# Citizen engagement in public contracting

Online conference: "Integrity Pact pilot in the European Union. Results and perspectives" organized by the Stefan Batory Foundation

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### 1. Project is key

- value
- opposition
- Visibility

→ Think, think and think before you choose a project!



### 2. No citizens, no engagement

- information
- capacity
- distrust
- apathy
- collective action

→ Put yourself in the shoes of citizens!



#### 3. Look in the mirror!

- know-how
- contacts
- budget

→ Citizen engagement is not a one-shot meeting. It is a process!



### 4. Fix the (broken) bridge

- incentives
- legal obstacles
- Invested interests

→ Work with reformers in public administration!





#### Many activities

- Townhall meetings (Italy and Poland)
- Field visits and guided (Portugal, Italy and Hungary)
- Trainings to youth and adults (Italy and Latvia)
- Networking meetings and events with local communities (Bulgaria, Greece, Hungary and Italy)
- Use of technological tools (Italy)
- Whistleblowing and complaints channels (all IP project countries)



### Italy: what high school students say?

"Our work has focused on the analysis and verification of all the steps related to the contract since its inception. We learned how to orient ourselves in a world made of minutes, official documents, complex bureaucratic mechanisms and a veritable galaxy of laws and regulations. What really pushed me to evaluate this experience positively is the ability to touch the concreteness of reality, understanding how challenging and complex it is to make sure public money is spent properly."

Filippo Fantauzzo, a high school student and participant in a lab organized by Amapola, Italy



#### Italy: what high school students say?

As an Italian citizen, I believe it is right that I can know in total autonomy if the future taxes I will pay will be used correctly. One cannot fail to recognise the practical utility of civic monitoring. What struck me most about this activity was discovering why very often the complex bureaucratic process gets stuck blocking the work of a public project, especially if I think that in my personal experience, I often hear complaints about blocked construction sites without ever understanding the reason behind that. Another no less important aspect is precisely the bureaucratic process itself, which I had never had the opportunity to know before and which I now feel able to follow.

Dario Zimbardo, a high school student and participant in a lab organized by Amapola, Italy

## THANKEYOU