



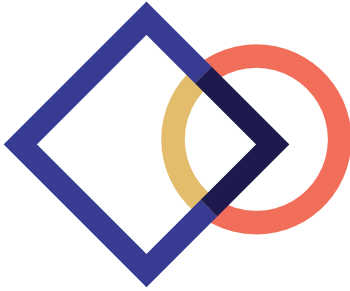
Institute  
for Democracy  
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ALBANIAN INSTITUTE  
of SCIENCE 



Citizens Channel



## **Citizens' Panels: A New Way to Engage in Parliamentary Processes**

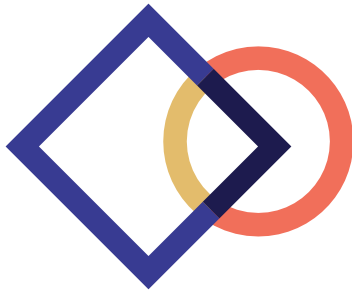
**17-19 October 2024,  
Tirana International Hotel (Balsha Room)**

Citizen engagement and public consultation are essential for informed, effective, and sustainable policies. For this reason, from 17 to 19 October 2024, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) and Involve UK will implement the Citizens' Panels methodology for two important issues: rural and mountain tourism, and disability issues.

Citizens' Panels create a space for informed discussion on issues on the parliamentary agenda and contribute to strengthening transparency and citizen participation in the legislative and oversight activities of the parliament. They are widely used as a deliberative democracy mechanism in the United Kingdom and other European countries, even by the European Union. In Albania, deliberative polling was first piloted in 2021 by IDM, to bring citizens closer to decision-making processes.

This time, around 75 randomly selected citizens will be objectively informed by experts and policy-makers in the fields of tourism and disability. Based on the information provided by field experts, they will be invited to formulate recommendations and set priorities for these fields. The recommendations and priorities developed will be included in a report that will be presented to members of the Committee for Productive Activities, Trade, and the Environment, and the Committee for Labor, Social Affairs, and Health.

This initiative is part of the project "Increase parliament's responsiveness to citizens' concerns" implemented by the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM), the Albanian Institute of Science, and Citizens Channel, with financial support from the British Government.



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# PROGRAM

### PROGRAM

Day I	Thursday, 17 October
09:00 – 09:30	<p><b>Opening remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr. Sotirag Hroni, Executive Director, Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)</li> <li>H.E. Mrs. Elisa Spiropali, Speaker of the Parliament</li> <li>H.E. Mr. Nicholas Abbott, Ambassador, British Embassy in Tirana</li> </ul>
09:30 – 12:00	<p><b>Presentation of Deliberative Processes for Citizens</b> Mr. Michael Donnelly, Senior Expert, Involve UK</p> <p>Presentation of the agenda, topics, and organizational aspects of the event <b>Moderators:</b> Besjana Kuçi, Elona Dhembo and Silvana Xheka</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participants introduce themselves – why they chose to be part of this event and their expectations</li> <li>Guidelines for the afternoon session</li> </ul> <p><b>Intervention:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms. Ina Zhupa, Member of Parliament, Chair of the Committee on Education and Public Information</li> <li>Ms. Ermonela Felaj, Member of Parliament, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs, Public Administration, and Human Rights</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch



13:00 – 14:30	<p><b>Session 1. Economic impact and support for rural and mountain tourism (Abret Room)</b></p> <p>Presentations by experts and Q&amp;A from participants</p> <p><b>Experts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shpresim Domi, Lecturer, Agricultural University of Tirana</li> <li>• Blendi Gerdoci, Lecturer, University of Tirana</li> <li>• Nevila Popa, Sustainable Tourism Expert</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 1. Accessibility and services for people with disabilities (Balsha Room)</b></p> <p>Presentations by experts and Q&amp;A from participants</p> <p><b>Experts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suela Lala, Expert and representative of "Together Foundation"</li> <li>• Aferdita Seiti, Expert, "Help the Life Association"</li> <li>• Nertila Topulli, Director, Directorate of Social Protection Policy Development and Services, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare</li> <li>• Eneida Capo, Head of the PwD Sector, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare</li> <li>• Irena Mitro, Directorate of Social Inclusion and Gender Equality Policies, Ministry of Health and Social Welfare</li> </ul>
14:30-14:50	<b>Break</b>	
14:50-15:50	<p><b>Deliberation Session for participants</b></p> <p>Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities</p> <p><b>Group Moderators:</b> Elona Dhembo, Evelina Azizaj; Roden Hoxha; Nadia Rusi; Blerina Subashi</p>	<p><b>Deliberation Session for participants</b></p> <p>Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities</p> <p><b>Group Moderators:</b> Silvana Xheka; Marsela Dauti; Lirie Dina; Naim Çabej; Ketrina Cabiri</p>
15:50-16:00	<b>Summary of the day and agenda for the next day</b>	<b>Summary of the day and agenda for the next day</b>
16:00-16:30	<b>Moderators reflect on the progress of the session and corresponding recommendations</b>	<b>Moderators reflect on the progress of the session and corresponding recommendations</b>
19:00	<b>Dinner</b>	

<b>Day II</b>	<b>Friday, 18 October</b>	
9:00 – 10:30	<p><b>Session 2. Diversification of tourist services and revitalization of rural and mountainous areas (Abret Room)</b></p> <p>Presentations by experts and Q&amp;A from participants</p> <p><b>Experts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brunilda Stamo, Rural Development Expert</li> <li>• Petrit Dobi, Rural Development Expert</li> <li>• Marjana Kocek, Entrepreneur "Neomalesore"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session 2. Inclusive education and employment (Balsha Room)</b></p> <p>Presentations by experts and Q&amp;A from participants</p> <p><b>Experts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emiliano Lule, Inclusive Education Expert, Institute for the Blind</li> <li>• Zela Koka, Inclusive Education Expert, MEDPAK</li> <li>• Stefan Paloka, Inclusive Employment Expert</li> <li>• Ema Kasapi, Education Expert</li> <li>• Bledar Taushani, Inclusive Employment Expert, Ministry of Economy, Culture, and Innovation</li> </ul>
10:30:10:50	<b>Break</b>	
10:50-13:00	<p><b>Deliberation Session for participants</b></p> <p>Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities</p>	<p><b>Deliberation Session for participants</b></p> <p>Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities</p>





	<b>Group Moderators:</b> Elona Dhembo, Evelina Azizaj; Roden Hoxha; Nadia Rusi; Blerina Subashi		<b>Group Moderators:</b> Silvana Xheka; Marsela Dauti; Lirie Dina; Naim Çabej; Ketrina Cabiri
<b>13:00 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>14:00 – 15:30</b>	<b>Session 3. Environmental sustainability</b> Presentations by experts and Q&A from participants  <b>Experts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Xhevahire Dulja, Lecturer, Agricultural University of Tirana</li> <li>• Rea Nepravishta, Environmental Expert and Activist</li> <li>• Vilma Kola, Environmental Expert</li> </ul>		<b>Session 3. Participation in political and public life</b> Presentations by experts and Q&A from participants  <b>Experts:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suela Lala, Expert and representative of "Together Foundation"</li> <li>• Stefan Paloka, Caritas Albania</li> <li>• Flora Kalemi, expert, ADRF</li> </ul>
<b>15:30-15:50</b>	<b>Break</b>		
<b>15:50-16:50</b>	<b>Deliberation Session for participants</b> Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities		<b>Deliberation Session for participants</b> Participants discuss the issues presented by the experts and agree on three main recommendations or priorities
<b>16:50-17:00</b>	<b>Summary of the day and agenda for the next day</b>		<b>Summary of the day and agenda for the next day</b>
<b>17:00-17:30</b>	<b>Moderators reflect on the progress of the session and corresponding recommendations</b>		<b>Moderators reflect on the progress of the session and corresponding recommendations</b>
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>		

<b>Day III</b>	<b>Saturday, 19 October</b>		
<b>9:00 – 12:30</b>	<b>Final Deliberations on rural and mountain tourism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants vote on the main recommendations and priorities</li> <li>• Reflection on the event and their expectations</li> </ul>		<b>Final Deliberations on disability issues</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants vote on the main recommendations and priorities</li> <li>• Reflection on the event and their expectations</li> </ul>
<b>12:30-13:00</b>	<b>Participants present the top-voted recommendations on rural and mountain tourism as well as disability issues. Closing remarks:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee for Productive Activities, Trade, and the Environment, and the Committee for Labor, Social Affairs, and Health.</li> <li>• Mr. Gjergji Vurmo, Senior Advisor, Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)</li> </ul>		
<b>13:00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>		
<b>14:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration of Evaluation Forms</li> <li>• Reimbursement Forms</li> <li>• Departure of participants</li> </ul>		

