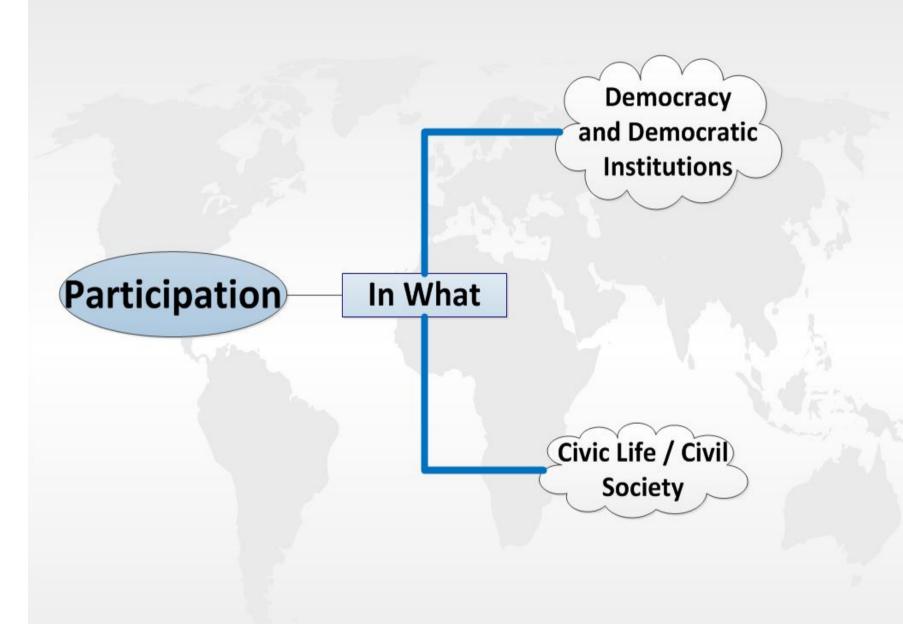
# Participation.....where to start...where will it end...

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#### Representation

Democracy and democratic systems

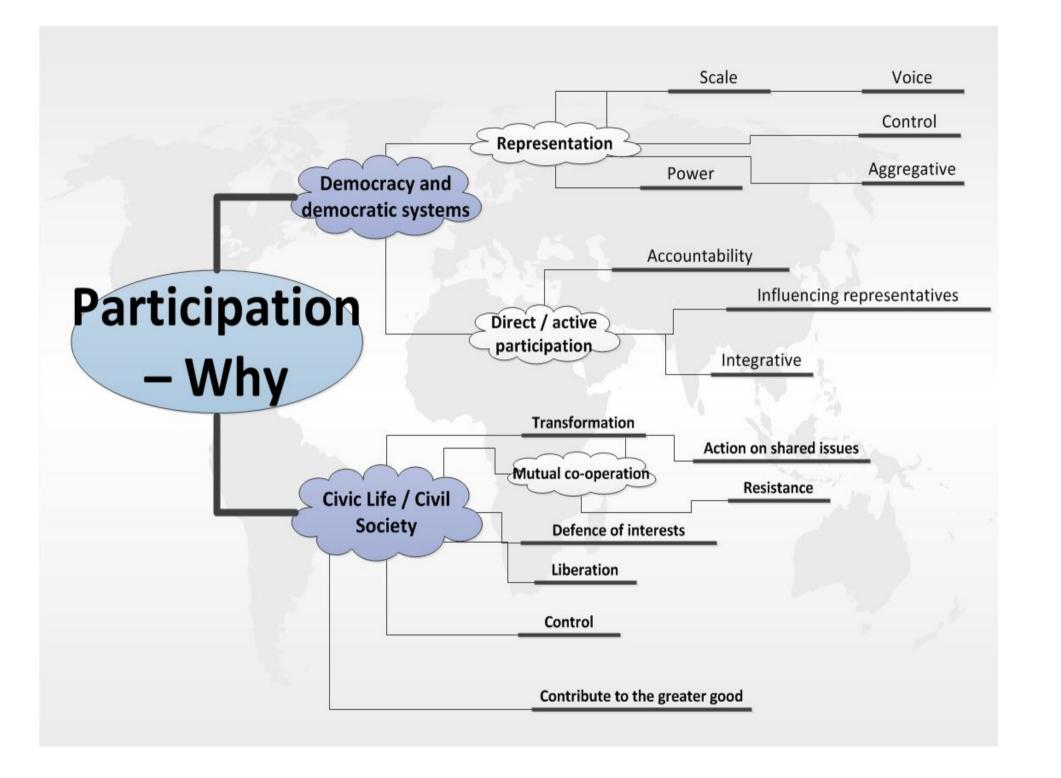
Direct / active participation

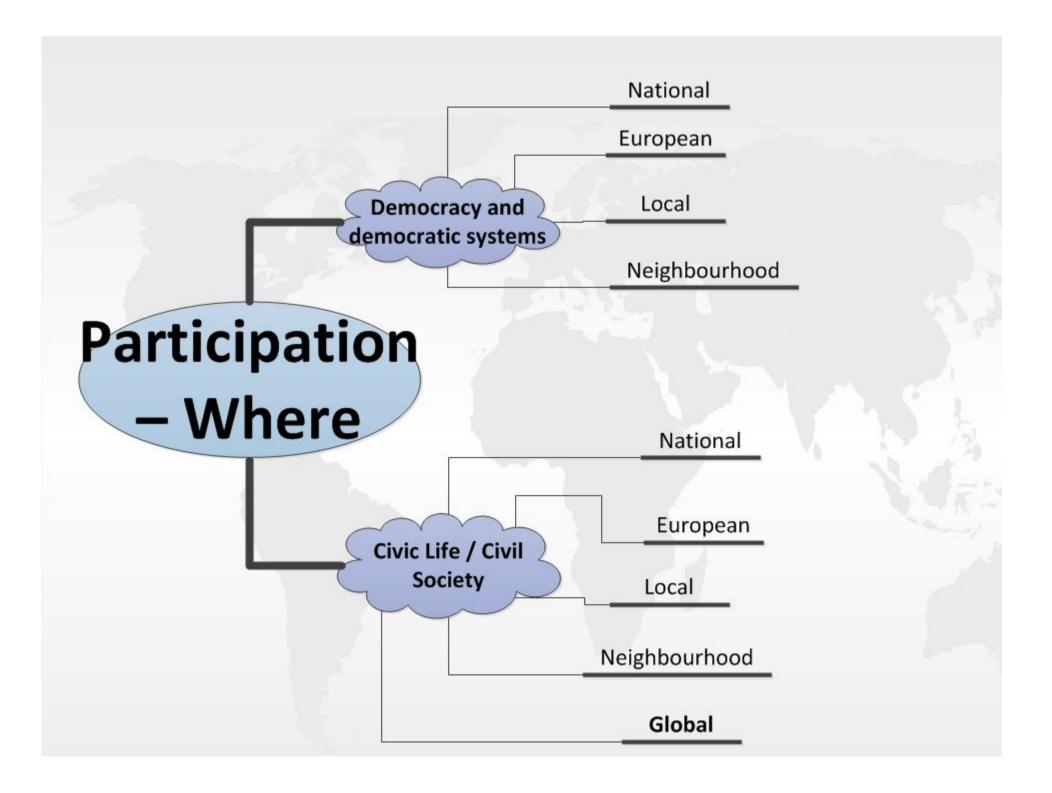
Individually / part of a group

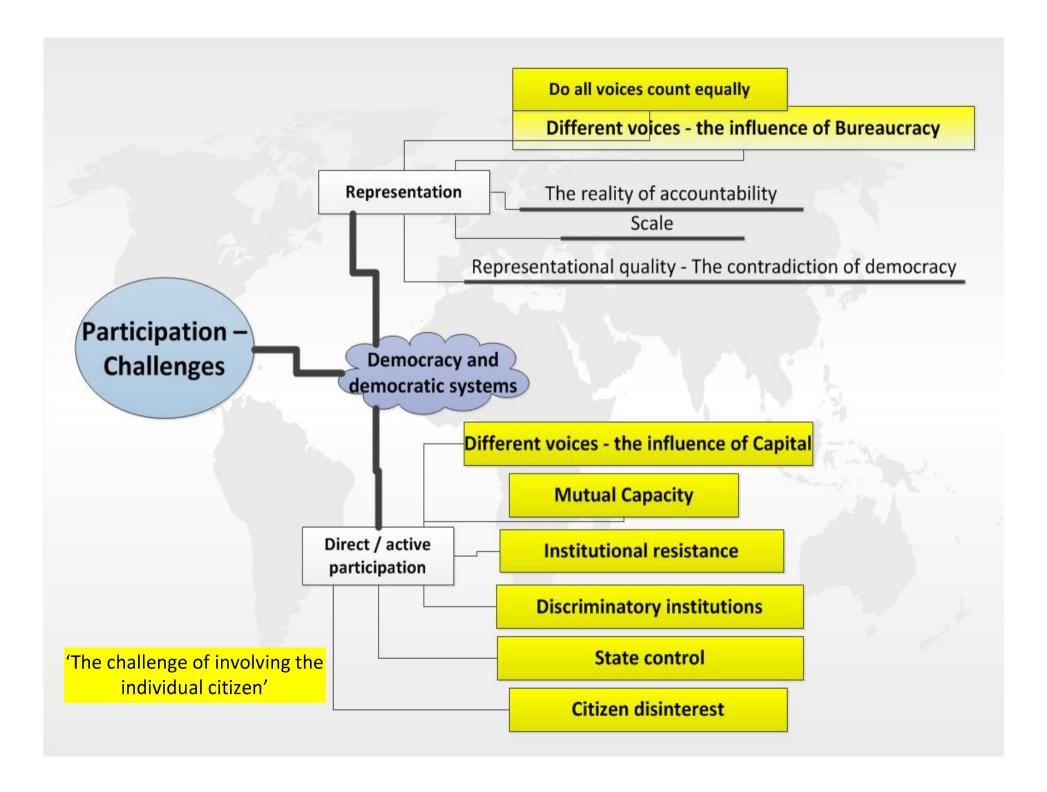
## Participation - In What

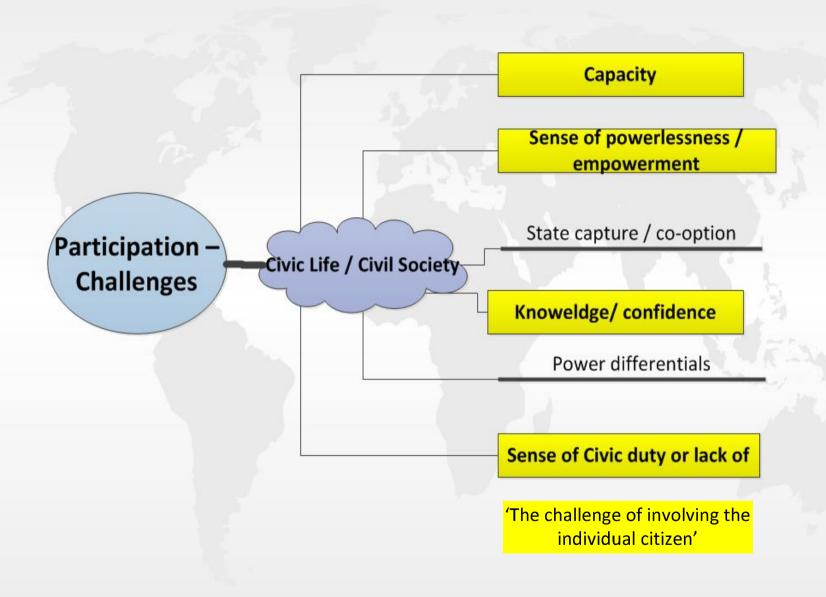
Civic Life / Civil Society

An intermediate realm situated between state and household, populated by organised groups or associations which are separate from the state, enjoy some autonomy in relations with the state and are formed voluntarily by members of society to protect or extend their interests, values or identities' (Manor et al., 1999:3-4)









### Democracy undermined?

- Weakness of Civics / citizenship programmes
- Closure of participatory fora (NESF; Comhar)
- Closure of facilitating organisations e.g.
   Combat Poverty Agency, NCCRI, local civil society groups)
- Dilution of advocacy capacity (CDPs; National Networks)
- Largely dysfunctional local fora e.g. SPCs
- Lack of political interest in participation...

### So, for advocacy organisations

- Where do you choose to focus your interest / energy around participation
- Why?
- Are there any particular challenges you think might need to be addressed / could be addressed
- Is there a need for a push for participation what about a participation observatory?
- Is there energy / interest