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ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

PROFESSIONALS

SEPTEMBER 2024

ACEP Meet and Repeat : Full House!



The ACEP meet and repeat “*the growing influence of engagement on infrastructure projects*” was held on 19th September to a sell-out audience.

Thanks to everybody who attended and WSP for hosting.

We’re planning to visit more regions this year, so look out for the opportunity to register in your inbox or ticket announcements on our website homepage.

Welcome new ACEP members

WSP has a team of over 50 engagement professionals located throughout England, Scotland and Wales. As a team integrated within a multi-disciplinary engineering firm, this enables them to work across various sectors and projects, delivering social value, community engagement and public consultation work. You can find out more [here](#)

“We are excited to be part of ACEP because it enhances our collaboration and networking with others in the industry and provides excellent development opportunities for our growing team, including our new cohort of early career professionals this year. We hope that our membership will allow us to advocate for better practices and demonstrate our commitment to excellence in community engagement and consultation within the work we do.”

Industry News

Launch of the Global Citizens Assembly for People and Planet

The [Global Citizens' Assembly for People and Planet](#) is inviting communities all over the world to run and join community assemblies in 2025. It is hoped that their contribution will provide a rich picture of the future citizens want - and enable Coalition members to advocate for better outcomes at COP30.

UKRI Renews Sciencewise programme for another 6 years

The [Sciencewise programme](#) co-funds public dialogues with government bodies on science related matters and is delivered by Involve, the British Science Association and NCCPE.

The new-look Sciencewise will include three programme accelerators. The first will centre innovation as part of Sciencewise, to broaden the methods used and diversify the commissioning bodies who can take part. The second will develop a power, voice and equity strategy, building on the dialogues of the twenty years of Sciencewise where power and equity has been a consistent theme. The third accelerator is planned to build more lasting relationships and greater capacity for ongoing public engagement, moving beyond one-off dialogues to longer term cultures of engagement.

[Read more here](#)

Moldova has big ambition for public participation

The Moldovan government has [committed](#) to establishing and enhancing permanent consultation spaces, where civil society and others can provide feedback on decision-making that has an impact on the public interest. Proposals and objections from public stakeholders will also be included in the legislative files submitted to the government for approval.

The substantial improvement of a permanent mechanism for public participation has been submitted via the Open Government Partnership (OGP). What really caught our eye is that the **government set ambitious targets for participation, such as a 100 percent publication rate for the results of consultations and a 90 percent response rate to public comments submitted online.**

While we'd normally advocate for *quality over quantity* in terms of measuring success, OGP is at least stimulating action. In-fact, you might like to watch the first

We're thinking about

MADE partnership will deliver new housebuilding sprint

You've probably read the news about a [new £150m](#) venture between Lloyds bank and Barratt to build new garden towns. We missed the public debate about the idea in principle (or the spending decision!) but clearly the resulting consultation will be a mammoth undertaking. If it's not houses then it's pylons, roads, cables or sewers - there is plenty going on with our national infrastructure!

While it remains to be seen if the scheme will get bogged-down in the courts, we're confident that Homes England can deliver the goods.

Independent investigation of the NHS in England emphasises the need for stronger voice

There's a small but important section (point 19) in the recent [Lord Darzi report](#) on the state of the NHS in England which calls for a 'stronger patient voice' in the NHS. The message about "re-engaging staff and re-empowering patients" is an important and valuable one.

We think there is a world of *workforce* engagement to be discovered. Equally, we think there needs to be metrics in place for this to gain traction.

Blink and you've missed it. Here is a reminder of some of our most recent works

[Growing community voices](#)

[How to create a citizen-centric culture: how can you lay lasting foundations for participatory heaven?](#)

[The new frontiers of democracy in the run up to general election: what do the pundits think a new government might bring?](#)

We're watching



Transport for Wales are working with Cardiff Council to deliver a tramway from Cardiff Central to the Bay, the first phase of Cardiff Crossrail. This will enhance connectivity between the Bay and the City Centre, benefiting everyone passing through the city and region. The public consultation will run from 16 September 2024 as part of this phase and will run for six weeks. [Check it out here](#)



Local Government Boundary Commission review of the number of councillors, wards and ward names for North East Lincolnshire Council. [Read more.](#) Watch out for a [similar consultation](#) by the Welsh Senedd



The [Grand Union Canal transfer consultation](#) is open. It is proposed that the scheme could see up to 115 million litres of water per day transferred from Birmingham to Luton. Is it any good? You decide..

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