

Italy

National Commission for Public Debate



TYPE OF TOOL
Capacity building



MAIN SECTOR
All sectors



INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNANCE PILLARS
Transparent, systematic and effective stakeholder participation

In a nutshell



OBJECTIVE: The National Commission for Public Debate is aimed at promoting participatory democracy, with regard to the most important infrastructural interventions in Italy.



Agency in charge
National Commission for Public Debate



Levels of government
National and sub-national



Year of implementation
2020



Current status
Fully operational

Overview

In Italy, the **National Commission for Public Debate (CNDP)** on large infrastructural and architectural works of social importance was established with the **decree of the Minister of Infrastructure and Transport (MIT) of 30 December 2020, n. 627**.

It is aimed at promoting participatory democracy, with regard to the most important infrastructural interventions. With the publication of specific guidelines, the CNDP regulates, evaluates and monitors stakeholder participation and progress and results of each public debate. Its competencies include:

- i) monitoring the smooth running of the public debate procedure and respect for public participation, as well as the necessary information during the procedure,
- ii) ensuring that appropriate and timely publicity and information is given, regarding the decisions adopted for the functioning of the CNDP, the modalities of the public debate procedure, the opinions rendered, the technical documentation concerning the intervention subject to public debate, as well as the results of ongoing or concluded consultations,
- iii) organising the above activities at territorial level, with the active involvement of the local authorities involved in the realisation of the work,
- iv) proposing general or methodological recommendations for the proper conduct of the public debate, and
- v) presenting to the Chambers, by 30 June every two years, a report on the activities carried out in the previous two years, highlighting the critical issues that emerged during the debate procedures carried out, also suggesting solutions aimed at eliminating any imbalances in participation as well as promoting forms of adversarial as moments of constructive interaction.

In 2022, the **CNDP** organised, **in collaboration with the National School of Administration**, the training course for coordinators of public debate aimed at public administration managers.

The coordinator is entrusted with the organisation and conduct of the operational phase of public debate and ensures the effectiveness of the process of stakeholder participation with the aim of ensuring **project sustainability along economic, governance, social and environmental dimensions**.

MIT has recently appointed the new coordinator of the CNDP also entrusting him with the **coordination of public debates relating to interventions financed in whole or in part with the National recovery and resilience plan (NRRP) resources and PNC** (Complementary National Plan to the NRRP), in line with what is indicated in the article 40, p. 7, of the new "Public Procurement Code" (Legislative Decree No. 36 of 31 March 2023).

REFERENCES:

- Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (2022), *CNDP – Commissione Nazionale Dibattito Pubblico*, <https://www.mit.gov.it/documentazione/cndp-commissione-nazionale-dibattito-pubblico>