

SOCIAL PARTICIPATION

GLOBAL WEBINAR SERIES

PART 1

**Institutionalizing
Social Participation
for health**

**THURSDAY
18 SEP 2025
13:00-14:30 CEST**



Kalipso Chalkidou

Director Performance,
Financing & Delivery
WHO



Vesna Kerstin Petric

Ministry of Health
(Slovenia)

Photo by Matej Družnik, Delo



Dina Von Heimburg

Norwegian University of
Science and Technology
(Norway)



Fernanda Magano

President of the
National Health Council
(Brazil)



Nanoot Mathurapote

Director of Global
Collaboration, NHCO
(Thailand)



Sina Haj Amor

Ministry of Health
(Tunisia)



Ruth Warutumo

HENNET,
on behalf of CSEM
(Kenya)



Christina Williams

on behalf of WHO
Youth Council
(Jamaica)

Photo by Ricardo Makyn, Jamaica Gleaner



Tipicha Posayanonda

Deputy
Secretary-General
of National Health
Commission (Thailand)



Gabriele Pastorino

Health Systems Adviser
WHO
(Moderator)

| Agenda | | Speaker |
|---|---|--|
| Welcome & Background | <i>Moderator: Gabriele Pastorino</i> | WHO |
| | <i>Kalipso Chalkidou</i> | WHO |
| | <i>Vesna Kerstin Petrič</i> | Ministry of Health, Slovenia Co-Chair of the Core Group that led the WHA77.2 Resolution |
| Institutionalising social participation in health systems: Lessons from Europe | <i>Dina von Heimbург</i> | Norwegian University of Science and Technology |
| | <i>Fernanda Magano</i> <i>Interpretation by Luiz Filipe Barcelos</i> | National Health Council, Brazil |
| Discussants: Key lessons for institutionalising social participation across countries and regions | <i>Nanoot Mathurapote</i> | National Health Commission Office (NHCO), Thailand Co-Chair of the Core Group that led the WHA77.2 Resolution |
| | <i>Sina Haj Amour</i> | Ministry of Health, Tunisia |
| | <i>Ruth Warutumo</i> | Hennet, Kenya (on behalf of CSEM for UHC2030 and SPHERE) |
| | <i>Christina Williams</i> | Jamaica (on behalf of WHO Youth Council) |
| Moderated Q&A | <i>Core Group</i> | France, Norway, WHO Civil Society Commission |
| | <i>Participant contributions in the chat</i> | |
| Advocacy updates: Upcoming opportunities | <i>Vesna Kerstin Petrič</i> | Ministry of Health, Slovenia re. UNGA side event |
| | <i>Laura Philidor</i> | CSEM re. UHC Day and #HealthCostsHurt Campaign |
| Next steps & closing remarks | <i>Tipicha Posayanonda</i> | NHCO Thailand |
| | <i>Gabriele Pastorino</i> | WHO |

Institutionalizing social participation in health systems:

WHO EURO Policy Briefs: Lessons from Europe

Dina von Heimburg

NTNU WellFare

WHO CC on Wellbeing and Social Sustainability

Norwegian University of Science and Technology



Making social participation central to health system governance

Policy lessons from the field



Institutionalizing social participation in health policy for better performing health systems

Policy lessons from the field



Why Participation?

- ✓ Trust
- ✓ Equity
- ✓ Responsiveness
- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ *Mattering: people feel valued and see their input leads to change.*

Policy brief 2

Institutionalizing social participation in health policy for better performing health systems

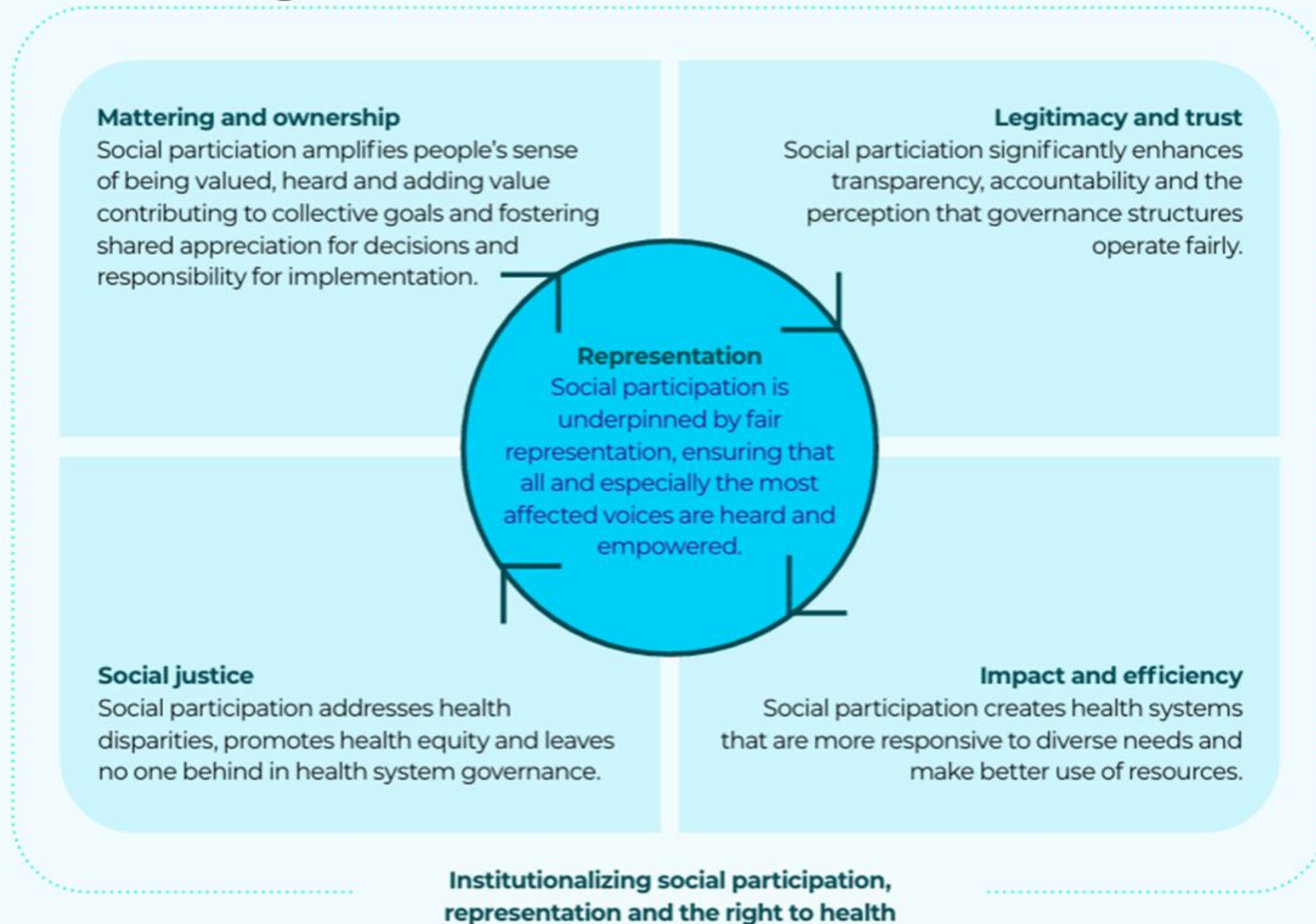
Central question

What policy principles must be put in place to enable the institutionalization of social participation for better performing health systems?

Case studies

Focus on monitoring and implementation at the level of nation-wide legislation and policy processes

Guiding Framework for Governance



Institutionalization: *Seven Principles*

(Brief 2)

- Commitment to social participation
- Diversity & Inclusion
- Systematic Approach
- Sustainability
- Development & Capacity
- Accountability & Transparency
- Making an impact

→ *Ingredients for durable, meaningful participation.*



Case 1 Norway:

Participation through Law

- Legal frameworks embed participation:
 - Patient & User Rights Act (1999)
 - Health & Care Services Act (2011)
 - Health Enterprises Act (2022)

Lesson: Legal frameworks give people confidence that their voices matter

- User involvement is a statutory duty
- Voices valued by right, not discretion
- Expands boards, peer workers, national guidance



Case 2 Slovenia:

Youth participation & institutionalization

- Youth NGOs (e.g. No Excuse Slovenia)
- Long-term state funding sustains their role
- Co-develop national strategies
- Run prevention initiatives
- Monitor compliance (alcohol, tobacco laws)
- Advocate with media and parliamentarians
- Work hand in hand with public health professionals

Lesson: Contributions add value because they are resourced & consistent



Case 3 United Kingdom:

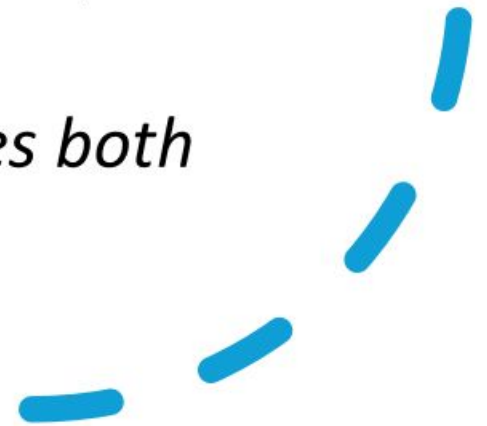
Structures & Accountability

- 20+ years of legislation mandating participation
- Local Healthwatch and Care Quality Commission structures
- Participation informs commissioning & delivery

Challenges:

- Accountability and transparency uneven
- Structures exist but impact not always visible

Lesson: Institutionalization requires both structures & clear accountability



Call to Action – From Principles to Practice

1. Embed participation in law & governance
→ *voices valued*
1. Secure sustainable financing & capacity
→ *contributions add value*
1. Foster cultures of mattering
→ *people know they count & shape outcomes*

Conclusion: Institutionalization is how we move from principles to practice – and drives progress toward health for all



*Making social participation
central to health system
governance*

Policy lessons from the field



Policy brief 1



*Institutionalizing social
participation in health policy
for better performing
health systems*

Policy lessons from the field



Policy brief 2

Thank you!

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[Nordic Research Center for](#)
[Wellbeing and Social](#)
[Sustainability \(NTNU WellFare\)](#)

*WHO CC on Wellbeing and Social
Sustainability*

*Norwegian University of Science and
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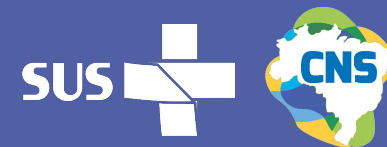


**Gabriele
Pastorino**

Health Systems Adviser
WHO
(Moderator)

Institutionalizing Social Participation

Lessons from Brazil's SUS



- **Legal frameworks matter.**
Without laws and regulations that formalize participation, citizen engagement risks being irregular and dependent on political will.
- **Permanent structures are essential.**
Health councils and conferences need to be regular, resourced, and connected to decision-making cycles.
- **Capacity building sustains participation.**
Training and information are necessary so that civil society representatives can effectively engage in complex health debates.

Institutionalizing **Social Participation** in Thailand

A Structure of Social Participation

- **Law:** National Health Act (2007)
- **Governing Body:** National Health Commission
- **Responsible Org:**
National Health Commission Office (NHCO)
- **Policy Platforms and Processes :**
National Health Assembly, Provincial Health Assembly, Issue based Health Assembly
- **Finance:** Government Budget

Lessons

- A legal framework works best when government is committed, and people are prepared.

Challenge

- Tracking how social participation shapes policy and implementation as well as community strength.

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