



IAP2 International Associates

Helping you make professional connections in public participation



www.iap2.org

About IAP2 SA...



IAP2SA stands for the **International Association for Public Participation Southern Africa**.

It is the regional affiliate of the international IAP2 organization, dedicated to raising awareness and standards for public participation and stakeholder engagement in Southern Africa.

Established in 2011, IAP2 SA is a network of passionate practitioners seeking to raise awareness and standards of public participation in Southern Africa. Our goal is to empower individuals and organisations by providing knowledge resources, training opportunities, and discussion platforms for members across the region.

Our mission

IAP2 SA seeks to promote and enhance the practice of public participation in southern Africa by:

- Creating an understanding of the field of public participation through open dialogue
- Actively increasing the knowledge base by collating and disseminating information
- Creating opportunities for professional development
- Providing accredited training
- Providing (and reviewing) benchmarks through innovation and research.

RESOURCES...

IAP2 has a wealth of resources available to assist organisations, decision-makers, policymakers, and practitioners to improve the quality of public participation work. The following resources are protected by copyright by the International Association for Public Participation and may be used for information purposes.

We welcome your request to apply these tools. To use, copy, or reproduce these important documents, written permission must be obtained from the IAP2 Federation Executive Manager at operations@iap2.org / admin2@iap2sa.org

2 Pillars

As an international leader in public participation, IAP2 has developed three pillars for effective public participation and engagement (P2/engagement) processes. Developed with broad international input, these pillars cross national, cultural, and religious boundaries and form the foundation of P2 processes that reflect the interests and concerns of all stakeholders. These include the **IAP2 Core Values, Code of Ethics, and Spectrum of Public Participation**.

IAP2 Core Values...

CORE VALUES

IAP2 Federation's Core Values for Public Participation professionals define the expectations and aspirations of the public participation process. Processes based on the Core Values have been shown to be the most successful and respected.

- 1** Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process.
- 2** Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will influence the decision.
- 3** Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants, including decision-makers.
- 4** Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
- 5** Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
- 6** Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
- 7** Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

These values reinforce ethical, transparent, and community-centred engagement practices.

IAP2 Spectrum...

IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in public participation plans around the world.

INCREASING IMPACT ON THE DECISION

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

IAP2 Spectrum...

Evolution Drivers

- Modernised language
- Stronger clarity on decision-maker and community roles
- Better alignment with diverse global and regional contexts
- Improve integrity & prevent misuse

What's New

- Inform is both **a level** AND **a foundation** supporting all levels
- Clearer, simpler wording for each level
- Arrow removed → emphasis on **dynamic practice**, not linear steps
- Purpose statement added
- Regional flexibility allowed while maintaining core structure

Bottom Line

A clearer, more contemporary and adaptable Spectrum that strengthens transparency, equity, and meaningful influence in public participation.

What the Spectrum Means in Practice...

- Helps government, industry, and practitioners **design engagement intentionally**
- Confirms the **degree of public influence** from information-sharing to shared or full decision-making
- Encourages **transparent, ethical, and accountable processes**
- Supports **trust-building** and reduces tick-box consultation
- Positions engagement as **strategic**, not administrative

It's not about choosing the “highest level” — but choosing the **right level** for the context, mandate, and community needs.

SA Context & Expectations

- Constitutional right to participate in governance (Section 152 & 195)
- Municipal Systems Act requires community participation in local planning
- Environmental & spatial legislation embeds public consultation
- High public mistrust = engagement must go **beyond compliance**
- Move from **inform & consult only** → towards involve & collaborate where possible
- Growing expectation for **co-creation, transparency and fairness**
- Use **local languages, lived experience and community structures**.

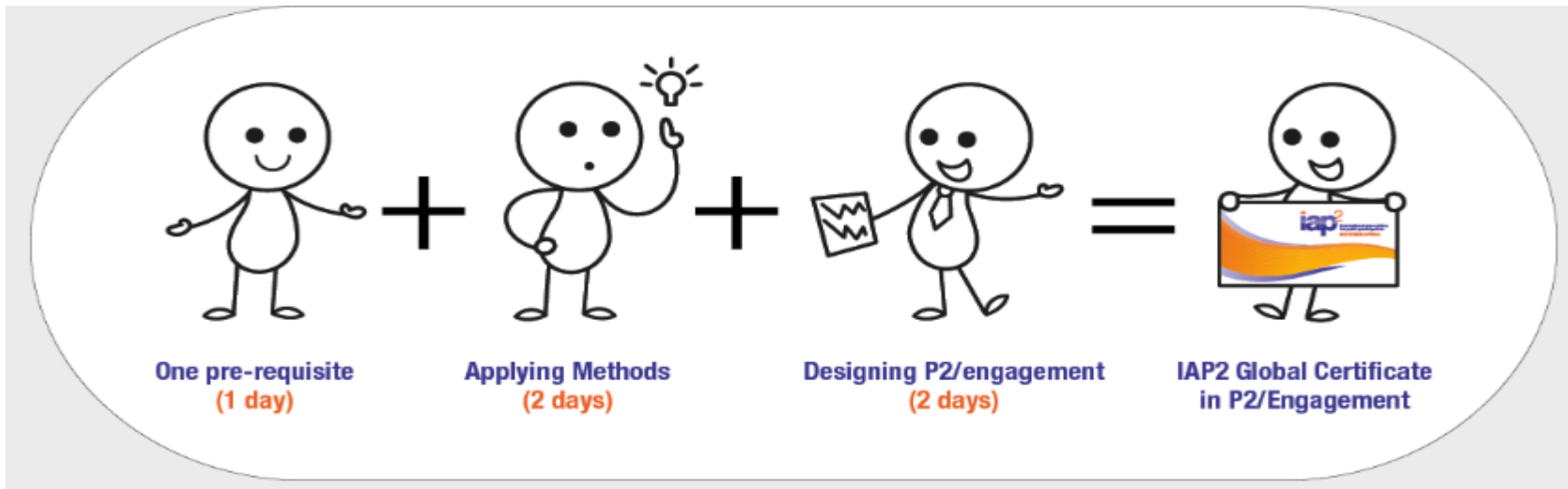
In SA, effective public participation is not only good practice — it is a democratic obligation and a trust-building tool.

Training...

The **IAP2 Global Certificate in P2/Engagement** is a five-day programme.

NEW LEARNERS must first complete one prerequisite course – **EITHER** *Fundamentals of P2/engagement (Level 1 – 1 day)* **OR** *IAP2 Way in Challenging Contexts (Level 2 – 1 day)*.

Once a prerequisite course has been completed, then only may learners select *Applying Methods (Level 2 – 2 days)* and *Designing P2/engagement (Level 2 – 2 days)*.



If you have already completed Planning for Effective Public Participation (the three-day part of the Foundations course), then you are **NOT** required to complete a pre-requisite course.

Instead, you will be asked to watch a short refresher video before doing Applying Methods (Level 2 – 2 days) and Designing P2/engagement (Level 2 – 2 days).

Join IAP2 SA today...



If you are involved in public participation in Southern Africa, then IAP2 SA is for you!

IAP2 SA is a unique community of practitioners and supporters with a common vision to improve excellence in public participation in the southern African region.

The IAP2 approach promotes integrity and robust decision making. It also improves the value and outcomes of public participation – a process often perceived as costly, complex and time-consuming.

By working together, we are able to share what works and what doesn't at the coalface of public participation. We can also raise awareness about the importance of this profession and improve standards of the practice through training, good practice resources, certification, and a supportive community.

Organisations can leverage the IAP2 SA network to find local professionals with the skills and knowledge to support their public participation efforts and access good practice from around the world.

Members can interact with experienced local and international practitioners, strengthen their professional credentials, and get recognition for their good work.

Contact Information...

If you are looking for more information, contact us via any of our channels.

Email: admin2@iap2sa.org

Web: <https://iap2sa.org/>

Thank you...