/2016 10:23 PM
38	May not be right away, but eventually (and perhaps soon) citizens will shift from thinking that we can't change how our democracy functions, to truly shaping our public policy with much deeper citizen engagement.	7/18/2016 1:33 PM
39	Both polarization and despair on the one side and joyful engagement on the other have significant momentum. Numerically, polarization is gaining (e.g. Trump) but its appeal is superficial while engagement of smaller numbers of people in significant PP as in Oregon CIR, Kettering Projects, Budget games ect. produces more lasting effects for participants.	7/18/2016 12:37 PM
40	We are waking up. I believe we are all waking up. Slowly to the responsibilities we have to keeping our own democracy alive. I have no idea how we'll all respond. But the wake up feels closer.	7/18/2016 12:19 PM

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41	This is hard to quantify. I would say there is an ABUNDANCE of engagement in the last 10 years. But that doesn't make it GOOD engagement. In large part it is about checking the box, saying it was done, doing it poorly. I don't the QUANTITY of engagement has a connection to the QUALITY of engagement being done.	7/18/2016 12:03 PM
42	It's a good idea, and necessary - but the details are elusive.	7/18/2016 11:53 AM

Q10 Please rank the following questions according to the scale

Answered: 192 Skipped: 41

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neutral	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Total	Weighted Average
Very positive impact on our ability to engage the public	22.92% 44	48.96% 94	18.75% 36	8.33% 16	1.04% 2	192	2.16
Makes public participation much easier than a decade ago	31.41% 60	47.64% 91	12.04% 23	8.90% 17	0.00% 0	191	1.98
Makes public participation much more effective than a decade ago	16.15% 31	35.94% 69	27.08% 52	20.31% 39	0.52% 1	192	2.53
Agency often confuses technologies with good participation	14.74% 28	41.58% 79	26.84% 51	13.68% 26	3.16% 6	190	2.49
Agency uses technology to avoid confrontation with the public	6.81% 13	22.51% 43	24.08% 46	28.80% 55	17.80% 34	191	3.28
Used at a very high level of success to communicate	8.38% 16	39.27% 75	22.51% 43	23.04% 44	6.81% 13	191	2.81
Used at a very high level of success to get meaningful input	4.19% 8	25.65% 49	26.70% 51	32.98% 63	10.47% 20	191	3.20
Used at a very high level of success to engage in meaningful dialogue on line	3.13% 6	18.23% 35	23.96% 46	34.38% 66	20.31% 39	192	3.51

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Q11 Please add any brief comments to better explain the use of on-line technology in your country

Answered: 56 Skipped: 177

#	Responses	Date
1	Current surveys allow you to cull through only a limited amount of data.	8/17/2016 4:16 PM
2	Nothing beats face to face dialog	8/11/2016 1:51 PM
3	Our use of technology is definitely not dialogue--info out, testimony/comments in, the end. Our communications team is somewhat separate from our planning team, and I think there's a lot of missed opportunity. On the other hand, some email dialogue or in-person dialogue actually takes up a ton of time, and does influence processes. But they're not transparent conversations.	8/11/2016 1:58 AM
4	Technology is a double-edged sword. It does make it easier to reach more of the public, but it also encourages people to be much less constructive than they would be otherwise if we engage with them in person (rude, counter-productive).	8/10/2016 4:29 PM
5	I think the same people who are afraid of using public participation as a tool are afraid of using social media for the same reason. They feel they cannot control the outcome putting themselves and their elected people at risk. What I have seen is a significant uptick in using social media to try to influence others and to counter what is perceived as wrong opinions/facts stated by others. Right now however social media is being used at the "inform" level. Not seeing any creative uses of social media to engage public participation.	8/10/2016 2:06 PM
6	Mistaking petitions, polls, Twitter chats for meaningful engagement. Online methods can complement, but never replace, the power of face-to-face engagement	8/10/2016 2:04 PM
7	The big problem I have with online technology is that it leaves large segments of people of color behind. The digital divide disproportionately affects people of color, so by moving to an online-only approach, we tend to perpetuate digital racism and exclusion. Also, and despite the fact that many people of color use their mobile devices as the primary way to access the internet, government websites tend not to be optimized for mobile access, which makes online engagement even more difficult and/or disproportionately lifting the voices of white people who are more online savvy or have the resources to access websites as they were intended to be seen. By doing this we are also avoiding making the effort to reach out meaningfully to people of color or silencing their voices.	8/10/2016 1:45 PM
8	Many groups use social media and web based applications of extend the reach and more eyeballs however the application hit thinner the issues. Also some multi stage process do not track participants from the beginning to the end have no idea really if participants have evolved int heir thought.	8/10/2016 1:21 PM
9	Practitioners are more attuned to internet and social media than HQ Feds management, it seems.	8/10/2016 1:12 PM
10	See previous comments. The above questions depend on who is responding & how many are responding to online technology. What measures effective public participation? Even when a project is approved, years later a community can file a lawsuit so you're not "home free" after a project is approved in regards to public input & actions by the public to stop or considerably change your project. In other words, you could deem a process successful now, but later question if it was in fact effective. Online technology is just another means of gathering information. It will appeal to those with access to such technology and want to use it to get involved.	8/10/2016 1:09 PM
11	attitudes that social media advertising campaigns can replace high quality dialogue are causing problems within my agency.	8/10/2016 12:35 PM
12	We are still in the evolution of expanding effective community engagement through online technology and social media in addition to traditional methods. It is a rapidly moving target and requires a significant investment in funds, staff, and training. It is a wonderful opportunity, but resource allocation means something else has to give - that tradeoff is difficult and challenging.	8/10/2016 12:23 PM
13	I'm not sure online is applicable to the type of work that we do.	8/10/2016 12:21 PM
14	Lots of the online engagement is managed to a high degree and doesn't allow for dialogue of any kind. Seems that the only way to have dialogue is still face to face.	8/10/2016 12:17 PM
15	Internet and social media are used only for advertising, not for input.	8/10/2016 12:11 PM

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16	On-line technology is good for 1) making announcements of opportunities to participate in processes/meetings and 2) making documents/ reports/materials for public comment available on line (in the past we used to photocopy and mail them at large cost). For real dialogue and public input, however, I prefer personal contact and meetings with stakeholders.	8/10/2016 6:50 AM
17	Online tools seem to increase quantity of input but while also decreasing quality. Harder to push got constructive ideas and civil discourse in a one-way web engagement. MindMixer and other tools allow for online moderation, but clients don't like to pay for it.	8/8/2016 7:32 PM
18	The internet and social media have been an effective tool or alternative for stakeholders to provide input, however it cannot be the only tool. We we conduct online surveys there are large areas of our city and specific demographics that are not represented int he survey data.	8/8/2016 2:37 PM
19	We are just starting with Peak Democracy at my agency and it has been very effective in engaging the public on multiple issues of governance on a central platform. Traingin staff is our biggest uphill climb right now.	8/8/2016 11:20 AM
20	There is a lack of broadband in our rural areas	8/7/2016 2:53 PM
21	I really can't speak for the whole country, just our agency. Survey monkey is a great tool, and many people don't have time to come to meetings. But the really passionate people still want to talk face to face with agency leaders and staff.	8/1/2016 10:22 AM
22	online is not an effective way to have two way communication /public input. It really only works for the government to send information out to those who have on-line access. everything else is an illusion of participation.	7/29/2016 1:34 PM
23	I believe that there is some confusion over whether on-line technology improves public participation. In fact, it may be contived in some quarters.	7/27/2016 1:15 PM
24	Our agency has not embraced online technology. They fear sharing information online as much as they fear face to face	7/27/2016 11:22 AM
25	On-line technology is limiting to public participation because of the forum in which it is used. The public can only provide meaningful comment if the on-line technology has been built to capture that. This is often not the case.	7/22/2016 11:23 AM
26	As stated previously, the Corps of Engineers is behind the curve wrt use of, and appropriate us of social media, on-line technologies, etc for distribution, information sharing, solicitation of input and overall value added of information online. The agency's requirement to use certain web platforms is one problem with online success. However, its inability to expedite social media content in a timely manner results in the agency commenting or responding to 'old news'. The Corps of Engineers is extremely inadequate when it comes to social media use.	7/22/2016 7:57 AM
27	I see much more willingness to rely on internet to make documents available which lends transparency. I see internet being used to disseminate information, announce opportunities, etc. I see less control of message as stakeholder groups are using online to spread their own messages. I see incivility on line in non-sponsored locations which depresses everyone's willingness to use on-line methods for communicating.	7/21/2016 5:18 PM
28	We need to embrace online technology and invent new ways to use in and integrate it into all of our participation so as to keep community members and policy makers engaged and informed over time.	7/21/2016 12:25 AM
29	Online is supplemental and helpful, but not for genuine engagement. We use online to get a good sense of the overall public voice, and then design face to face events for the true engagement.	7/20/2016 2:02 PM
30	The use of online technology is great, but in my opinion cannot replace a face to face public participation forum. The use of online technology can enhance the in person participation by getting the word out and letting those people who cannot come make comments online.	7/20/2016 9:56 AM
31	I sometimes think that the old "letter to the editor" resulted in more thoughtful input. What we want is not just people's opinions, but their INFORMED opinions.	7/20/2016 8:15 AM
32	On line technology has brought a demographic group into the engagement process who did not readily engage previously. On line engagement is not the preferred way for everyone, as face-to-face does not suit everyone. The log in process and password requirements are a turn off for many people and the stats show many people do not return to sites after the initial log on and posting of a comment, so the long term commitment to a process is questionable.	7/20/2016 6:20 AM
33	Internet access is limited in many rural areas. We cannot depend on it as much as urban practitioners can. Still, we could be doing a lot more P2 with the people that do have affordable broadband internet access.	7/19/2016 11:20 PM
34	We don't rely on the internet, but it helps assure us that we are covering more bases. People who care enough can access more information than ever before. I don't think social media helps much. You hear a lot from people who have their mind made up and are not exactly interested in the process. We still use old fashioned open houses, etc. for face to face interaction with people who identify themselves to us as interested parties and for people who are interested in a dialog. We also get a dressing down now and again from people who are mad at us.	7/19/2016 8:42 PM
35	There are pockets of excellence and pockets where there's a default mentality to survey monkey	7/19/2016 6:26 PM

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36	my bureau tends to restrict public participation to the internet as a labor saving method. Unfortunately, while it reduces the opportunity for us to be attacked, it also allows more and more people to make uninformed comments that need to be filtered.	7/19/2016 4:57 PM
37	On a local level this is happening. Lot less at a national level	7/19/2016 4:51 PM
38	it is more effective with some groups than others.	7/19/2016 4:27 PM
39	Our on-line reach is very limited, and the demographics of those who use on-line technology are not diverse/representative of our community.	7/19/2016 4:02 PM
40	No often integrated with face to face. Either used as selling tool of gripe line	7/19/2016 3:29 PM
41	We receive some input through online and social media. It depends on the impact of a project to a community.	7/19/2016 2:16 PM
42	I think we are still learning how best to use on-line technology, and there is the problem of keeping up with technology, but certainly we have a strong focus on this and now actively engage with the public on-line.	7/19/2016 2:10 PM
43	Online technology is a great resource for sharing information and raising awareness. I have yet to see an ongoing, meaningful dialogue online. I am skeptical that it can be used that way.	7/19/2016 1:01 PM
44	Clients and corporates are generally nervous of social media for individual projects due to the possible reputational impacts. Many stakeholders do not have reliable internet access so use of technology to distribute large documents is limited. Technology could be used far more effectively than it is at present.	7/19/2016 12:43 PM
45	The loudest, most aggressive voices in the room are still able to dominate on social media much like they can in a face-to-face meeting. Since online anonymity can often lead to "trolls," having people use "real" accounts (such as their Facebook profiles) to participate seems helpful, but that lack of anonymity quiets some potentially valuable voices.	7/19/2016 12:16 PM
46	One needs to understand the dichotomy between first world technology and low tech rural areas, where electronic tech is often non existent.	7/19/2016 9:52 AM
47	Consultation using social media can be very intensive with responses and dialogue expected immediately making it difficult. As there is no legal requirement for online engagement this is not often undertaken, with most clients afraid of embracing the technology for fear of being hijacked in one way or another on an issue.	7/19/2016 9:30 AM
48	South Africa is a highly regulated environment. Whereas stakeholders use digital media to mobilise and organise themselves, practitioners still rely on face-to-face engagements as a lack of internet access/connectivity and literacy impact on process designs. People also prefer to have public platforms to voice their concerns - usually in the form of public meetings.	7/19/2016 8:58 AM
49	Have no current data for this section	7/18/2016 10:25 PM
50	I personally believe we must evolve much better tools probably with widely different context sensitive purposes. Ultimately, something like the Minerva Educational Software and a highly facilitated, synchronous meeting may, as they have found, be 'better than live F2F' in terms of facilitating engagement.	7/18/2016 12:49 PM
51	I work for a city (Austin, Texas) that has invested both in social media platforms that already exist and in the creation of new platforms (SpeakUpAustin.org) which are designed for meaningful dialogue and deliberation.	7/18/2016 12:46 PM
52	sometimes online collaboration tools are just the thing -- I am glad the tools exist. My feeling is that these tools are great for intergovernmental work or other online work between and among people who already know each other. That's its main use in my practice anyway.	7/18/2016 12:21 PM
53	I have often said that you can't solve complex problems with your Facebook friends (in fact it is in a blog and some speeches I've given). Online engagement and social media have their place, and they can increase participation, information sharing and interest - but they don't lend themselves easily to deliberative conversations, and no matter how carefully crafted the tool it is really hard to transform conflict online.	7/18/2016 12:06 PM
54	On-line technology is used as it is cheaper and takes less manpower.	7/18/2016 11:57 AM
55	To the extent that agencies are using social media - it's mostly for either data mining on public opinion, and/or public relations, and/or manipulation - not engagement.	7/18/2016 11:54 AM
56	Technology, particular digital communication and social media tech, are a nice supplement to traditional participation methods. In person engagement is still a much better use of our resources for generating meaningful public input.	7/18/2016 11:48 AM

Q12 Please identify the degree to which the following obstacles are preventing meaningful public participation

Answered: 190 Skipped: 43

	A significant obstacle	Somewhat of an obstacle	Not an obstacle	Total	Weighted Average
Budgetary constraints	38.62% 73	47.09% 89	14.29% 27	189	1.76
Political interference	30.69% 58	46.03% 87	23.28% 44	189	1.93
Lack of support/belief in the value of P2	25.26% 48	45.26% 86	29.47% 56	190	2.04
Lack of understanding of how to conduct meaningful public participation	38.95% 74	49.47% 94	11.58% 22	190	1.73
Lack of interest on the part of government/clients	20.00% 38	51.58% 98	28.42% 54	190	2.08
Lack of interest on the part of the public	10.58% 20	62.43% 118	26.98% 51	189	2.16
High degree of polarization/public anger	40.74% 77	38.10% 72	21.16% 40	189	1.80

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Q13 Please add any brief comments to better explain obstacles to meaningful participation in your country

Answered: 37 Skipped: 196

#	Responses	Date
1	We've been told by local researchers that there is more anger in the local community funneling down from the national election. Also more anger due to aging of community and older people tending to be more conservation. Lastly, now people view their media through social media or online so the views they see are more filtered and more likely to reinforce the ones you already have. When more people read a print newspaper, they may have come across more diverse news rather than just feeds in Facebook that echo their own.	9/7/2016 3:46 PM
2	The polarization of debate from federal politicians to grassroots company/community public interface is extraordinary in the USA.	8/31/2016 5:35 PM
3	I think we fail to engage people with their fellow community members. Affordable housing advocates talk to us. No-change-ever advocates talk to us. We don't necessarily help them hear each other.	8/11/2016 2:00 AM
4	The public has a long history of distrust of the agency and government in general; belief their opinions are not going to change outcome. Hard job rebuilding trust. We should do a better job at setting realistic expectations, and explaining our limitations at the outset.	8/10/2016 5:23 PM
5	Lack of understanding of how to meaningfully engage with the public. Increasingly, the public is only seeking information and news from highly polarized sources that reinforce preheld beliefs. This makes it very difficult to engage. Social media in particular is dangerous. People build their own echo chambers to reinforce their own beliefs. This makes it difficult to focus on solutions.	8/10/2016 4:31 PM
6	The root is still that the people calling the shots don't believe public participation is valuable. They think it's a punishment instead or something that will just get in the way of a good decision or get them in trouble or perhaps fired. The techniques employed are abysmal and intended to mitigate feared harm and not actually get meaningful participation. I feel like the only successful practitioners have to leave their values behind and be willing to deliver the client/employer an expected outcome.	8/10/2016 2:25 PM
7	If public managers have had bad participation experience, they run away from it. Most simply have no clue about what basic principles and practices are and how essential that knowledge is to good public administration	8/10/2016 2:06 PM
8	The polarization of the public and fearful politicians are a chicken and egg. We constantly are looking to politicians to lead, however in reality they are followers of advice or arbiters of the public will -AKA the voices in their heads.	8/10/2016 1:23 PM
9	Some States have gained back some of the trust lost through negative press in the past; for others it is a slower process--possibly due to approach or actions of a fewer nonbelievers and other government officials.	8/10/2016 1:19 PM
10	Bottom line, if the public wants to stop a project or voice their concerns, they will quickly mobilize and make it be known. A lot of organized groups are using online technology to do just that - quickly "rally" people & generate interest & disseminate information (whether information is correct or incorrect). Having online technology as one more means of gathering public input has created another facet of our job and additional work in controlling facts, misinformation, and all the factors you have to (& should) consider from a statistical standpoint (i.e., reliability, validity).	8/10/2016 1:12 PM
11	The current environment of divisive rhetoric and the national political environment that seems to be fanning the flames has changed the emphasis on community engagement somewhat. Many of the public processes must now start with significant discussions on even how to talk about issues, human rights, human dignity, and roles/responsibilities within a democratic society.	8/10/2016 12:26 PM
12	One of the most significant obstacles that I face in conducting public participation is lack of planning, or time to plan. I am often presented with a problem with not enough notice.	8/8/2016 2:40 PM
13	The lack of training has been detrimental	8/7/2016 2:53 PM
14	There is a lot of potential obstacles embedded in "Lack of understanding of how to conduct meaningful public participation..." I think there is a big need to understand how to engage with our many different stakeholder groups in different ways - it may seem inefficient to tailor engagement, but it can be much more valuable to do it this way.	8/2/2016 1:23 PM

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15	the list should have included lack of time for public participation . Promulgation of regulation is on a timeline with statutory deadlines, and the time available together with lack of \$\$ means that participation is truncated to a bare minimum. Also, certain constituencies do not have the manpower, money or skill to effectively participate in (especially) highly technical issues. So in those cases where public participation happens, the results are skewed to the powerful (usually the regulated industry). In those cases we would be better off and have a more balanced outcome without the public participation.	7/29/2016 1:37 PM
16	Adequate timing to plan and prepare is another obstacle in my view.	7/26/2016 3:34 PM
17	The public often has preconceived ideas about the government/agencies that they bring to the table and are hesitant to fully offer meaningful participation.	7/22/2016 11:29 AM
18	I think that with long term planning the public begins to be less and less involved and it's hard to get their interest.	7/22/2016 9:54 AM
19	The agency's mentality of spending money to measure success vs producing tangible and meaningful projects that support the nation's water resources needs is its biggest obstacle to supporting public participation. Schedule and budget is all that matters.	7/22/2016 7:59 AM
20	I think the same things that were obstacles 20 years ago - clients really not understanding how they are making decisions nor how to provide a meaningful role for the public - continue to exist, BUT they are generally willing to let me assist in defining a role. They may not want to do something elaborate or creative, but I try to push them to authenticity. I believe in the legitimacy of the Spectrum and support them in implementing what is comfortable for them. The above constraints exist, but naivete on the part of my clients remains the largest impediment.	7/21/2016 5:25 PM
21	I would answer very different if focuses nationally (where polarization is a huge problem), but locally, these are manageable obstacles	7/20/2016 2:03 PM
22	Our agency does not directly do public participation, so these questions are not applicable.	7/20/2016 10:20 AM
23	I have been observing more and more "corporate style" engagement - another way of putting it is "persuasive engagement", i.e. the appearance of engaging the community in decision making with a predetermined outcome. This destroys trust in the engagement process.	7/20/2016 6:35 AM
24	We can always improve. The level of participation is not always predictable. We've advertised open houses and had almost no people show up. We've also had conference rooms full of people. When there's a controversial grazing decision or something to do with wild horses, there is a lot of interest, but there is also a lot of polarization.	7/19/2016 8:46 PM
25	The public participation element is so polemical that our search for valid and valuable insights for analysis is often overrun. When we ask for input on specific things to analyze, 95+ percent of all comments are long winded votes either for or against. Even organizations who engage in influencing the decision process through providing evidence follow up by burying the process in form letters of support or rejection.	7/19/2016 5:02 PM
26	Rather than "lack of interest" on the part of the public, there is--legitimately, based on past experience--lack of *trust*.	7/19/2016 4:13 PM
27	Lack of interest on part of the public - same few players engage and that's it. Dialogue isn't representative, so results have limited meaning.	7/19/2016 4:03 PM
28	PubPart professionals not used to overcome obstacles.	7/19/2016 3:30 PM
29	Most of our public participation work is done on a shoe string budget. We do fairly well for that. We are having a difficult time making the jump to hiring a committed staff person to help evolve our practices and provide implementation support. Right now, that all falls on me and its really only 20-30% of my total job duties.	7/19/2016 2:37 PM
30	There are certainly regional differences in degree of public interest in participation, and in the degree of polarization/public anger. How accepting the public can be of opposing viewpoints and emotion also varies dramatically by region.	7/19/2016 2:13 PM
31	I think if people understand how a topic/decision is relevant to them, most citizens would like to weigh in. However, we are pulled in so many directions and faced with so much information and distractions that it is difficult to get people to focus and contribute.	7/19/2016 1:03 PM
32	A consistent framework for the agency would help -- when do we reach out, for what kind of feedback, and how do we use it?	7/19/2016 12:17 PM
33	degree of polarization is an opportunity, not an obstacle ;-)	7/19/2016 10:20 AM
34	Budget, belief in the process and knowledge are key constraints for clients.	7/19/2016 9:32 AM
35	CR prevent effective operations for Feds. Obama's tech guy won't be there long enough to make lasting change	7/18/2016 10:28 PM
36	Polarization can be leveraged. Techniques like scenario planning, deliberative polling and Kettering Common Ground allow both sides to feel respected and transform either/or into maybe some new version of both. Works for almost everything except possibly abortion.	7/18/2016 12:54 PM

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37	My geek response: we get the geographic scale wrong too often. Meaningful engagement happens locally. I know that's too simple and there are lots of public policy decisions I want citizens to affect at bigger (regional, national, global) scales. Still...	7/18/2016 12:24 PM
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Q14 Where is Public Participation Working Best? Briefly describe the types of projects or issues where public participation is working most effectively.

Answered: 124 Skipped: 109

#	Responses	Date
1	1. Community plans (master plans) 2. Community improvements along ocean (public property), finding out what types of gathering spaces, helping give input re tradeoffs (wider sidewalks for pedestrians and less lanes for cars or more lanes for cars and narrower sidewalks)	9/7/2016 3:48 PM
2	I have not seen it work to its fullest in Minnesota.	8/31/2016 5:37 PM
3	When citizens drive their participation on shared community issues.	8/29/2016 2:51 PM
4	in situations where the people affected by the project or issue are in charge of, or collaborating to a great degree, the public participation	8/25/2016 5:16 PM
5	Very local projects	8/18/2016 6:07 PM
6	- Where there is early focus on issues and considerations, such as taking the timing of the project into account	8/17/2016 4:38 PM
7	Where there is a nexus with specific decisions	8/17/2016 11:21 AM
8	Public participation seems to "work" best on projects that are controversial or contentious in some fashion. These projects motivate more people to get involved and motivate the client/government agency/proponent to properly resource the engagement process (although the "effectiveness of said processes is suspect... is it engagement or window dressing?).	8/16/2016 12:12 PM
9	I mostly have worked at the state (Florida) and local level rather than federal. From my vantage point, PP works best when well understood by leaders (agencies, elected officials). I feel as though the profession is healthy, but PP tools are not in widespread use and the basic concepts are poorly understood by leaders who could truly benefit from them.	8/16/2016 10:26 AM
10	Regulation Changes or a big problem (such as wildlife disease like CWD)	8/11/2016 1:59 PM
11	strategic planning, design of parks, buildings, types of amenities, parking issues, understanding which services/programs citizens value most and their level of satisfaction.	8/11/2016 12:59 PM
12	transit projects urban planning/visioning projects community initiated public engagement	8/10/2016 9:09 PM
13	transportation projects	8/10/2016 5:50 PM
14	Highway projects where our districts request PI assistance, and not where we have to insert our presence! Early, often and continuously. We are making "culture changes" slowly but surely in agency's way of doing business as usual.	8/10/2016 5:27 PM
15	non-controversial issues, quality of life issues, things where it's hard to be against (Farmer's Markets, Sustainability Plans, Recreational Facilities)	8/10/2016 4:37 PM
16	It is working well when we innovate and tailor approaches using a variety of tools based on target audiences.	8/10/2016 3:27 PM
17	Any substantive issue where the client/employer has not already made a decision. I had one employer describe the best public process as one where the stakeholders are put into a toy car at the grocery store and you just keep pumping coins into the slot so the stakeholders think they are driving a real car.	8/10/2016 2:41 PM
18	Land use planning, program and service improvements - anything where concrete alternatives / choices can be provided. Values-based policy decisions -- not so much.	8/10/2016 2:15 PM
19	In the US, legally required federal policy work (NEPA, Superfund, RCRA) offers some hope. Other examples are in local communities: participatory budgeting, climate adaptation	8/10/2016 2:15 PM
20	Community health planning	8/10/2016 2:14 PM
21	We have started contracting with community based organizations to facilitate discussion groups - often culturally specific. The benefits are improved and meaningful relationships with community members, deeper dialogue and input, and the opportunity to report back on progress and continue to engage the community.	8/10/2016 2:12 PM

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22	Works most effectively in areas where we can provide ongoing meaningful interactions, online and in person, and have done our homework of carefully evaluating issues and potential consequences of actions that are then shared to provide the public with context for informed input and recommendations. Also requires understanding and willingness of staff and officials to listen and learn.	8/10/2016 1:45 PM
23	Project Development more than Project Planning but we are working on it...	8/10/2016 1:27 PM
24	-- non-contentious projects or decisions -- non environmental projects or decisions (i.e., projects/decisions that are exempt from CEQA) -- projects not in proximity to residential or sensitive receptors -- when it is not election year for an agency's elected representatives -- when a development project is in fact constructed per approved plans	8/10/2016 1:24 PM
25	Increasingly historically under represented communities are becoming aware of their rights, responsibilities, roles, and opportunities to be part of the decision-making process. Regionally more resources are being provided to encourage and support that change as well as recognition that our communities are growing increasingly diverse. Engagement efforts are beginning to address the evolving needs/aspirations of the community and ways in which they can be engaged.	8/10/2016 12:44 PM
26	public participation where multiple venues are used to engage with people are most successful.	8/10/2016 12:38 PM
27	With transit service updates and changes we have used technology as well as physical postings (signage) and media to report the information.	8/10/2016 12:34 PM
28	Strategic Plan development for community wide visioning. Feedback and input to react to and shape potential community initiatives.	8/10/2016 12:31 PM
29	Best where the public and the agency are committed to working together to impact change.	8/10/2016 12:30 PM
30	engaging the public where construction work is going to happen in their community and working with them to mitigate impacts and design facilities that fit better with the community.	8/10/2016 12:25 PM
31	At the municipal level. As you fan out to higher levels of govt, there is a much weaker connection with the public and the engagement (so called) appears to be less meaningful.	8/10/2016 12:25 PM
32	- at a scoping values-idenifiaction phase (versus in the weeds on specific projects) - at the idea-generation phase	8/10/2016 12:16 PM
33	I find that when the arts are integrated into the community engagement process the much deeper dialogues can be achieved.	8/10/2016 12:12 PM
34	Collaboration on storm water projects.	8/10/2016 12:12 PM
35	In the PNW the public is much more involved in the PI process where as on the east coast they were more indifferent.	8/10/2016 12:09 PM
36	Projects that stand to directly impact on people combined with an agency/corporation that either believes in the value of pp or is forced by international or national standards to conduct pp and consequently makes the funding available for experienced pp practitioners to run the process.	8/10/2016 6:54 AM
37	Where there are highly committed entities (agencies, elected bodies, companies, NGOs etc.) that value participation, combined with skilled practitioners who can design and conduct public participation effective processes	8/9/2016 12:23 PM
38	One of our most successful public participation processes of recent has been at the neighborhood level.	8/8/2016 2:43 PM
39	Forward thinking projects and plannign for government spending are both places where public involvement is working well. It has not been working well for individual capital and development processes.	8/8/2016 11:22 AM
40	When a local government agency seeks public input about the sale/development of city property.	8/8/2016 10:50 AM
41	It works best when we use experienced sub-consultants and many of them are about to retire	8/7/2016 2:57 PM
42	Where there is a specific question or quantifiable question that needs to be answered. Qualitative ideas, issues or questions are not as successful.	8/5/2016 1:07 PM
43	Participatory budgeting	8/3/2016 5:49 PM
44	I'm not sure - Scandinavia?!	8/3/2016 12:59 PM
45	Participatory budgeting is one example. But what works best are those efforts where it is clear from the beginning how publi input is used and who will be making decisions based on what information	8/3/2016 9:40 AM
46	Transportation, health care, education	8/2/2016 2:35 PM
47	Regional policy development, scoping impact mitigation plans for large transportation projects (light rail) in Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota, USA	8/2/2016 1:26 PM

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48	Government agencies, school districts, and organizations where best practices have been institutionalized through ordinances, policies, and procedures. As leadership changes the good P2 practice continues because it is embedded in the organization rather than championed by a few individuals. Once they leave things often go back to "business as usual."	8/1/2016 8:06 PM
49	In general "one-way" information sharing works very well, as does rule-based participation (i.e., we are improving how open house and town hall meetings are run and how we gather and share feedback in those arenas).	8/1/2016 11:08 AM
50	The MN Governor's Water Summit and the Pheasant Summit were shining examples of public participation that focused efforts on particular issues and resulted in progress.	8/1/2016 10:28 AM
51	Where citizens have high ownership/passion and/or financial resources involved. Middle and upper income groups.	8/1/2016 10:24 AM
52	The public is generally more interested in project-level decisions. We struggle more to get participation in long-range planning / high-level policy planning efforts.	8/1/2016 10:18 AM
53	In my current work, the areas where I see the most meaningful dialogue and greatest impact of public input on government decision-making are through long-term citizen advisory committees where relationships are built and detailed information is explored over time.	8/1/2016 9:41 AM
54	regulatory negotiation	7/29/2016 1:37 PM
55	P2 is working best in communities that are educated and have the capacity to participate. These are communities that also seem to have higher trust in government institutions and confidence in their ability to influence them. There is a HUGE capacity gap that needs to be addressed with equality and equity issues as well.	7/27/2016 3:23 PM
56	Where the law requires it. cercla.	7/27/2016 11:24 AM
57	Generally in non-conflictual matters. Social infrastructure where there is high interest and support for outcomes.	7/26/2016 3:37 PM
58	Public participation works best when there are definite projects which the public can understand are happening, or not, and give feedback on the type and scope of that project.	7/25/2016 10:22 AM
59	Local authority participatory budgeting	7/25/2016 6:37 AM
60	Where and when the issues or project are localized and participants know and trust each other	7/22/2016 7:03 PM
61	Where there is at least some form of win-win is recognized by opposing groups. Where there is a glimmer of consensus to begin with.	7/22/2016 12:56 PM
62	Small open house workshops where the public can interact with the agency on a personal level. This way they can also get the real facts of the project, which	7/22/2016 11:56 AM
63	Transportation, community planning	7/22/2016 11:25 AM
64	When we are open to being able to listen to the public and actually take steps to make changes based on public input.	7/22/2016 9:55 AM
65	Large scale projects that have a significant financial resource, extended schedule, and often existing conflict are the most receptive to public participation. Those teams welcome a public participation practitioner to assist with managing the conflict. Unfortunately, the organization is too reactive and not proactive.	7/22/2016 8:04 AM
66	1. Strangely, when they need it the most. When they get desperate. 2. When agencies really want input and we are able to make the invitation attractive	7/21/2016 5:27 PM
67	Education ...referendum planning - school districts that commit to public participation and are successful	7/21/2016 3:28 PM
68	Occupy, Sanders, Grassroots Activism	7/21/2016 12:26 AM
69	none come to mind	7/20/2016 6:57 PM
70	Urban planning in small communities	7/20/2016 4:32 PM
71	At the local level where a culture has developed and sufficient capacity exists. I work with a university that provides capacity to the local government and local nonprofits, with the added benefit of a local philanthropic organization that provides support.	7/20/2016 2:15 PM
72	Nonev	7/20/2016 1:58 PM
73	Getting people to come to after some kinds of tragedies	7/20/2016 12:21 PM
74	Specific projects that have a specific effect on a particular population.	7/20/2016 10:29 AM
75	Large public projects that affect everyone.	7/20/2016 10:21 AM
76	Library building planning	7/20/2016 8:16 AM

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77	hazardous waste site remediation	7/20/2016 7:30 AM
78	I experience it working most effectively at the local government level where we have been consistently developing the capacity to participate for the past 10 years through training and development and communication with communities through multi media.	7/20/2016 7:25 AM
79	The lowest, community level.	7/20/2016 12:28 AM
80	We scope even when we don't have to. We don't always hear from everyone, but State and local agencies often draft a letter so we know their concerns. We also hear from one environmental group in particular. Participation from other environmental groups is not as high as it used to be, but I think that's because the one group is very high-profile and litigious. We are able to respond to suggestions all through our NEPA process from people with all kinds of interests and goals, and good input does influence our alternatives and decisions.	7/19/2016 9:08 PM
81	Innovative and new projects	7/19/2016 6:58 PM
82	Water and energy	7/19/2016 6:40 PM
83	small group discussion, youth outreach	7/19/2016 5:51 PM
84	In arenas where there isn't a vested public argument. If the audience is interested enough to become informed, and not being led by outrage pushers like much of the news media, then public input is more thoughtful and useful.	7/19/2016 5:06 PM
85	Local and neighbourhood level. Internally in large organizations and high profile projects. Place making and infrastructure projects are seeing an increase in success.	7/19/2016 4:56 PM
86	on the local level, on local level topics (within a community)	7/19/2016 4:36 PM
87	Planning	7/19/2016 4:20 PM
88	Participatory Budgeting in cities. Give citizens real control over resources.	7/19/2016 4:16 PM
89	Small scale at neighborhood level where a specific project affects a specific neighborhood.	7/19/2016 4:04 PM
90	In a shorter process period that includes various touch points.	7/19/2016 3:56 PM
91	In social services agencies	7/19/2016 3:32 PM
92	In a crisis	7/19/2016 2:55 PM
93	Any project that has significant grant funding where we can push our practices up a notch and even experiment on new techniques and approaches.	7/19/2016 2:41 PM
94	when we hand out money....lol	7/19/2016 2:40 PM
95	Online social media forums	7/19/2016 2:37 PM
96	local, community level activities with a medium level of controversy (too much and there is polarization which can take great effort to address and if there's too little, there is often public apathy)	7/19/2016 2:34 PM
97	Government projects (highways, developing protected lands)	7/19/2016 2:28 PM
98	On-line surveys.	7/19/2016 2:26 PM
99	One-on-one prior to and during construction. Online and in-person surveys can be valuable during the planning of a project. Meeting with people at public events.	7/19/2016 2:21 PM
100	Highly controversial issues that the public feels strongly enough about to become involved with and participate in dialogue.	7/19/2016 2:16 PM
101	At the most local levels. Closest to the daily lives of people. Those that have the potential to effect people most often.	7/19/2016 1:33 PM
102	In-person, face-to-face conversation and interaction is still the heart of public participation. Grassroots outreach such as neighborhood discussions are the most effective method of building understanding and learning from people affected by a decision.	7/19/2016 1:06 PM
103	Large scale controversial developments which attract media attention and wide-spread scrutiny.	7/19/2016 12:45 PM
104	Specific ideas/topics -- things people can read and react to -- seem to generate the most engagement, as opposed to higher level ideas, concepts or plans.	7/19/2016 12:18 PM
105	My union is strong and we were without a contract for nine years. We held out and finally received the majority of our demands.	7/19/2016 10:04 AM
106	Public Participation works best in rural areas where the projects of mineral extractions are conducted.	7/19/2016 9:45 AM
107	Equator Principles Financial Institution funded projects have the best PP processes.	7/19/2016 9:36 AM

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108	In a sense I think it works well in highly regulated environments where there are legal requirements to do public participation or when projects are funded by international banks like the World Bank where specific international standards have to be complied with.	7/19/2016 9:03 AM
109	Energy, environmental planning	7/19/2016 12:31 AM
110	Grass roots level with trained activists who come from their community are part of community old Alinsky style organizers.	7/18/2016 10:30 PM
111	We go to public to collect input for particular projects , larger projects, to feed in to general planning and also in advance of strategic planning. There was a big project Imagine Calgary a few years ago to collect input for a 100 year plan. we used this information for our strategic planning too.The city is trying to do public participation using citizen advisory online that I think could be very good as long as the critical voices are not filtered out. How de we know if they are?	7/18/2016 7:35 PM
112	when there is items that the public can impact on. when we tell them what we heard. When we get them involved in developing solutions.	7/18/2016 5:38 PM
113	small public budgeting initiatives, in innovative communities that are committed to participatory design and action	7/18/2016 4:57 PM
114	land use & public construction	7/18/2016 4:33 PM
115	My experience is limited but I would say budget games and other PB variations and ongoing public scenario projects like the Future of the Adirondacks	7/18/2016 1:10 PM
116	Long range planning in a variety of forms; determining how to spend a limited amount of funds.	7/18/2016 12:47 PM
117	I am mostly aware of lower level (local) government and university campus efforts to engage the public in dialogue. Although national organizations such as AmericaSpeaks have had some success in addressing national issues, informed public input has not become a mainstay of political dialogue in the US.	7/18/2016 12:47 PM
118	public transit; minimum wage; parks	7/18/2016 12:46 PM
119	locally (school, neighborhood, community)	7/18/2016 12:25 PM
120	intractable situations where the client AND the community have decided that it is time for change, and something new has to be done.	7/18/2016 12:08 PM
121	Major development projects that are conducted by paid, outside consultants who are committed to listening to the public.	7/18/2016 12:03 PM
122	I'm still looking for good examples.	7/18/2016 11:56 AM
123	Efforts that give meaningful decision making authority to the public seem most effective (e.g. Participatory Budgeting Project). Citizen (vision) planning and citizen review/oversight also seem to be effective at engaging the public and producing useful results.	7/18/2016 11:53 AM
124	in local communities	7/18/2016 11:49 AM

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Q15 General Comments: Please provide any additional information that you believe is important to understanding the current use and future of public participation in your country.

Answered: 60 Skipped: 173

#	Responses	Date
1	Broadscale public participation at the sector/regional level with joined up communities and companies would be beneficial in many mining areas of the USA.	8/31/2016 5:37 PM
2	Social media comments and other forms of online participation are not perceived as meaningful by elected officials unless they attract media interest. Public meetings remain far more impactful in the eyes of officials. However, social media has been helpful for publicizing programs, projects and campaigns and for spreading information among other governments and agencies who have broader constituencies.	8/18/2016 6:07 PM
3	Agencies must invest in and commit to educational processes. Uninformed input can be more destructive than useful.	8/17/2016 11:21 AM
4	Digital engagement is the new minimum standard, but I do believe we are a long way from making this medium effective and meaningful to support better decisions and increase engagement (let alone making it civil).	8/16/2016 12:12 PM
5	I believe that part of the increasing public frustration we are seeing is caused by reduced levels of stakeholder input/engagement compared to 10 years ago. I think many of the serious and now violent divisions we see in the USA are a reflection of increased isolation between decision makers and stakeholders. Because smartphones appear to be here to stay, there's going to have to be some deliberate tool making and deployment of useful technology. All I've seen is that we are adapting tools made predominantly with the goals of entertainment and one-way communication and expecting they will help because they are sooooo convenient and create the impression that there has been meaningful engagement. I am still hearing the phrase "buy-in" way too much, even from people who work in PP.	8/16/2016 10:26 AM
6	How can phone surveys be useful when people are getting rid of their landlines and only using cell phones?	8/11/2016 1:59 PM
7	environmental laws and regulations sets up a poor system for a "check the box" type of engagement and makes it difficult for clients to have the desire to do more than the required public meeting/hearing.	8/10/2016 9:09 PM
8	The real challenge is using it for complex issues that are tied to the public good. There are many technically complex issues that could impact the lives of all Californians. It will be challenging to collect meaningful public input when they don't understand these issues.	8/10/2016 4:37 PM
9	It needs to be constantly changing to keep in alignment with people's expectations about how they want to communicate.	8/10/2016 3:27 PM
10	Sorry, I'm feeling a little negative about things today.	8/10/2016 2:41 PM
11	I think it is more the instant polarization of issues that social media and internet encourage that are the most dangerous aspects of the impacts of technology. Everything moves faster, including people coming to a "public judgment" on issues (without the benefit of deliberation and dialogue).	8/10/2016 2:15 PM
12	Public participation is common sense, but still not so much common practice. When the public understands and demands ethical participation with practitioners and the public officials who hire them, we will make steps forward toward a more just society. What is the responsibility of participation practitioners to make this happen?	8/10/2016 2:15 PM
13	Because tax dollars are used, the public should have a say in how it is spend--if they want trees, give them trees but explain the limited mitigation trees provide besides aesthetic and possibly air quality benefits; they do not help potential noise, as many believe. Face to face is the only way to build trust. Once gained, web and social media is good for information sharing.	8/10/2016 1:27 PM
14	-- A challenge is successfully convincing a client (developer for example) that allocating enough money towards this process, is to their benefit and can save them money. -- Getting beyond the emotions such as anger & rage from a person or group of people about a specific project or decision so that public input is in fact meaningful. -- Effectively "controlling" how misinformation is spread by the public via online technology and avoiding the process moving from proactive to reactive, "damage control" mode.	8/10/2016 1:24 PM

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15	Beyond the moral and ethical imperatives to engage community, there is increasing awareness of the legal avenues to encourage government agencies specifically to increase opportunities. Additionally there is acknowledgement that engaging and responding to community concerns/desires yields a better end product that can be implemented rather than being thrown into conflict.	8/10/2016 12:44 PM
16	I see a lot of companies selling online participation tools, but I still haven't seen a lot of good, successful case studies of it working well.	8/10/2016 12:25 PM
17	I think the future is very bright for public participation in Canada. As the public experience grows and people demand more opportunities to be involved in the decision making, agencies will be forced to provide more meaningful platforms for dialogue. It's slow but each year I see better and better programs being implemented.	8/10/2016 12:25 PM
18	- P2 in a government context is a work-in-progress - interest and commitment can ebb and flow (with different 'corners' of the system more interested and involved at different times for different reasons) - overall change is occurring but it is often slower than desired (and things can go backwards too) - overall amount of P2 is likely growing and quality is also generally improving BUT there is a lot of work to do - politicians do not understand how good P2 can help them (indeed, they often lose power thru effective P2 and this is an elephant in the P2 room)	8/10/2016 12:16 PM
19	The most significant element of public participation that I believe should be included in our process is showing and sharing with the public how their feedback affected the decisions made. We must improve on reporting what we've heard and creating plans that link to feedback provided.	8/8/2016 2:43 PM
20	In person participation is how you get the most valuable feedback and continued engagement over time. Online PP is best for surveys, mapping exercises, etc. - not at all helpful for open ended responses.	8/8/2016 10:50 AM
21	In my government service, the anti-science movement is troublesome. Also the tyranny of the minority, i.e., a small number of very vocal people can override a majority of support.	8/5/2016 1:07 PM
22	We don't have infrastructure that supports the demo graphically complex public to be able to come together and frame public issues so that they can hold the institutions that are there to serve the public accountable	8/3/2016 9:40 AM
23	We have a new leader in Canada. He created his initial platform by going out and asking Canadians what they want. He then implemented what he heard (not all but, quite a lot). The Liberal Government is continuing its ongoing dialogue with its citizens.	8/2/2016 2:35 PM
24	Respect the diversity of the community - work to hear all voices.	8/2/2016 1:26 PM
25	P2 is still not seen as a "profession." In the US the use of "town halls" by the federal government to discuss major issues like health care is the wrong tool. Presidential debates is the wrong tool if the object is for candidates to have a real dialogue. Clients/agencies do not appreciate the need for a process to involve the public effectively. There are excellent examples of good P2 but the impacts are not publicized. The role of P2 in a decision or outcome is not often given its due.	8/1/2016 8:06 PM
26	The social media scene changes so quickly and often, that it is very hard to keep up with which one is most appropriate for government agencies to use.	8/1/2016 10:28 AM
27	It would be great to see a short (4-8 hour) online course providing a 101 on P2 for engineers. They don't necessarily need to understand how to do it, but they need to understand its importance.	7/27/2016 3:23 PM
28	Not that I can write in this survey - it needs detailed story telling and explanation.	7/26/2016 3:37 PM
29	As in all media, in social media the loud voices drown out the majority who need to be heard. This problem is not new but it has significantly intensified.	7/25/2016 6:37 AM
30	Children of this generation seem to be disconnected to the environment and governmental decisions. It is my fear that in the near future, the public will be disconnected to their influences in decision making through public participation.	7/22/2016 11:56 AM
31	Although you get great public participation you cannot make everyone happy.	7/22/2016 11:25 AM
32	Public participation is critical. However, it must be properly balanced with the limits of the respective federal agency and the willingness or ability of the agency to truly take action wrt public comment, concern, and work with the public. Public participation cannot be used to 'check the box' or for appearance purposes only. It must be genuine and right now, most Corps of Engineers offices do not foster genuine participation.	7/22/2016 8:04 AM
33	I think we are facing a crisis in civility and a growing fear of participating in the civic sphere.	7/21/2016 5:27 PM
34	We need more international sharing of stories.	7/21/2016 12:26 AM
35	As is obvious from my comments, big difference between local and national. National is so polarized and the forces for bad engagement are extensive.	7/20/2016 2:15 PM

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36	At a federal level, the media has a high level of influence on the public and their level of participation. I don't care to work at that level because I have no show at influencing any change there. At a local government level the media influence is less and the public tends to challenge the media somewhat. The internal politics at a local government level is the biggest concern I see emerging more and more as we shift from the "old school" Councillors to more of the "new and politically ambitious" Councillors. The "new style" is more inwardly focused and it would appear to be one of the strongest detriments to public participation. I have limited time to respond to this survey - my apologies for not having time to add more.	7/20/2016 7:25 AM
37	The country cannot be evaluated as a single entity. Conditions vary too much from place to place.	7/19/2016 11:24 PM
38	We are going to continue to engage the public. I hope there is not too much of opinion being influenced by conspiracy theories. We are an open book. Anyone who wants to know what we do and why we do it can just talk to us.	7/19/2016 9:08 PM
39	We need to avoid creating a speciality called public participation and ensure that we bring in all types of approaches that help people make good decisions.	7/19/2016 4:56 PM
40	the goals and purpose of the agency/client are not congruent with the goals and purpose of the public; therefore there is a lack of engagement	7/19/2016 4:36 PM
41	We need to educate current and future city planners and others who have control over these types of decisions as to how meaningful & substantive public input makes for better decisions and outcomes.	7/19/2016 4:16 PM
42	Agencies and organizations are slowly beginning to understand the importance of pub. part. And, this is largely driven by self-interest.	7/19/2016 2:55 PM
43	understanding the degree to which civic involvement is taught in school or whether people have role models and examples in their lives about what getting involved means.	7/19/2016 2:41 PM
44	While not all public decisions should see public participation (governing by referendum is problematic), where public participation is appropriate, there should be a direct line between public participation and decisions made.	7/19/2016 2:34 PM
45	People want to feel heard, but do not want to listen to differing opinions. it's counterproductive to let people vent if they don't want to come to agreement	7/19/2016 2:28 PM
46	Neighborhood meetings will still be arranged, but on-line participation will increase.	7/19/2016 2:26 PM
47	It would be very helpful to survey communities to know how they prefer to receive information and be involved in their city/town. We need to know our audiences better in order to better speak with them.	7/19/2016 2:21 PM
48	I believe fear and angst distort perceptions, and it's these that can interfere with public participation.	7/19/2016 2:16 PM
49	Thank you for your thoughtful survey. I am interested in seeing the results!	7/19/2016 1:06 PM
50	Its clear that a lot more is needed to enable effective consultation and engagement to enable more positive decisions being made on projects in Zambia. A stronger civil society that pushes developers to undertake proper consultation is required to improve consultation practices in the country.	7/19/2016 9:36 AM
51	I think public participation is still very young in our country being a young democracy; so it definitely has a future. Public participation combined with conflict management skills will be in demand.	7/19/2016 9:03 AM
52	There is no more important activity than to understand how to do this better , to create good dialogue between people, organizations etc.	7/18/2016 7:35 PM
53	It looks from the outside that Australia is doing well but I think that there is a lot happening but the depth of practice is not there YET.	7/18/2016 5:38 PM
54	I answered based on local municipal government. In the past 10 years we lost experts and champions to retirement, and budget cuts impacted the staff time available to do public participation well. The fall-back has been an on-line town hall but that fails to get participants engaged with each other.	7/18/2016 4:33 PM
55	Things that even professional public facilitators underestimate: * the criticality of legible written recording of contributions from citizens * the subtlety of respectful intervention * the value of non-debate activities such as investigations of supportive issues (what does the law actually say?) which can be carried out by opponents of what the law should say * the under use of parallel processing (e.g. small groups) and the over use of talk/verbal reporting vs. charts, drawings, markups, 'soft voting' (e.g. sticky dots) etc.	7/18/2016 1:10 PM
56	So little of it is guided by policy and so much of it is based on the whims of who is currently elected to office or appointed to leadership roles.	7/18/2016 12:47 PM
57	I am a strong believer in the need to focus efforts on areas where public dialogue can have an impact on public decision-making. Although I am supportive of the idea of cultivating engaged citizens, I think that the engagement has to be viewed as influencing policy if the time and effort necessary to be engaged is to be embraced in the long-term.	7/18/2016 12:47 PM

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58	I think the because of the ways people generally use social media and online commenting, many now view participation as just stating their view about something, without any attempt to listen to or try to understand someone else's point of view. They're also less willing to spend the time.	7/18/2016 12:46 PM
59	thanks guys. Looking forward to seeing the results! ~Steph	7/18/2016 12:08 PM
60	In order to have better public participation in government decision-making, the government needs to see the public as valuable participants on the process. That is not the case at this time.	7/18/2016 12:03 PM