PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES IN (RESEARCH) PROJECTS

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Origins
Participation revolution: 60s
Many advantages...

- Commitment
- Sense of ownership
- Identification/empathy
- Personal accountability/responsibility
- Focus on stakeholders (customers)
- Transparency
- Trust
Participation: Mechanisms for individuals to express opinions and ideally to influence decisions which affect them (umbrella term, precision lost)

Stakeholder: Any group or individual who can affect or is affected by the achievement of the project’s objectives
... but to be used appropriately

- Emphasis on quantitative results
- Action plans/schedules
- Status/stratification
- Time/resources

Complexity-Trap
Getting information off the internet is like taking a drink from a fire hydrant (Mitchel Kapor)
Attention

Including stakeholders in the project organisation
Focussed exchange
Participation: Ingredients
Values

Personal accountability
Prerogatives with responsibilities
Empowerment
Information

Access broad and open to all
Avoid: narrow, fragmented, controlled
Prioritisation and focus
Structures

Self-organising teams

Work flow between stakeholders and project members

Access across levels
Leadership

Creates capacity in people
Integrates bottom up and top down approaches
Leaders as stewards of all stakeholders
Interdependency
Tell truth – independently of status
Reversibility: subordinated ones can coach higher ranks
Controls

Joint development of goals and indicators
Promote individual’s sense of commitment
Self-generated instead of imposed
Stakeholders

Partners in process of meeting their own needs
Vision level: Mutual benefits
Context level: Links, exchange, events
Action level: Articulate requirements, educate project partners
References cited
(in case you download this presentation)


David R. Godschalk: Participation, planning and exchange in old and new communities – A collaborative paradigm. Center for Urban and Regional Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 1971


*Online sources:*

www.partizipation.at

wiki.participation.e.govt.nz
Thinking and doing cannot be separated.

(McLagan & Nel: The Age of Participation)