

Workshop Focus Group Participatory Budgeting

11-12. October 2013, Berlin

Biographies



Jochum de Graaf is senior project manager at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Hague, the Netherlands. He holds a master degree in Sociology of Economics and Organisations and a post doc in Journalism. He has been working in the field of civic education since 1980, editing and publishing various publications on political problems in the Netherlands, amongst others a handbook on using the media. From the beginning, in 1989, he was involved in the development of “StemWijzer”, the very successful political preference test in the Netherlands. At the parliamentary elections in 2012 the site did obtain 4.9 million users. He successfully introduced the StemWijzer-method in Germany (2002), Switzerland (2003), Bulgaria (2005), France (2007) and the UK (2008). Together with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education he played an active role in building the NECE network Vote Match Europe 2014, for the EP-elections.



Nelson Dias is the Chairman of the Board of In Loco Association, Consultant of the United Nations and the Government of the Cape Verde Republic for the implementation of the Participatory Budgeting in that country. Further, he is active as a consultant of the World Bank for the implementation of the Participatory Budgeting in Maputo, the capital of Mozambique. He is also the consultant of different municipalities in Portugal to implement Participatory Budgeting processes, as it is the case of Lisbon, Cascais, Ponta Delbada and other. The coordinates the Portugal Participatory Budgeting Initiative and is the creator of the first digital device to support the design, management and evaluation of Participatory Budgeting.



Suzan S. Fouad is program and relief manager in the Local Development Unit of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS). Her job involves working with the program officers on preparing budgets for the developmental projects targeting the marginalized groups and communities to make them to be available for decision makers. Mrs. Suzan Fouad's experience in the development field is 23 years, where she is now responsible for the developmental programs such as Health, Children at Risk, people with disabilities, Agribusiness, environment, Housing, Livestock, Poultry and Fishermen, and Institutional Capacity Building through the effective management of these projects. She also participated in a number of trainings and in many forums and seminars related to budgeting.



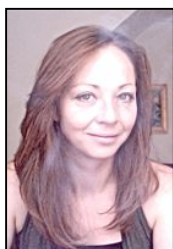
Ernesto Ganuza is a scientist at the Spanish Science Research Council. He is Doctor of Sociology from the Complutense University, Madrid (2005). He works on issues of Democracy, Participatory Budgeting, Civil Society or the contemporary political space open to participation and the democratization challenges resulting, considering participatory and deliberative processes that allow anyone to be linked to political environment from which no one seems to want to resign. He has published essays and books on these topics



Kamil Gregor is a data analyst and political scientist operating in KohoVolit.eu, a non-governmental parliamentary watchdog and open data advocacy organization, and at Masaryk University in Brno, Czech Republic. He focuses primarily on analysing parliamentary data and application of statistical methods to political science.



Petra Grüne has been in charge of the Federal Agency for Civic Education's Events Department since 2005. She has been working at the German Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb since 1991 in a number of different fields and positions. Together with Christoph Müller-Hofstede, Petra Grüne is responsible for the NECE initiative promoted by the Federal Agency for Civic Education/bpb.



Gemma Jamieson Malik is a Research Associate and works on Participedia. Initiated by academics at Harvard, British Columbia and Westminster, Participedia is an open global knowledge community for researchers and practitioners in the field of democratic innovation and public engagement. Further, she is a member of the UK PB Network Steering Group. Besides those activities, she is studying for a PhD at the Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD) at the University of Westminster in London. Her research centres on Radical Participation in theory and practice and pays special attention to PB.



Mayte Kappel Rovira was born in Madrid and studied Cultural Studies (Theater, Fine Arts, Philosophy and Cultural Management) at the University of Hildesheim. During her studies she worked and collaborated as an assistant project manager and curator in several international events (including festivals, expositions and conferences) in Germany and Spain, e.g. for the Goethe Institut Barcelona. Since 2009 she works as a freelance trainer and educator for intercultural communication, citizenship education and cultural education.



Norbert Kersting is currently holding the chair for Local and Regional Politics at the Department of Political Science at the University of Münster (Germany). He was also active at various other universities, e.g. University of Stellenbosch (South Africa), University of Marburg, University of Koblenz-Landau and University of Kassel. Further, he is the acting chair of different Committees of the International Political Science Association's (IPSA). He also edited the book 'Electronic democracy' in 2012 in the Ipsa series World of Political science. His research focuses on comparative political science and on modern instruments to promote political participation and discourse, local politics, parliamentarism and e-democracy.



Anna Krigar is currently interning at lab concepts. She studied English, Cultural Studies and Business Administration at the University of Mannheim and the Universitetet i Agder, Norway. She has gained prior experiences in the area of event management during her internship at the Goethe-Institute Mannheim-Heidelberg and her voluntary work in the cultural team of the AStA of the University of Mannheim.



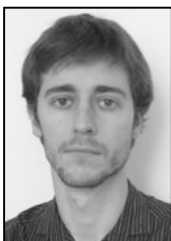
Roelof Martens is the head of the 'on location' department at ProDemos – House for Democracy and the Rule of Law in the Netherlands. Since 2006 he has been working at ProDemos and its predecessor Institute for Political Participation (IPP). Roelof Martens is mainly involved in participation projects at the local level, for instance trainings for future municipal councillors, advice to municipalities concerning citizens' participation and the development of various online participation tools such as the 'Budget-maker'. Before joining ProDemos, he worked for the Dutch Province 'Zuid-Holland'. From 1999 to 2011 he was also engaged in politics as a member of the board of the PvdA (Socialdemocratic Party) in the city of Utrecht. He is a graduate of the University of Wageningen, the Netherlands.



Anja Ostermann is managing director and project manager at the agency lab concepts in Bonn-Berlin, Germany. She worked as a freelance editor for the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. Anja Ostermann was responsible amongst other things for the publication of the "Länderbericht USA" (Country Report USA, 1992, 1994, 1998, 2004, 2007). Since 1995, she has been actively involved in the design and the implementation of various education and cultural formats, especially for public sector clients. Anja Ostermann has provided process guidance/academic support in the Europeanization of cultural and citizenship education and the formation of political and cultural education networks. She has studied Comparative Literature, History, German Language and Literature, Business Administration and Italian at the University of Bonn and St. Andrew's University in Scotland.



Wil Post studied international and tax law at the Amsterdam University. In 1985, she became the first female pension inspector in the Netherlands. Between 2002 and 2006 she was committed with local politics as leader of the democratic party. From 2006 till 2010 she was teacher in Financial Markets at ING Academy. Since 2010, she's legal advisor, teacher and journalist. She writes columns about pensions for the Dutch Financial Newspaper (FD). As a member of the board of a local lawyer network Wil Post gives advice to local politicians about equal treatment in the financial world. Since 2013 she is a member of the board of the Centre for Budget monitoring and citizen participation.



Gilles Pradeau has been promoting public participation in a French NGO called ADELS. He spent 2012 visiting PB experiences in UK and in Portugal. He helped the PB Unit to shoot videos and now works on "Learning to count", a web documentary that records best practices related to youth participatory budgeting in France, Portugal and the United Kingdom. He's also active in the promotion of design thinking applied to the public sector.



Juliane Rast works at lab concepts as a project employee/ intern in international event management and PR services since 2013. She studied International Communication and Translation (B.A.) at Hildesheim University and la Universidad de Valladolid, Spain. The focus of her studies was the use of German, English and Spanish as well as cultural and political sciences. Over the last two years, she completed internships in several concert agencies in organisation and PR services in Berlin. Furthermore, she has worked for the international music and theatre festival "Kulturarena" in Jena in the field of event management for several years.



Morten Ronnenberg Møller is the Founding Partner in *Strategihuset* ("the Strategy House"). Strategihuset is a socially oriented Danish consultancy company based outside Copenhagen. Their mission is to strengthen participation and citizenship in the Danish local civil society. Further, they help civil servants and policy makers in Danish municipalities to carry through new processes of participatory budgeting and systematic involvement of parents in the daily running of kindergartens. Strategihuset links to civil society as adviser to NGOs from Denmark, Africa and Asia. They help civil society organisations especially through training in the use of 'theory of change' as a means to increase their efficiency and better achieve their goals.



Jenny Southern comes from Sefton in England and represents 'Young Advisors' which is a national charity of 15-21 year old professional social action agents who show community leaders and decision makers how to engage young people in community life and decision making. She has been Young Advisor for 4 years and has gained experience in engaging, consulting and training young people and adults. She sits on many decision-making boards and facilitates events on budgeting including budget cuts in her area. She facilitates strategic needs assessments to allow her community to participate in budgeting decisions. She has a keen interest in human rights and is the first ever recipient of the 'Young Advisor of the Year' award which is a national award given to the Young Advisor who has shown true hard work and skill.



Stefano Stortone is president of the Centre for the Study of Participatory Democracy and post-doc researcher at the Civic Informatics Laboratory (LIC) of the University of Milan. He works on democracy and civil society, studying, designing and implementing new forms of social interactions and democratic practices in different local communities, promoting the use of ICTs. He obtained a degree (2005) and a PhD (2010) in Politics from the Catholic University of Milan and a MA in Democratic Studies from the Leeds University (2010). He is committed to understand how to overcome the crisis of political representation and representative democracy.



Günter Thauer is a consultant in the area Cross-Innovation-Management. He is participating in a EU-Project focusing on the (e-) participation of citizens and supports a civic foundation in Berlin with emphasis on participation and public spending. Further, he participates in open-date projects in the area e-governance. He also develops tools in the area (e-) participation to improve the transparency of public spending



Benjamin Wunsch-Grafton MA of Grafton Development was born in the UK and studied Joint Honours in German and Philosophy at Oxford University before moving to Austria. After 19 years in the field of education as a teacher, school director and consultant, he has been internationally active with his company Grafton Development (especially in Europe, Middle East and Africa) as a facilitator and consultant across all sectors focusing on participation and organizational development. He works closely on participation: e.g. co-founding the working group “Learning democracy in daily schooling” and the EU project “Building blocks of Democracy”, a simulation game on the issues of democracy.; with the Goethe Institute & EUNIC in the field of culture and development, currently involved as co-initiator & advisor of the “Cultural Innovators Network” supporting the innovative junior leaders in multi-sector fields north and south of the Mediterranean.