

Developing capacity for e-Participation: Engaging citizens in development policy and decision-making processes through Information Communication Technologies (ICTs)

FACT SHEET	
Participating Countries:	Argentina, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Mauritania, Morocco, Romania, and Singapore
Pilot National Workshops:	Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Kenya
Executing Agency:	UNDESA Department of Public Administration and Development Management
Co-operating Agencies within the UN System:	ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, respective UNDP Country offices
Objective:	To strengthen the capacity of developing countries to apply ICTs for engaging citizens – in other words, to apply ‘e-Participation’ as a means, including e-Information, e-Consultation and e-Decision-making – for development results.
Expected Accomplishments	<p>EA 1: Enhanced knowledge of 1) government policy-makers and 2) relevant business and civil society leaders on e-Participation, through a process of self-assessment and recommendations facilitated by the tool known as ‘METEP’ (the Measurement and Evaluation Tool for Engagement and e-Participation).</p> <p>EA 2: Increased capacity of at least two governments to implement modalities (policies, directives, laws, legislations etc.) in their regulatory and institutional frameworks to engage citizens through e-Participation.</p>
Brief Description:	<p>Through e-Participation, developing countries can provide more responsive and effective public services to their citizens and engage them in policy and decision-making processes. As emphasized in the Rio+20 framework, citizen engagement is essential in the course of post-2015 development planning.</p> <p>Using UNDESA’s METEP tool, this project aims to increase awareness of the benefits of e-Participation as well as to increase the deployment of e-Participation strategies by government agencies in charge of development policy. Government officials will be trained on METEP in national workshops held in respective target countries. Kenya, Indonesia and Kazakhstan will be the first three countries to host such workshops in 2014.</p> <p>Training on the application of METEP and follow-up action will contribute to capacity development in target countries for: i. a legislative framework facilitating the provision of e-Information, ii. an institutional framework facilitating the e-Consultation process (e.g. web-based consultation platforms, social media, blogs, etc.) and iii. specific applications used in e-Decision-making (e.g. e-voting and e-referendum technologies).</p> <p>Ultimately, the project seeks to harness the power of e-Participation to ensure that development management becomes more citizen-centric, demand-driven, context-specific and realistic.</p>
Activities Include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ National capacity building workshops on e-Participation ✓ Through METEP, elaboration of country-specific recommendations for increasing e-Participation ✓ Deployment of METEP as an online platform ✓ Field services to monitor capacity development in target countries