

English course

In this course, we will treat some concepts and issues related to local political and administrative organization, local governance, participatory government, as we live under a new era of global challenges, in which states shall be adapted to this environment.

Local Governance

Governance is made up of the political and institutional processes through which decisions are taken and implemented. Governance is most effective when these processes are participatory, accountable, transparent, efficient, inclusive, and respect the rule of law. Good governance is particularly important at local level, where governments interact with citizens and communities on a daily basis.

Improving local governance is a vital tool to guarantee peace, boost economic development, maximize administrative efficiency, and ensure social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Many countries in the MENA region have recognised the importance of reforming local governance and allocating more responsibilities to governorates, regions and municipalities in order to better meet citizen's needs.

In this context, the OECD is supporting the modernisation of the local administration and the empowerment of local elected and officials and in the framework of its open government work, the OECD is engaging with local communities to enable them to engage successfully with citizens and build local governments that are that are transparent, accountable and accessible.

Concepts and expressions:

Governance definition: the governance literature proposes several definitions, most rest on three dimensions: **authority**, **decision-making** and **accountability**.

Governance determines **who has power**, **who makes decisions**, **how other players make their voice heard and how account is rendered**.

participatory

accountable
transparent
efficient
inclusive

Governance challenges include:

- Effective representation of diverse population;
- Ageing citizens;
- Integrating transportation networks;
- Preparing for the effects of climate change;
- Everything is faster;
- New disruptive technologies are both driving and enabling change and everything from policy making to service delivery to citizen activism;
- As expectations grow, the relationship between government and citizens is changing;
- Renewing our notions of privacy of openness;
- Control of government data;
- How to incorporate the direct involvement of citizens between elections while responding to the newly empowered activist citizens.

Governance principles may have many formulations, but include the following dimensions:

- Legitimacy and voice
- Direction and purpose
- Effective performance
- Accountability & transparency
- Fairness & ethical behaviour

الحوكمة لفظٌ حديثٌ في اللغة العربية ، وقد أقره مجمع اللغة العربية في القاهرة عام 2002 إذ جاء ترجمةً للكلمة الإنجليزية Governance والتي من معانيها (حَكَمَ). وذلك بعد أن انتقلت هذه الكلمة في اللغة الإنجليزية من السياسة إلى الاقتصاد لتدل على المعنى الاصطلاحي وارتبطت مع الشركات Companies لتصبح وكأنها لفظ واحد من جزأين "Corporate Governance" أي: "حوكمة الشركات"، وابتدأ تطبيق هذا المفهوم عليها، وفي بعض الأحيان يستبدل مصطلح الحوكمة بمسمى (الإدارة الرشيدة) وهما يحملان نفس الدلالة إلا أن الأخير وكما يقال يشير إلى المصطلح العلمي للحوكمة .

Participatory democracy

Participatory democracy is a process of collective decision making that combines elements from both direct and representative democracy: Citizens have the power to decide on policy proposals and politicians assume the role of policy implementation.

Participatory democracy happens **when individual citizens of a democracy participate in the formation of policies and laws through consistent engagement.**

تعرف الديمقراطية التشاركية بأنها: "نظام يمكن من مشاركة المواطنين في صنع القرارات السياسية ذات الأولويات بالنسبة إليهم عن طريق التفاعل المباشر مع السلطات القائمة والمشكلات المطروحة، كما أنها تأخذ بعين الاعتبار دور المواطنين في المشاركة في صنع القرار السياسي وتدير الشأن العام، وتتسم بالتفاعل بين المواطنين والحكومات أو المستشارين المحليين، وأنها مكمل للديمقراطية التمثيلية".

Participatory democracy is defined as: "A system that enables **citizens to participate in making political decisions** that have priorities for them through **direct interaction with the existing authorities** and the problems presented. It also takes into account **the role of citizens in participating in political decision-making and managing public affairs**, and is characterized by **interaction between citizens and local governments or advisors**, and **it complements representative democracy.** "

Participatory refers to something that involves active participation. **Democracy** is a form of government in which power is held by the people. If the people themselves vote directly on policies and laws, it is called a direct democracy. If they elect representatives to make laws and policies, it is called a **representative** democracy. (Most modern, Western-style democracies, including the United States and the United Kingdom, are forms of representative democracies.)

The term participatory democracy refers to something somewhere in between: **the people elect leaders but also play a role in forming policies.**

Participatory democracy is all about participation. Its goal is to ensure that all citizens, not just politicians, have a real say in the creation of the rules and programs that make up their government.

When faced with big problems, people often want a larger role in the creation of the laws and policies that will affect their everyday lives. That's one of the reasons that participatory democracy has become more prominent both as an idea and as a phrase used in discussions about how to enact change.

The principles involved in participatory democracy are familiar to many involved in community development and include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • Participation • Self determination • Power sharing • Equality • Social inclusion • Protection of autonomous, independent voices. • Flexible, working structures which are accountable and transparent and which resource and take into account the needs of all participating partners. 	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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A participatory democracy is a model of democracy in which citizens have the power to make policy decisions. Participatory democracy emphasizes the broad participation of people in politics. نموذج من الديمقراطية / يقوم على سلطة المواطن في اتخاذ القرارات السياسية.

However, this is not a **direct democracy**, in which citizens are directly responsible for making policy decisions. In a participatory democracy, **citizens can influence policy decisions, but do not make them**. Politicians are still responsible for implementing those policy decisions.

The United States does not have a pure participatory democracy, but at some levels of government, we can see examples of a participatory democracy playing out.

Corruption and democracy

Corruption – broadly defined as **the misuse of public office for private gains** costs every country a large amount of financial, political and social resources every year. Research on the causes, consequences and combat strategies of corruption are manifold and very revealing. Previous studies indicate, for example, that **well-established democracies show lower levels of corruption than authoritarian regimes or young democracies**. At the same time, high levels of corruption undermine democracy.

التفسير النظمي للفساد = مستوى الأداء الديمقراطي للنظام القائم

By diverting rare resources from **disadvantaged people**, it damages the rule of law, social justice and lowers the trust of citizens in political institutions and processes. The reciprocal democracy-corruption nexus has already been analyzed in several studies and is nowadays well-established. Previous research shows that democracy does not guarantee clean and transparent governance at all and democratic systems are still fighting against corruption even in countries that are often seen as almost free of corruption. Yet, frequent scandals like in the United Kingdom, Iceland, United States or Spain illustrate that corruption is a serious problem in nearly every state in the world.

The major causes advanced for corruption are:

a) Greed of public servants

جشع الموظفين الحكوميين

b) Low salaries of public servants that are often in arrears

تدني أجور الموظفين الحكوميين

c) Poor supervision of workers and poor record keeping

ضعف إشراف العمال

d) Bad examples set by top senior officers (who are themselves corrupt)

فساد كبار الموظفين

e) Lack of job security due to retrenchments

غياب أمان الوظيفة

f) Lack of public knowledge on rights and failure to punish corruption.

غياب المعرفة العامة حول الحقوق والفشل في محاربة الفساد

Public policy

Broadly, we might say that a public policy is simply **what government (any public official who influences or determines public policy, including school officials, city council members, county supervisors, etc.) does or does not do about a problem that comes before them for consideration and possible action.**

Specifically, public policy has a number of key **attributes**:

- Policy is made in response to some sort of issue or problem that requires attention.
- Policy is what the government chooses to do (actual) or not do (implied) about a particular issue or problem.
- Policy might take the form of law, or regulation, or the set of all the laws and regulations that govern a particular issue or problem.
- Policy is made on behalf of the "public."
- Policy is oriented toward a goal or desired state, such as the solution of a problem.
- Policy is ultimately made by governments, even if the ideas come from outside government or through the interaction of government and the public.
- Policymaking is part of an ongoing process that does not always have a clear beginning or end, since decisions about who will benefit from policies and who will bear any burden resulting from the policy are continually reassessed, revisited and revised.