



Nomination Form Open Call for Innovative Practice and Dilemma's

Why: Transition

Europe is bursting with examples of democratic innovation. Citizens are taking public matters into their own hands and driving change through efforts to improve the neighborhoods and cities in which they live. Public officials are experimenting with new forms of practical deliberation and conflict resolution that remake relationships with citizens and other stakeholders. These new forms of cooperation and cocreation challenge us to make sense of how roles and responsibilities are changing.

As they rework the relationship between bottom-up and top-down patterns of organization, these practical experiments push public, civic, and market organizations to rethink the ways they relate to each other. Their experiences pose important questions. How can we support and facilitate grass-root initiatives and safeguard public concerns? How can we respond to demands for action when the rules of the game are themselves shifting?

Citizens and civic professionals often work pragmatically in these settings—seeking to learn as they act. Their stories contain a wealth of insights that can become the working knowledge that binds a community of practitioners across political and institutional borders.

Our ambition is to create an international learning community, whose members can learn together about shifting roles, responsibilities, and opportunities for linking society and democracy.

How: Borders to Cross

The conference will have an accessible and flexible nature that allows for personal interaction and group reflection that contributes to action learning and the development of a durable learning community.

The conference will begin in the afternoon of Tuesday 29 October and end around lunchtime on 31 October. During these 48 hours there will be opportunities to:

- Attend workshops about cutting edge participatory methods;
- Reflect with scientists about practical insights and innovative theories;
- Listen to leading figures in the field of civic driven change;
- Enlarge your vision and learn from initiatives and projects by visiting the marketplace;
- Visit civic driven change initiatives in neighborhoods in Amsterdam;
- Talk with peers about the daily challenges you face and the borders you have to cross

In connection with this conference Amsterdam will subsequently host the granting of the prestigious ErasmusPrize to Jurgen Habermas on november 5th.

Open Call

There is an open call to collect interesting initiatives and projects that we can learn from. The Open Call for Innovative Practice and Dilemma's will gather the most striking examples of efforts in which citizens, civil society actors, and public officials have redefined their roles and modes of interaction.

Examples may range from the G1000 in Belgium to a social pharmacy in Greece or a social procurement procedure in Sweden. The cases will be linked by the common effort to reinvent democratic relationships through practical initiatives.

Representatives of the projects that are selected will be invited to present and discuss their successes and their frustrations and to bring home innovative approaches to pressing societal problems.

Deadline

If you would like to apply for the open call, fill in these questions and send them to Rense Bos, borderstocross@minbzk.nl before June 14th 2013.

- 1) Please give the name of the project that you wish to nominate for Borders to Cross and when and where it took place.
- 2) Who were the principal partners in the project (government, civil society, market)? Please describe briefly the role that each of the partners has played to date.
- 3) What practical issues did the project attempt to address? Were there tangible results? If so, what were they?
- 4) What makes the project innovative in your view? How did relationships among participants or patterns of cooperation change in an interesting and challenging way? What new strategies for cooperation were employed? What new results were the members of the project able to deliver that they could not deliver prior to the project?
- 5) Please summarize how the above features (or others) make the project a challenging example of change in the democratic and governance system (shift of roles and responsibilities between government and society) of your country?
- 6) What is the current status of the project?

Questions about the open call?

Or do you want to know more about the open call, how to enter or nominate initiatives or projects? Send an email to Rense Bos, borderstocross@minbzk.nl

Can't wait to start exchanging?!

Get in touch now with fellow civic professionals on the [Borders to Cross Linked In group](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=4906112&trk=eul-grp-sub&ut=3e-5wgXiPaJBE1): <http://www.linkedin.com/groups?homeNewMember=&gid=4906112&trk=eul-grp-sub&ut=3e-5wgXiPaJBE1>