

HACK 4 SOCIAL GOOD - CHALLENGE COORDINATION CENTRE FOR PARTICIPATION

MORE PARTICIPATION THROUGH PARTICIPATION

COORDINATION CENTRE FOR PARTICIPATION

Diversity is a great strength of the Canton of Zurich. A broad exchange and the active participation of a wide variety of people in public life form one of the foundations of the canton of Zurich. The **Participation Coordination Centre promotes and strengthens the participation of** as many population groups as possible in social life and politics. There are also various other programmes and projects in the canton of Zurich that aim to promote participation. To date, however, there is still **no well-founded data on** how the population perceives its opportunities for participation.

THE TERM "PARTICIPATION"

Participation is an established political term in Switzerland and internationally. Different disciplines use different terms for a similar concept: participation, inclusion, empowerment, accessibility, etc. The participation of the population in democratic society has various dimensions: **Political, economic, social and cultural participation are** aimed at the **participation, involvement and shared responsibility of the population in public life**. These four dimensions of participation in the community complement each other, reinforce each other and contribute to **social inclusion and cohesion**. Political participation is only one part of this concept.

The concept of participation encompasses both **active participation** and **passive involvement** in social events, or the possibility of active participation. Participation does not just mean a specific activity, but is an integral part of social life. Participation not only has different dimensions, but can also take place in **different spheres**: In the family, at work, in the neighbourhood, in clubs and educational institutions, in the church, in the army, in the community, in the canton or in national politics. The **promotion of participation** should also address as **many different population groups** as possible.

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science refers to the **participation of the public in scientific research**. The term "citizen science" is also used in German.

There are various definitions of the term and citizen science is used in different areas of research. It varies how participatory the processes are designed and whether they are **top-down** (controlled by researchers) or **bottom-up** (initiated by citizens). Basically, the idea is that people participate in a research project on a voluntary basis.

Why do we at the Participation Coordination Centre want to use citizen science as a research method? This method not only makes it possible to generate knowledge, but also enables **dialogue and exchange**, which in the best case leads to mutual learning. Participants in Citizen Science projects thus learn by taking part in the research. As an administrative unit of the Canton of Zurich, we not only have an interest in finding out from the population how they perceive and experience participation in the Canton of Zurich, but ideally also contribute to **raising awareness** in this area. This means that people who work as citizen scientists in this project gain new knowledge and an increased awareness of participation issues.

IDEA

There is a lack of **data on participation in the canton of Zurich**: this data is to be collected using a structured analysis. As many and diverse people as possible should be included - through participation to more participation. A focus can be placed on a specific area of participation (e.g. political participation). It would be important for the analysis to include as many people as possible throughout the canton.



OBJECTIVE

Research design for a study investigating participation in the canton of Zurich

REQUIREMENTS

- **Digital survey instrument**
 - Digital opportunities for surveys
 - Digital opportunities for networking citizen scientists
 - Digital opportunities for an exchange between citizen scientists and study management
- **Participatory research design**
- Consultation of **diverse people**, especially politically underrepresented groups
- **Comprehensible formulation** of the study questions so that everyone understands them

SAMPLE QUESTIONS FOR THE SURVEY

- What do people understand by participation?
- Through which channels / ways do people participate in social / political / cultural / economic life?
- What reasons prevent participation?
- How are the opportunities for participation offered within the canton of Zurich perceived?

FURTHER LINKS

Citizen Science:

[What is Citizen Science? - Switzerland researches](#)

[Citizen Science Zurich | Citizen Science Zurich | UZH](#)

[What is Citizen Science? | with:research!](#)

[\(mitforschen.org\) Coordination Centre Participation:](#)

[Participation Coordination Centre | Canton of Zurich](#)

[\(zh.ch\) Participation Networking Group Canton of Zurich:](#)

[Participation Networking Group | Canton of Zurich \(zh.ch\)](#)

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