

MENA-OECD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME
AND
ANNA LINDH EURO-MEDITERRANEAN FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
“VALUING DIVERSITY AND DIALOGUE: A NEW ALLIANCE BETWEEN
CITIZENS AND GOVERNMENTS”

PARIS, 7 JULY 2011

OPEN AND INCLUSIVE POLICY MAKING

Over the past two decades, all OECD countries have invested in building open government but what exactly does it mean?

Basically it covers three main elements:

- transparency, in other words being exposed to public scrutiny;
- accessibility to anyone, anytime, anywhere; and
- responsiveness to new ideas and demands.

From the public's point of view, an open government is one where businesses, civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizens can "know things" – obtain relevant and understandable information; "get things" – obtain services from and undertake transactions with the government; and "create things" – take part in decision-making processes.

The principles of good and democratic governance: transparency and accountability; fairness and equity; efficiency and effectiveness; respect for the rule of law; and high standards of ethical behaviour, represent the basis upon which open government is built.

INCLUSIVE POLICY MAKING HAS TWO VALUES:



Instrumental

- Better outcomes at less cost
- Innovative solutions
- Responding to greater diversity
- Leveraging resources and knowledge
- Higher compliance



Intrinsic

- Democracy
- Greater trust



The OECD identified 10 guiding principles as a common basis on which to draw when designing, implementing and evaluating open and inclusive policy making Initiatives:

OECD Principles for Open and Inclusive Policy-Making

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 1) Commitment | 6) Resources |
| 2) Rights | 7) Coordination |
| 3) Clarity | 8) Accountability |
| 4) Time | 9) Evaluation |
| 5) Objectivity | 10) Active Citizenship |

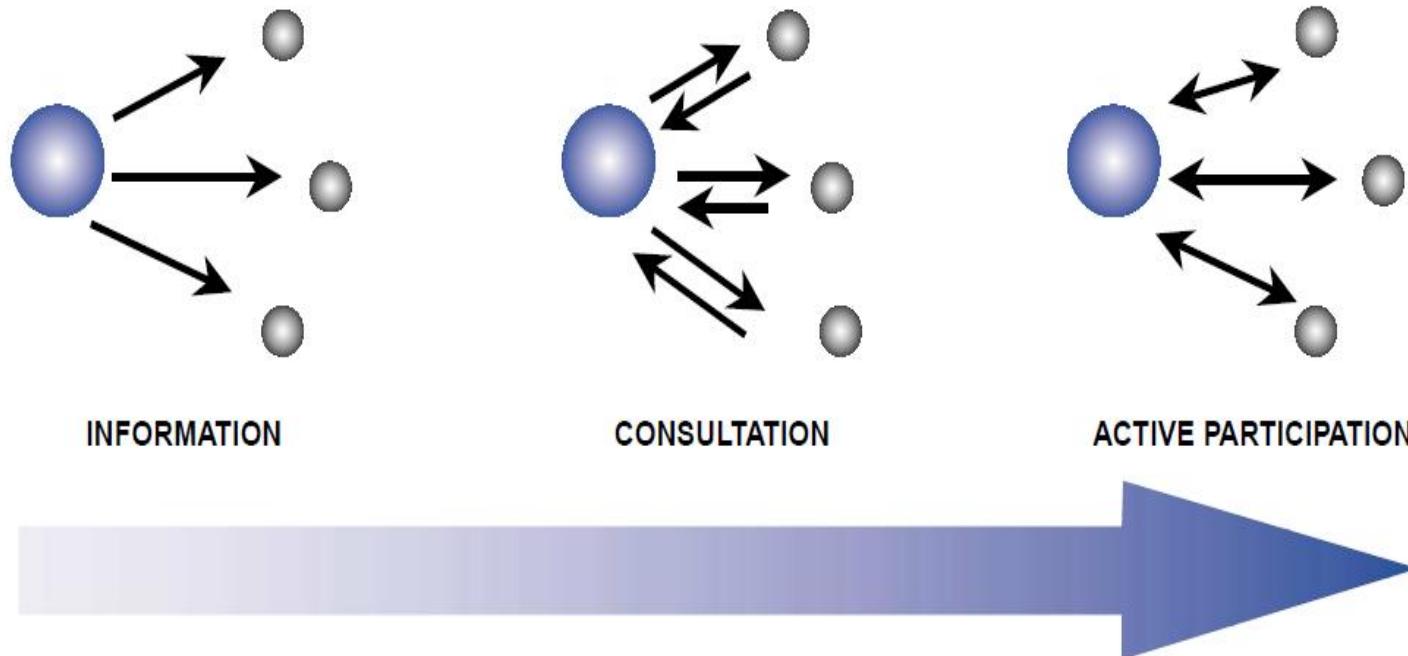
The value of open and inclusive policy making is now widely accepted among MENA and OECD countries. Translating that commitment into practice remains a challenge.

Governments need to:

- **Mainstream public engagement to improve policy performance.**
- **Develop effective evaluation tools.**
- **Leverage technology and the participative web.**
- **Adopt sound principles to support practice.**

Experience has shown that to be effective, open and inclusive policy making must be appropriately designed and context-specific for a given country, level of government and policy field.

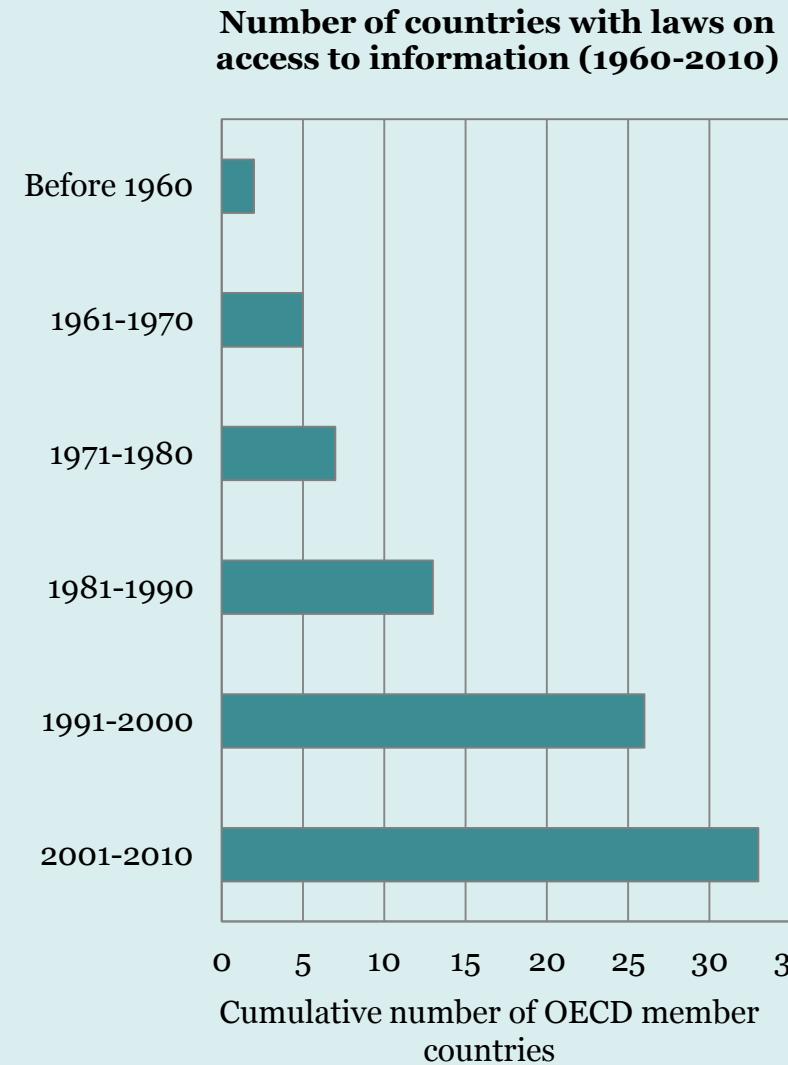
In particular, the OECD approach to citizen's participation shows that there are different degrees of involvement that can be achieved and how to move from one to the other.



Increasing level of citizen involvement and influence on policy-making

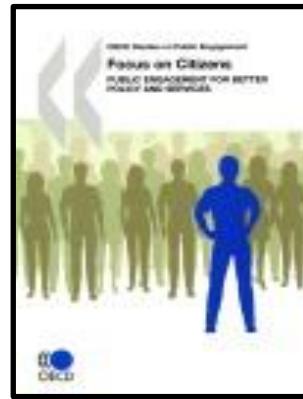
- **Information** is a **one-way relationship** in which government produces and delivers information for use by citizens. It covers both “passive” access to information upon demand by citizens and “active” measures by government to disseminate information to citizens. *Examples include:* access to public records, official gazettes, and government websites.
- **Consultation** is a **two-way relationship** in which citizens provide feedback to government. It is based on the prior definition by government of the issue on which citizens’ views are being sought and requires the provision of information. Governments define the issues for consultation, set the questions and manage the process, while citizens are invited to contribute their views and opinions. *Examples include:* public opinion surveys, comments on draft legislation.
- **Active participation** is a **relation based on partnership** with government, in which citizens actively engage in defining the process and content of policy-making. It acknowledges equal standing for citizens in setting the agenda, proposing policy options and shaping the policy dialogue – although the responsibility for the final decision or policy formulation rests with government. *Examples include:* consensus conferences, citizens’ juries.

- 1960: early beginners
- 1990: foundations and enabling frameworks
 - Laws on access to information, Ombudsmen
 - Policies and guidelines
- 2000: implementation
- 2011 and beyond?



Arab citizens demand to have a greater role in the public life of their countries.

The OECD has been working on these themes since 2001 and has collected valuable experiences and good practices.



The MENA-OECD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME is ready to support interested Arab countries in moving forward along the path of greater citizens' engagement and participation.

THANK YOU!

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