

DUST

Democratising
jUst
Sustainability
Transitions

LAUNCH

The ISOCARP Institute partners in the Horizon Europe project 'DUST' - Democratising jUst Sustainability Transitions

In the context of eroding democratic institutions, the European Union (EU) – in collaboration with national, regional, and local governments - seeks to bring its policies closer to citizens, in line with the active subsidiarity principle. Informed by this concept, the ISOCARP Institute and partners under the lead of TU Delft set up the project **Democratising jUst Sustainability Transitions** or **DUST**, in response to the Horizon Europe call 'The future of democracy and civic participation'. The project was selected for funding by the EU and will launch on Feb. 1st 2023.

DUST will develop and operationalise novel **participatory instruments** for proactive and strategic **citizen engagement in sustainability transitions**. It will combine design-led territorial tools with digital tools for citizen deliberation at scale. The project addresses a defining societal and democratic challenge for Europe, which is to **hear the voices of least engaged communities**, especially in structurally weak regions dependent on energy-intensive industries, which will be **most affected by transitions** towards a more sustainable future. Building on the concept of 'active subsidiarity', the project will employ an innovative mix of research methods, and experimental citizen participation, to understand the determinants of participation in decision-making on sustainability transitions at different levels of government, and to develop effective policy recommendations for inclusive engagement of civil society.

In its assessment of the proposal, the EU has highlighted “the innovation potential that arises from a scalable model, focusing on a wide variety of scenarios and involving civil society in deliberation and co-creation policies”, and DUST’s interdisciplinary approach, which “convincingly integrates knowledge from political sciences, policy sciences, planning, and design”. The DUST experiments, which will - under the header Regional Futures Literacy Labs - test a hybrid format of design-led and digital tools for citizen deliberation at scale, are described as essential work.



DUST receives funding from the European Commission Horizon Europe programme (Grant Agreement ID: 101094869), with a budget of 2.7 million euros. It is led by TU Delft, with a highly competent and enthusiastic consortium comprising 13 partner institutions across Europe. The project lasts for three years, starting from Feb. 1st 2023. The ISOCARP Institute will contribute to the project in leading the Communication and Dissemination activities.

Contact

For more information, please contact Samir Amir amin@isocarp-institute.org, DUST Project leader at the ISOCARP Institute.



Article 29.5 Disclaimer

This deliverable contains information that reflects only the authors' views and the European Commission/INEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101094869