

COST Action 'Constitution-making and deliberative democracy' – ConstDelib

CURRENT STATUS OF DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY IN BULGARIA

1. Legal regulation of forms of civic participation

- Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria - 1991
- Law on direct participation of citizens in state authority and local self-government - 2009
- Law on Meetings, Rallies and Manifestations - 1990
- Law on Normative Acts - 1973
- Administration Act-1998
- Other regulations



2. Forms of civic participation

- Referendums (national and local)
- Citizens' Initiatives (European, national and local)
- General Assembly of the Population (Local)
- Public consultation on regulations and strategic documents
- Public advisory councils involving citizens or representatives of civic organizations
- Public forums, deliberation panels
- Citizens' proposals, opinions and signals
- Protests, rallies, demonstrations
- Citizens' petitions

3. Developed practices

- *Referendums* - a total of 3 national referendums were held in the most recent history of Bulgaria:
 - * Referendum for construction of a new nuclear power plant (2013) - failed
 - * Remote vote referendum (2015) - failed
 - * Referendum on electoral system change (2016) - failed
- *Online portal for public consultation*
- *National citizens' initiatives*
- *Public Register under the Law on the Direct Participation of Citizens in State Authority and Local Self-Government*
- *Active public organizations*
 - *Civic Participation Forum
 - *Institute for Public Environment Development
 - *Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law, etc.

NB! The actions of civil society organizations and informal groups are visible in achieving changes in the regulatory framework and in public policies. Although partial, the results leading to a change in policies and influencing management decisions at different levels are a positive signal for the development of civil society in Bulgaria.