

# COST Action Constitution-making and deliberative democracy

## Constitutional referendums in Romania

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- Multiple national referendums in recent years – most were ineffective
  - December 8, 1991 – the new post-communist Constitution
  - October 18-19, 2003 – revising the Constitution (for EU accession); extends presidential mandate to 5 years but reduces President's authority over the Prime Minister
  - May 19, 2007 – impeachment of the President (valid, 74% against impeachment)
  - October 25, 2007 – referendum called by the President to adopt majoritarian voting system (failed the 50% quorum)
  - November 22, 2009 – referendum called by the President to adopt unicameralism and reduce to 300 the number of MPs (valid, but consultative – never transposed in a constitutional reform)
  - July 29, 2012 – impeachment of the President, failed the 50% quorum
  - November 6-7, 2018 – referendum for the redefinition of marriage in the constitution (failed the 30% quorum).
- 2007-2012 multiple failed constitutional referendums designed to 'reform the political class'; expression of polarization and stalemate among political parties; significant emigration leads to irrelevant electoral lists (hence impossibility to obtain quorum).
- 2018 'family' referendum the only originating in a citizens' initiative and that was not an expression of inter-party deadlock
- Other significant participatory episodes
  - Participatory budgeting in cities such as Oradea, Cluj, Sibiu, Bucharest, Brasov, etc.
  - Strong mobilization in order to block the public consultation on the National Parental Education Strategy
  - 'Coalition for the family' and spin-offs
- Many recent participatory democratic mobilizations are conservative