

Participation in the Social Security System: Experiments in Local Consultation Avebury, 1994

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This OECD Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy-making is a practitioner's guide designed for use by government officials in OECD Member and non-member countries. It offers a practical road map for building robust frameworks for informing, consulting and engaging citizens during policy-making. This handbook looks at government-citizen relation in policy-making. Government operates on different levels: local, regional, national and international. At all these levels, government is in contact with citizens. In this book, we concentrate on the national level, which is most relevant for policy-making. What is social security? Social security may be defined as any programme of social protection established by legislation, or any other mandatory arrangement, that provides individuals with a degree of income security when faced with the contingencies of old age, survivorship, incapacity, disability, unemployment or rearing children. It may also offer access to curative or preventive medical care. The basic classical components of the system of social protection in Ukraine are analyzed in the article. It is stressed that the system has not taken its final form of realizing and is in the process of improving. The need for reforming the system that would meet the international standards and would take into account the national mentality is justified. An important condition for achieving the social stability in the society is the reform of the social security system, the main aim of which is to expand the social base of transformations by means of stabilizing the living standards, reducing the burden of the consequences of the economic reforms for the most vulnerable sectors of the population, taking measures for the social adaptation of population to these transformations. OECD Handbook on Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy-Making. This handbook offers government officials practical assistance in strengthening relations between government and citizens. It combines a brief review of basic concepts, principles, concrete examples of good practice, tools (including new information and communication technologies) as well as tips from practice. The approach and activities shown in this handbook support and complement formal institutions of democracy, and strengthen the democratic process. English Also available in: French, Portuguese, Italian To ensure strong participation of citizens in local governance, citizens need to understand and want to exercise their right to participate in local political issues. They need to feel confident and know where and how to participate, while local institutions should be prepared to facilitate the citizen participation. In Portugal the last few decades have brought major social changes, improving the standard of living of some but leaving many "stateless citizens". In countries such as Portugal and the Philippines we see the need for human rights to be operationalized, and for a focus on education to solve social challenges.