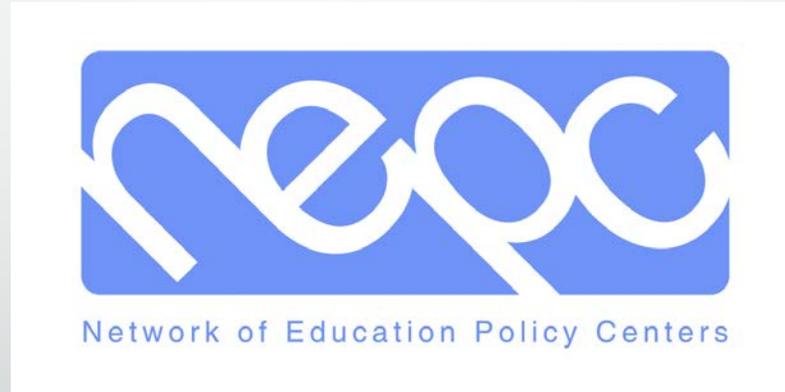


# Participatory policy-making in education



**MARKO KOVACIC**

# Introduction

- Public policy: (i) rules made by the state apparatus  
(ii) outputs of the interaction between state and  
(iii) non-state actors and social construction of problems  
(Petek, 2012)
- policy arena has become visibly more crowded (Kenneth, 2008)
- there is no single actor who has the knowledge resource capacity to tackle problems unilaterally (Kooiman, 2003)
- policy in the new age is “a result of institutional processes influenced by non-institutional actors” (Cahn, 2012)

# Citizens participation in decision-making

	Advantages to citizen participants	Advantages to government
Decision process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (learn from and inform government representatives)</li> <li>• Persuade and enlighten government</li> <li>• Gain skills for activist citizenship</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education (learn from and inform citizens)</li> <li>• Persuade citizens; building trust and allay anxiety or hostility</li> <li>• Build strategic alliances</li> <li>• Gain legitimacy of decisions</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break gridlocks; achieve outcomes</li> <li>• Gain some control over policy process</li> <li>• Better policy and implementation decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Break gridlocks; achieve outcomes</li> <li>• Avoid litigation costs</li> <li>• Better policy and implementation decisions</li> </ul>

	Disadvantages to citizen participants	Disadvantages to government
Decision process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time consuming (even dull)</li> <li>• Pointless if decisions ignored</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time consuming</li> <li>• Costly</li> <li>• May backfire, creating more hostility toward government</li> </ul>
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worse policy decision if heavily influenced by opposing interest groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of decision-making control</li> <li>• Possibility of bad decision that is politically impossible to ignore</li> <li>• Less budget for implementation of actual projects</li> </ul>

# Education policy and participatory policy-making

- Benefits of education:
  - transmission of values (Dewey, 2004),
  - education for citizenship (Levine, 2000),
  - poverty reduction (Middleton, 1993)
- Education policy is the *authoritative* allocation of values within the education system and is located in a political context
- collective action of different actors: political agents, servants in ministries, scientists and analysts, citizens and their associations, international organizations and so on => educational policies are not only matter of choice of the political elite, but also the process of interaction between the people who run the organization and participate in various ways in the educational process
- school education policy and general education policy



Political question

# Conclusion

- General policy level: vertical → horizontal dimension
- Eclecticism of topics → eclecticism of actors
- Multiplication of actors → sustainability, responsiveness, embeddedness in society, legitimacy