



Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay¹.

H2020-MSCA-RISE-2018. Grant Agreement no. 823961

**WORKSHOP IN WORKPACKAGE-4 (INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS),
WORKPACKAGE-5 (PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL DECISION-MAKING)**

July 02, 2021.

09:30h.

Online meeting

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87147761518?pwd=RjVzT2c1N0dmR0Y3eGpYdm1FZVoxdz09>

ID de reunión: 871 4776 1518

Código de acceso: 286518

**Intergovernmental Relations and People's Participation
In the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay in Spain**

Most municipal and provincial governments are integrated into associations, either in the Spanish National Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP), or in other regional associations. These associations represent local interests before the State and the Autonomous Communities, either at intergovernmental bodies, or by informal means.

The process of interest aggregation can be especially problematic in the case of the largest association of local entities. The heterogeneity of local interests depending on the particular socio-economic conditions of the territories, together with the multiplicity of inter-administrative coordination and cooperation bodies, may hinder the aggregation of local interests.

The described scenario of fragmentation of local interests and the consequent difficulty of representing the local level vis-à-vis other levels of government is more evident in the case of the largest associations, such as the FEMP. To this regard, the seminar will focus on the organizational and problem-solving capacities of the association of local entities to integrate the priorities and interests of urban and rural local entities. Discussion points will explore the resources and mechanisms to coordinate local interest (e.g. partisan affiliation of local

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representatives, territorially bounded priorities, promotion of a public agenda for local policy, training technical assistance or the dissemination of good practices, among others).

In addition, the seminar will also cover a descriptive account of the Basque Council of Local Public Policies in relation to the issue of intergovernmental relations. Act 2/2016 on Local Institutions in the Basque Country established the Basque Council for Local Public Policies as a permanent institution to promote institutional cooperation and to guarantee the recognition of municipal interests in the processes of design, preparation, execution, and evaluation of public policies.

Regarding citizens participation processes at local level, the seminar will cover two relevant practices: -ICT Public Consultations (“Decide Madrid”) and Public Participations in urban planning. Citizen participation in decision-making is challenged for different reasons. Social capital and citizens’ involvement in public affairs are rather low. To counterbalance this scenario and line up with the open government paradigm, national and regional provisions have created a legal framework encouraging citizen participation.

Local strategies can take several forms but they respond to one of the two main types of participatory logic: people’s participation is either implemented through permanent institutions or through processes open to all citizens. In both cases, the impact and results of citizens’ participation (ie level of citizen information on the projects, transparency in policy making, political accountability) is an open question to be analyzed

The seminar will explore the effectiveness of the tools and mechanisms to make such public participation effective (e.g. limited scope of consultations, information provided, technical requirements to participates, relevance of the issues at stake).

PROGRAM (July, 02. 09:30h)

Part I (WP4) Intergovernmental Relations

09.30 – 10:45

Relevant practices:

- The coordinating Role of the Associations of Local Entities in the Intergovernmental Relations: The Case of the Spanish National Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP).
- The Basque Council for Local Public Policies: Action plan for evaluating advisory collegiate bodies (*descriptive account of the main characteristics of the practice*).

Part II (WP 5) People’s Participation

11:00 – 12:15

Relevant practices:

- ICT Public Consultations: “Decide Madrid”
- Public Participations in urban planning

12:15 – 12:30. Final remarks.

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED

ESPAÑOL	ENGLISH
¿Cuáles son las principales diferencias que tienen los entes locales en cuanto a los intereses y prioridades que debe defender la FEMP?	<i>What are the main differences between local entities in terms of the interests and priorities that the FEMP should promote?</i>
¿Son constantes las diferencias entre municipios rurales y urbanos en cuanto a sus intereses y prioridades?	<i>Is there a rural-urban divide among the local entities which are represented by the FEMP?</i>
¿Qué mecanismos tienen las asociaciones de municipios para integrar los distintos intereses de los entes locales rurales y urbanos?	<i>What mechanisms are in place in the associations of local entities to integrate the different interests between rural and urban local entities?</i>
¿Qué papel juega la afiliación partidista en la identificación de prioridades e intereses? ¿Y en la toma de decisiones?	<i>What role does party affiliation play in the identification of priorities and interests? To what extent party affiliation is instrumental for decision-making?</i>
¿Existen mecanismos para ponderar el peso de los municipios locales rurales?	<i>Are there mechanisms for balancing the influence of rural local areas?</i>
¿Qué papel juegan los representantes de los niveles superiores de la Administración?	<i>What role do representatives of higher levels of government play?</i>
¿Qué papel juegan los órganos de trabajo o comisiones técnicas? ¿Suelen seguir los órganos de decisión las recomendaciones de las comisiones técnicas? ¿Qué representación tienen los entes locales rurales en estas comisiones?	<i>What role do the working bodies or technical commissions play? Do the decision-making bodies usually follow the recommendations of the technical commissions? What representation do the rural local authorities have in these commissions?</i>
¿Qué mecanismos utiliza la asociación para hacer un seguimiento de los compromisos y recomendaciones?	<i>What mechanisms does the association use to follow up on commitments and recommendations?</i>
¿Qué mecanismos existen para evaluar los mecanismos de coordinación entre Administraciones?	<i>¿Qué mecanismos existen para evaluar los mecanismos de coordinación entre Administraciones?</i>
¿Qué relación existe entre las distintas asociaciones de representación de las entidades locales?	<i>What is the relationship between the different associations representing local entities?</i>
¿Qué características debe tener la información para fomentar la participación de la ciudadanía?	<i>What characteristics should the information provided have in order to encourage citizen participation?</i>
¿Cómo se determinan las alternativas que se plantean a la ciudadanía? ¿Elabora en algún caso la ciudadanía estas alternativas?	<i>How are the alternatives proposed to the public identified and are these alternatives ever elaborated by the citizens?</i>
¿Qué herramientas de evaluación se implementan para mejorar las herramientas de participación?	<i>What evaluation tools are implemented to improve people's participation in local decision making?</i>

¿Cómo se financian los programas de participación ciudadana?	<i>How are citizen participation programs financed?</i>
¿Qué papel juegan las asociaciones y los grupos de interés organizados en estas experiencias participativas?	<i>What role do associations and organized interest groups play in these participatory experiences?</i>
¿Qué grado de vinculación para los poderes públicos generan las experiencias participativas?	<i>What is the degree of involvement of the public authorities in these participatory experiences?</i>
¿Cuáles son las recomendaciones más frecuentemente recibidas por la ciudadanía tras su experiencia en estas experiencias participativas?	<i>What are the most frequent recommendations made by citizens after their experience in these participatory experiences?</i>

PARTICIPANTS

Members of LoGov

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External experts

- Mercedes Sánchez Salido, Director for International Affairs at the Spanish National Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
- Gregorio Planchuelo, Madrid CEO for Citizen's Participation 2015-2019
- Esther Pano, Fundación Pi in Sunyer – Local Government Observatory

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INTRODUCTORY READINGS

Agranoff R, 'Local Governments in Spain's Multilevel Arrangements' in Harvey Lazar and Christian Leuprecht (eds), *Spheres of Governance* (McGill-Queen's University Press 2007)

Rico Motos C, Font Fábregas J and García Espín P, 'Accountable Autonomy? Examining Multilevel Associational Democracy in Spain' (ECPR General Conference, Oslo, September 2017)

Soto del Río M, 'El papel de los órganos colegiados en la gobernanza pública' (*euskadi.eus*, 22 May 2019) <<https://bit.ly/30bt9xf>>

Fernández Martínez JL, 'Instituciones de democracia participativa a nivel local: características e impacto de las propuestas participativas sobre políticas públicas' (2016) 8 Anuario de Derecho Municipal 144

Font J, Della Porta D and Sintomer Y, *Participatory Democracy in Southern Europe. Causes, Characteristics and Consequences* (Rowman and Littlefield 2014)