About IAP2

Founded in 1990 by a group of dedicated P2 practitioners, the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) has grown into an international organisation of more than 15,000 professionals in 26 countries working to advance the practice of P2. IAP2 members benefit from research, training and networking opportunities with IAP2 peers.

IAP2’s mission is to provide public participation practitioners around the world with the tools, skills, networking and training opportunities to advance and extend the practice of public participation.

Training Today’s Practitioners for Tomorrow’s Challenges

IAP2 works with international licensed trainers. To find one in your area, visit www.iap2.org.

Become a Member

IAP2 is composed of regional and national affiliates including Australasia, Canada, Indonesia, Latin America, Southern Africa and the United States. To become a member, contact your local affiliate. If you reside outside the geographic areas served by an IAP2 affiliate, you are eligible the IAP2 region of your choice. To become a member, contact your local affiliate or iap2hq@iap2.org.

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As an international leader in public participation (P2), IAP2 developed three pillars for effective P2 processes. Developed with broad international input, these pillars cross national, cultural and religious boundaries, and they form the foundation of P2 processes that reflect the interests and concerns of all stakeholders.

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2 developed The Spectrum of Public Participation to help groups define the public’s role in any public engagement process. The Spectrum is quickly becoming an international standard.

IAP2 Core Values

IAP2 Core Values define the expectations and participation process. P2 processes based on the Core Values have proved to be the most successful and respected.

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public’s contribution will influence the decision.
3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision makers.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

IAP2 Code of Ethics

IAP2 Code of Ethics is a set of principles that guides the actions of P2 practitioners and enhances the integrity of the P2 process.

Purpose: We support public participation as a process to make better decisions that incorporate the interests and concerns of all affected stakeholders and meet the needs of the decision-making body.

Role of Practitioner: We will enhance the public’s participation in the decision making process and assist decision makers in being responsive to the public’s concerns and suggestions.

Access to the Process: We will ensure that stakeholders have fair and equal access to the public participation process and the opportunity to influence decisions.

Respect for Communities: We will avoid strategies that risk polarizing community interests or that appear to “divide and conquer.”

Advocacy: We will advocate for the public participation process and will not advocate for interest, party, or project outcome.

Trust: We will undertake and encourage actions that build trust and credibility for the process among all the participants.

Commitments: We ensure that all commitments made to the public, including those by the decision maker, are made in good faith.

Defining the Public’s Role: We will carefully consider and accurately portray the public’s role in the decision making process.

Openness: We will encourage the disclosure of all information relevant to the public’s understanding and evaluation of a decision.