

Workshop “Citizens at the forefront of the development of cross-border living areas”, 14.10.2021 - 11.30-13.00



#EURegionsWeek



Margot Bonnafous, Euro-Institut



A crossborder participatory process – potentials, methods, specificities: The example of the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel

What does citizen participation mean?

Citizens are involved in
decision-making processes
and in deliberations – beyond
the instruments of
representative democracy

The idea of citizen participation
is a little like eating spinach: no
one is against it in principle
because it is good for you.

Sherry R. Arnstein

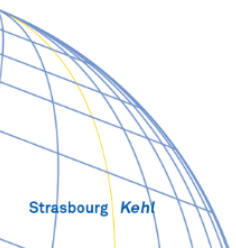
<https://www.coe.int/en/web/compass/citizenship-and-participation>



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The basics of citizen participation

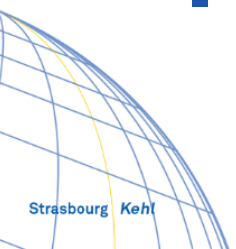
- ❖ Be clear as far as the aim of the participatory process is concerned
- ❖ Be clear about the roles of all actors involved
- ❖ Think in terms of processes, not in tasks -> cultural change
- ❖ Make sure that the group is as representative as possible
- ❖ Determine how the results will be used
- ❖ Follow-up is compulsory



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Specificities and challenges of crossborder citizen participation

- ❖ Different languages are still an obstacle
- ❖ Different political, administrative and participatory cultures
- ❖ The participants may have different expectations from one country to another
- ❖ Representativity: The difficulty to attract persons with different backgrounds is even higher in the cross-border context than usual
- ❖ But: It is an excellent opportunity to create a common identity
- ❖ Provides information about CBC to citizens
- May complement the action of representative bodies for CBC



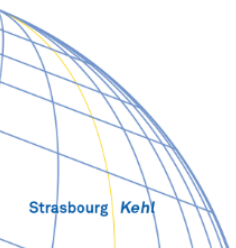
A crossborder participatory process – potentials, methods, specificities:
The example of the Trinational Eurodistrict Basel

Trinational Eurodistrict Basel: a participatory process within the framework of
Strategy 2030

The Trinational Eurodistrict Basel (TEB) is the platform for cross-border cooperation
in the trinational agglomeration of Basel.

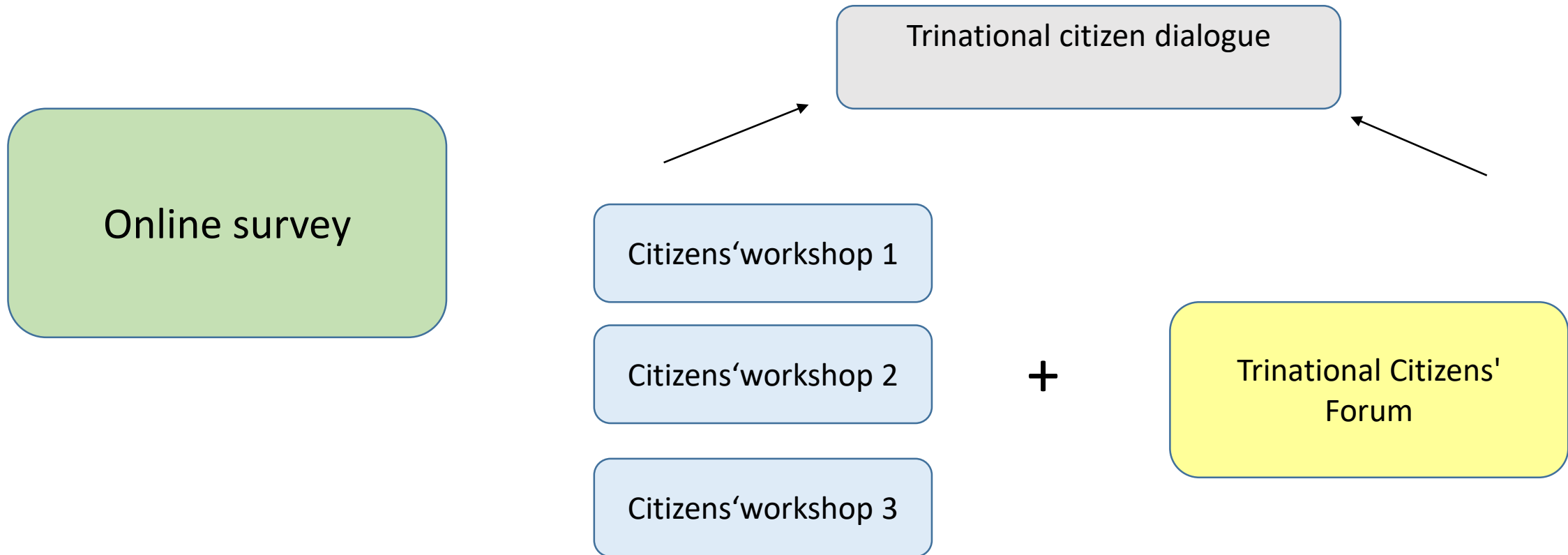
In 2020 / 2021, the TEB has been formulating its Strategy 2030, which will define its
role, organizational form and thematic areas for the coming years. It is important
for the association to involve the citizens in this process.

Therefore: organization of a Trinational participatory process with *Mission
opérationnelle transfrontalière* and the Euro-Institut.



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Please note: The three citizens' workshops, each with about 10 participants, as well as the trinational forum with 43 participants took place online

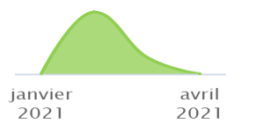
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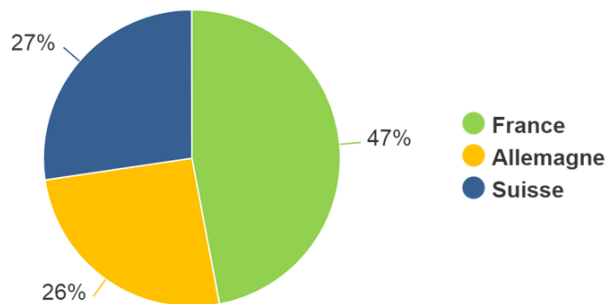
The **Online survey**: a real success

1 193

Réponses effectives



J'habite en...



How did the **Trinational citizens' forum** proceed?

- Short statements by the politicians
- Some online polls in the plenary session
- Discussion in 8 moderated trinational small groups on the defined topics
- Presentation of results in plenary

Simultaneous interpretation in the plenary, bilingual moderation in the small groups



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Some results

Most important fields of action when considering citizens' dialogue and online survey together

- Public transport
- Communication
- Cross-border coordination
- Energy efficiency
- Education (especially multilingualism)
- Cross-border citizen participation
- Culture.

Outcomes: **223** concrete project ideas concerning the different topics, for instance:

