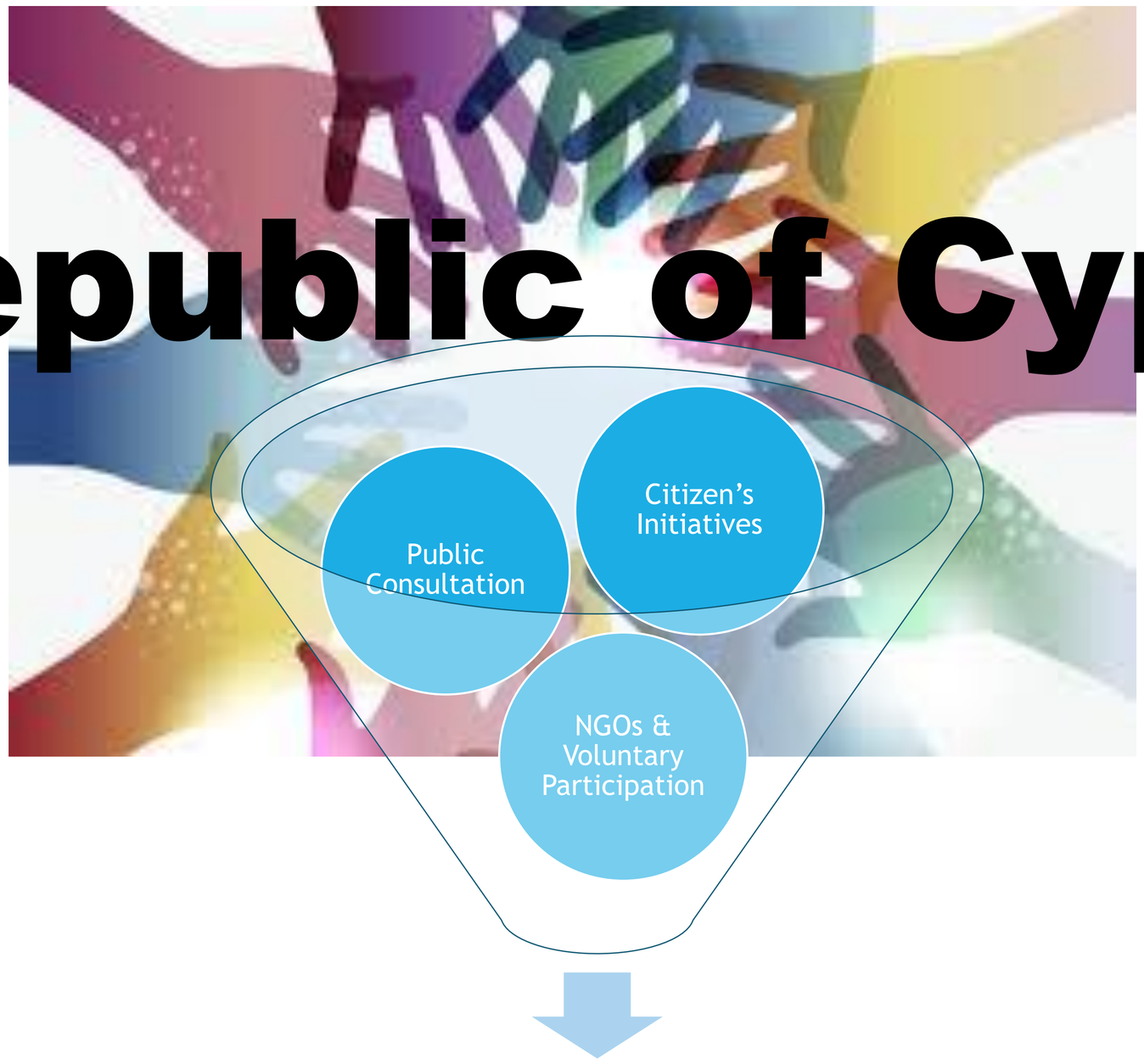
By Dr. Venetia Argyropoulou
European University of Cyprus

Republic of Cyprus



DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

- All laws in Cyprus are subject to public consultation with the exception of laws relating to public finance, State's Defense and external affairs, EU laws and the Penal Code.
- AIMS: 1) To inform the Citizens, 2.) To allow involved parties to express their views
- 2 Forms (Formal and Informal)- In every event, not binding. Cyprus has issued Guidelines and Good Practices Manual on Public Consultations, while Public Consultations conducted each year should be audited by the responsible Ministry or the Public Auditor.
- Public Consultation is taken into account for the completion of the questionnaire on laws reach and effectiveness

- The rules and procedures governing the citizens' initiative are set out in an EU Regulation No 211/2011. Cyprus to facilitate this Initiative it has issued a Law in 2013 clarifying the process to be followed and how the persons involved in the initiative will be measured.
- Also on a national level there has been made an attempt to instigate a similar process allowing citizens to initiate the law making process on a specific topic following the collection of 7.000 signatures, but despite the fact a bill was presented twice before the Parliament in 2016 and in 2017 , nonetheless it has not been approved by the Parliament and therefore such initiative is not applicable in the national level.

- Setting up the Office of the Commissioner for Volunteerism and Non-Governmental Organizations and two volunteer houses
- Modernization and institutionalizion in Cyprus the European Declaration "Rights and Responsibilities of the Volunteer",
- Institution of Citizen's Day, implementing the 2nd Informal Parliament with the participation of 600 young people, as well as informal public consultations with the President of the Republic and other government officials, allowing citizens to express views on issues affecting them, thus strengthening participatory democracy.
- Operation of the electronic platform "PROSPERO" (https://www.prosfero.com.cy/charity/find), which enables the development of interactive communication between non-governmental organizations and civil society.
- Implementation of the Active Citizen Charter