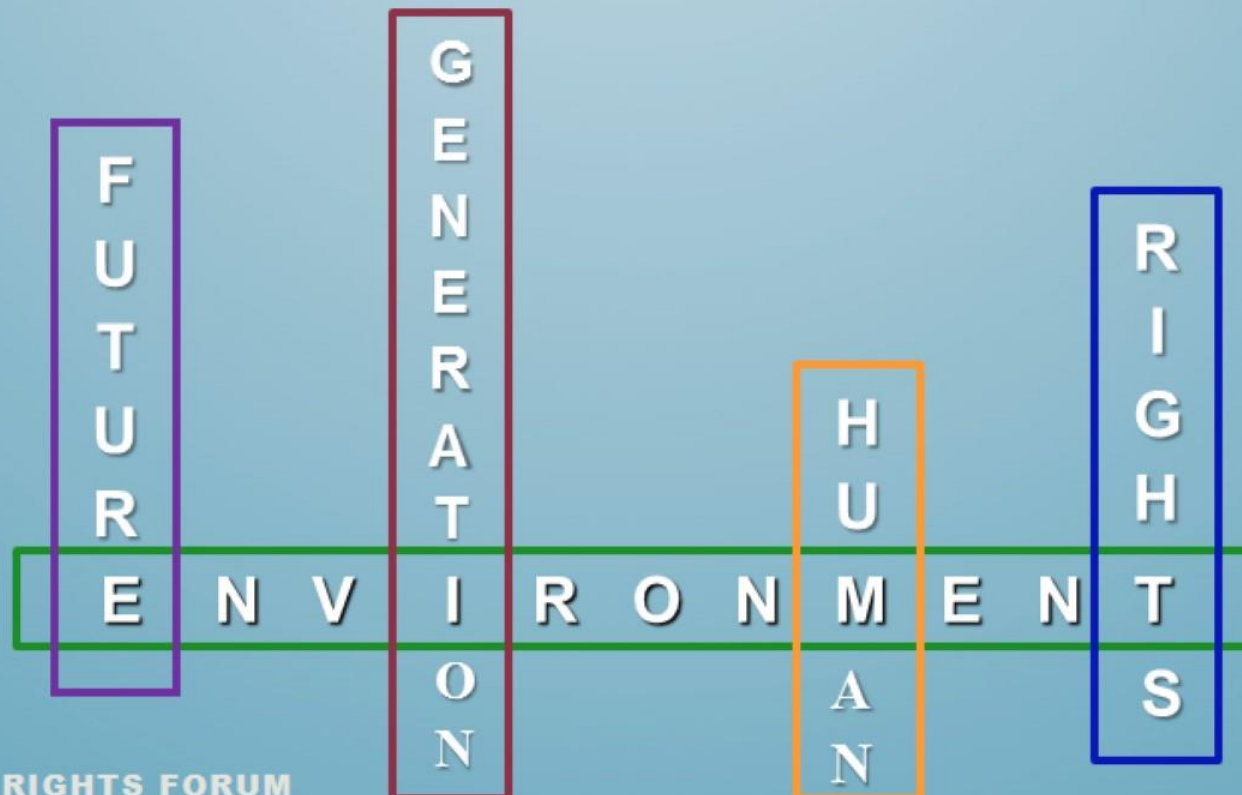




MEANS AND METHODS OF PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS AND PROMOTING THE RIGHTS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS



FACILITATOR

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KEY TOPICS

- **Human rights guarantees help enforce environmental protection since 1990s**
 - **European Court of Human Rights and its active role**
 - **EU Charter – Article 37 „environmental protection”**
- **Sustainable development needs human rights as prerequisites**
- **Environmental protection is a prerequisite to every human right – and to the wider concept of human dignity**
- **Environmental protection cannot be a solely governmental responsibility – emerging actors play a crucial role**
- **Future generations as emerging rights-holders – in national constitutions**
- **Sense of belonging is supported by ensuring public participation rights in environmental decision-making**

QUESTION 1

“Who are the emerging players, the new rights holders and duty bearers, in the field of human rights-based environmental protection?”

What are the novel methods unique to these actors?”

FUTURE GENERATIONS AS RIGHTS HOLDERS



Network of Institutions
for Future Generations

- **Future generations in national constitutions: 44 and in international treaties: 20**
- **Spread of national non-governmental institutions fostering the interests of future generations: 6 named by the UN SG in 2013**
 - **NIFG: Wales, New Zealand, Israel (commissioner), Canada (auditor general), Germany, Finland (Parliamentary committee), Hungary**
 - **Others: Basque country, Scotland, Slovenia**
- **Future generations advocacy:**
 - **Requirements of intergenerational equity:**
 - Conservation of options, quality, and access – context dependent**
 - **Long-term thinking in policy-making**
 - **Precautionary policies**
- **Case study: our successful amicus to the Constitutional Court – invalidating a water management act for harming the interests of future generations**

QUESTION 2

„Promoting public participation rights is an important asset to ensure citizens’ sense of belonging to their communities.

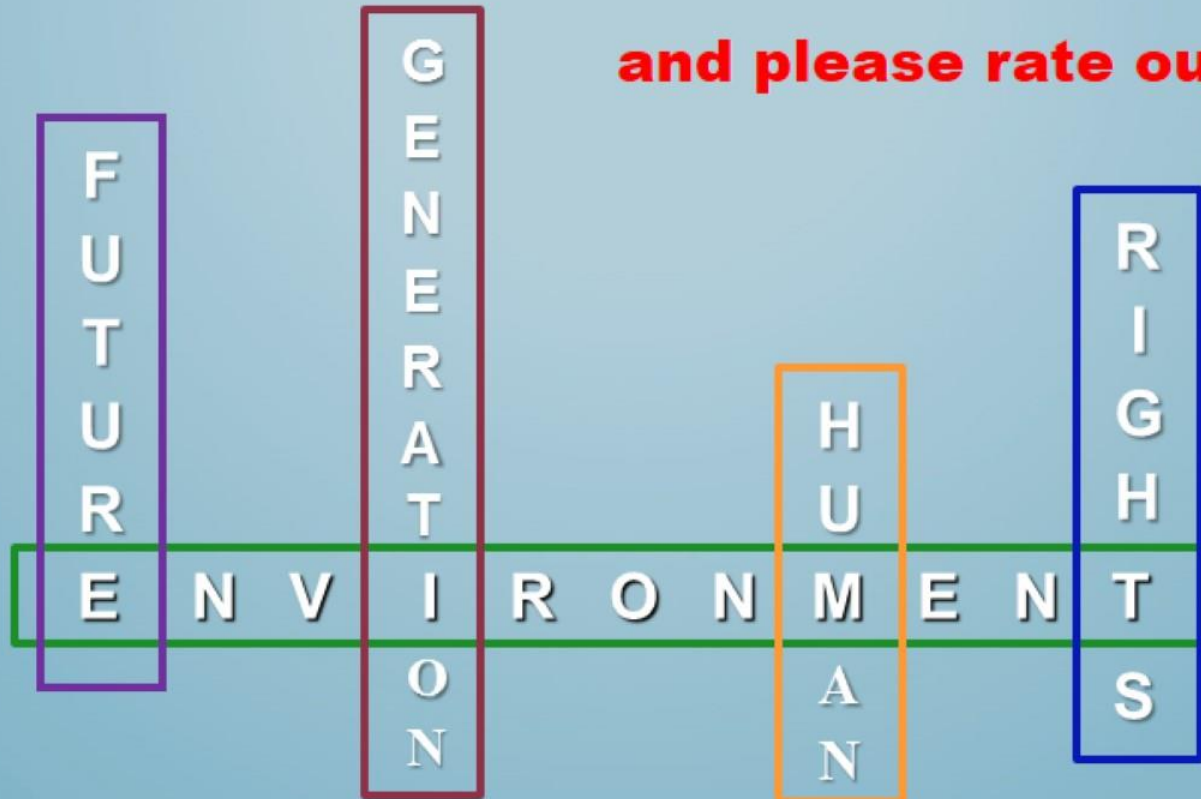
What are the current trends, achievements and challenges of public participation rights in environmental policy-making?”

OMBUDSMAN AIDING PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES

- **Intergenerational equity -- long-term thinking in environmental policy-making – use of scientific, technical arguments and evidence**
- **Channeling scientific opinions to speedy lawmaking processes by collecting reports of relevant experts and competent NGOs**
 - **Together w/ Greenpeace we prepared a legislative proposal to promote environmental liability of polluters**
 - **Amicus brief accompanied by the opinion of 11 competent NGOs and interests groups**
- **Neutral platform for negotiations b/w governmental stakeholders and NGOs**
 - **Ministers tend to accept the requests of NGOs if backed by the ombudsman**

THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY!

and please rate our session!



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