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## Civic Participation in foreign and security policy: motivation, processes, results

Foreign and security policy has long been considered as a prerogative of the executive in democratic systems. Traditionally, the executive is suspected to have little interest in forms of participation that reach beyond the legally required processes of representative democracy. However, recent developments may indicate a change: citizens are increasingly included in deliberation and decision-making processes even in foreign and security policy. The goal of this research project is to study the **motivation, processes, and results** of these participation formats. In the first year (July 2018-June 2019), we conduct several pre-studies which aim at systematically **mapping the participation formats in foreign and security policy**, both **across different federal ministries in Germany** as well as in terms of an **international comparison**. The pre-studies will guide the subsequent selection of detailed **case studies** which will be carried out as part of a bigger project which will run for several years (presumably July 2019-June 2022).

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The following questions will guide the research project:

- How, why, and to what end do ministries initiate participation formats in (a) foreign and security policy as well as (b) policy areas of global relevance?
- Which results are brought about by the different participation formats in terms of concrete policies, processes, and institutions?
- How do (a) involved groups (i.e. citizens, experts, and stakeholders) and (b) representatives of the executive evaluate the participation initiatives concerning format and results?
- How can the different participation processes be analysed from the perspective of empirical and normative democratic theories, especially regarding their legitimacy and effectiveness?

The on-going research projects pursues **two major goals**:

- First, **mapping** participation processes within and beyond Germany as well as across different ministries should provide the basis for conducting systematic comparative studies. To this end, participation processes, their characteristics (e.g. in terms of design and involved actors), their comparability need to be identified and assessed.
- Second, an **empirical case study** of the participation formats carried out by the German Federal Foreign Office between 2014 and 2019 should result in a provisional conceptual framework. This will give some first insights into how and why participation processes are initiated, to what extent their results influence political decision-making, and how both executive and citizen actors perceive these processes.