Making participation meaningful
Participatory policymaking

- A process to transform policy making by using a multi-stakeholder approach
- Encourages active citizenship, transparency and accountability
- ‘New democratic spaces’
- Premise – that citizens and other stakeholders take an active role in policy processes at an early stage
- Invited spaces promotes participation through policy action by governments
- Claimed spaces are often created by those who are more marginalized
Continuum of participation

- Contribution
- Information sharing
- Consultation
- Cooperation and consensus building
- Decision making
- Partnership
- Empowerment
Tools

INFORMATION SHARING TOOLS

CONSULTATION TOOLS

ACTIVE PARTICIPATORY TOOLS
Fourth review and appraisal of MIPAA/RIS
Things to consider for meaningful participation in MIPAA

• Governments, civil society and older people working together
• Include diverse voices
• Consider the types of participatory tools being used
• Consider power relations
• Closing the feedback loop
• Focus on empowerment
• Not just a ‘one off’
• Older people
• Governments/ministries
• Local authorities
• NGOs
• Older people’s associations/committees
• Community groups
• Care homes
• Service providers
• Academia
Who else should we be targeting?

- Older women’s networks
- Disabled people’s organisations
- Older migrants
- Older people living in a range of care settings
- Carers
- People living with dementia
- Indigenous populations
- Intergenerational representatives
- Older people living in poverty
- Older people in rural areas

Consider what approach
Role of civil society

- Access to a range of perspectives
- Sharing information with decision-makers and providing spaces for older people
- Support older people to take an active role in discussions and decisions about services and policies
- But, need to be careful about speaking on behalf of older people
- Need to consider who’s voices are being heard (usual suspects?)
- Representative voices?
- Ageing networks/coalitions
Governments

- Governments can invite, facilitate, provide space
- May have more resources to facilitate surveys/focus groups
- National focal points of ageing organize and coordinate stakeholders
Steps involved

- Identify stakeholders: who to work with and how
- Review national policies and define priorities for action
- Determine what to review
- Propose policy adjustments
- Put together and analyse information
- Carry out a review and appraisal with stakeholders

Benefits of a collaborative approach

• Broadening of policy- and programme-relevant information sources (in-depth qualitative data to complement quantitative data)
• Priority-setting of policies and programmes that reflect the interests of the primary stakeholders
• Opportunities for marginalized participants to analyse and articulate their situation with other stakeholders. This promotes partnership in working for realistic change
Final things to consider..