

Virtual public participation: lessons from 2020

Item 3. Effective public participation without significant resources

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Green Dossier Information Center

Ninth meeting of the Task Force on PPDM, 1-2 March 2021

Virtual meetings 2020:

- informing
- discussing
- commenting
- exchange
- planning
- reporting

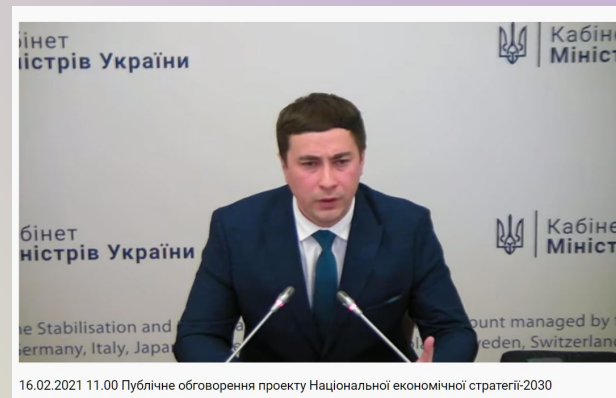


Lesson 1.

We have better access to events

Positive

- many people have access
- no need to be physically present means fewer resources to move to location and therefore less time consuming



Negative

- too many people, among them those who just want to promote themselves or just speak a lot without understanding of tasks and meanings
- everyone needs to have stable connection and be technologically literate to be able to participate



Lesson 2.

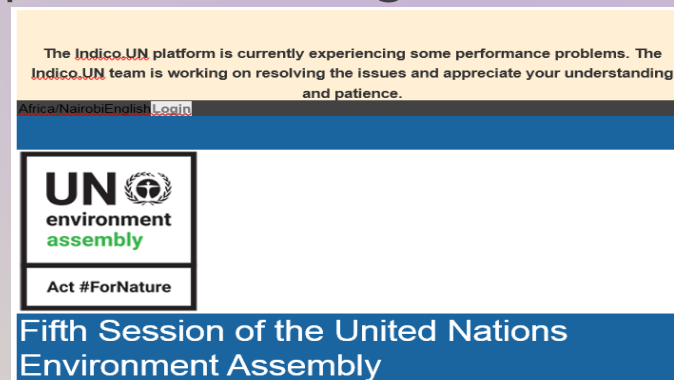
Possibility to participate in many events

Positive

- we so much learn and get new information
- we attend several meetings in the same time
- virtual private meetings

Negative

- we cannot go deep into all issues
- we are not really effective switching from one event to another
- technical troubles

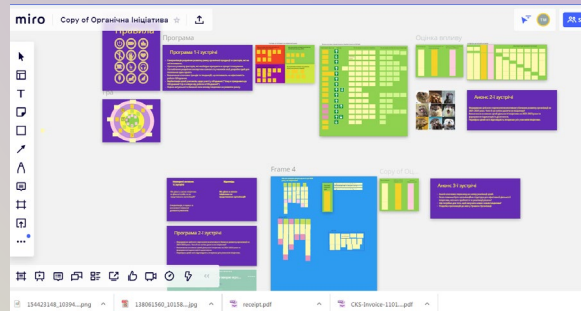


Lesson 3.

Possibilities to ask/ comment

Positive

- Interactive tools allow active participation
- comments in chats
- answers to chat questions by speakers



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Negative

- interactive tools are not good for all types of events
- chats and other functions often closed if many participants
- answers to inconvenient chat questions may be ignored
- Q/A in written in chats are not productive

Lesson 4.

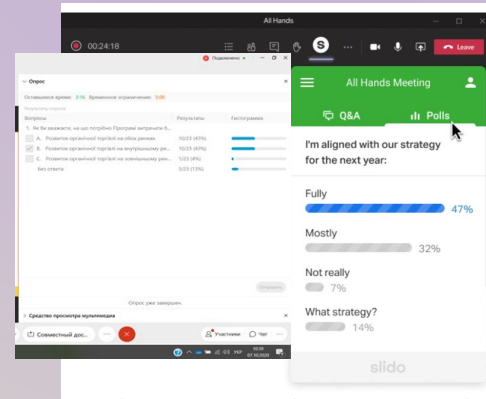
Comments taken into account

Positive

- easier to include comments if there is already practice/traditions of PP
- smart moderation helps
- good planning of the event is possible

Negative

- too high dependence of the format, technical tools and persons moderating (which may be caused by participants number, aims of organisers, technical limits etc.)
- possibilities for manipulations via using technical tools (voting)



Lesson 5.

Feedback and further promoting

Positive

- possibility to record, copy etc. to use further
- possibility to come back to the event and ask for promises
- use of social networks for sharing and monitoring of events' results
- personal online communication with event participants

Negative

- lack of technical skills and knowledge
- lack of access to the materials/decisions for all of affected people (technical skills, narrow circle of involved people via social networks)



Conclusions/suggestions:

- Increasing level of digital literacy
- need for better planning and moderating
- developing PP practices
- less cost for travel/accommodation
- less carbon footprint
- more exploitation of the human brain/ abilities – bad for health

to combine on/off line tools in future





Thanks for your attention!

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