

About atene KOM

atene KOM from Berlin accompanies the public sector in project development in the areas of digitalisation, energy, mobility and education. We bring municipalities, counties and companies together and jointly develop the infrastructure for the future. Strengthening rural areas is the focus of our work. We are a strong partner for our customers for subsidy consulting, regional development, the establishment of goal-oriented networks and organisational development. Together with German and European partners, we work on funding projects, for example for the digitalisation of rural areas, develop smart mobility concepts for local and regional transport or intelligent strategies to promote sustainable development.

We accompany projects with effective communication and efficient marketing, organise workshops for further training and, if required, also take over event management. We see ourselves as a neutral moderator between business and the public sector. We solve the changing tasks of our customers – fast, effectively and agile.

atene KOM employs more than 300 experts from different fields such as IT, law, economics, communication, administration or geography. In this way, we generate the necessary know-how to ensure finding the right solutions for our clients' numerous missions.

In addition to its Berlin headquarters, atene KOM has seven regional offices in Germany: Bonn, Leipzig, Munich, Osterholz-Scharmbeck near Bremen, Schwerin, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden. We also operate an office in Brussels and in Kyiv.

The adherence to the highest quality standards is one of atene KOM's key goals. That's why we're currently certified to the 9001:2008 standard.

atene KOM Making regional development participatory

Organisation and facilitation of participatory processes

Reaching citizens and engaging relevant actors in the decision-making process are key elements in the development of smart regions. atene KOM organises and facilitates participation processes, designs suitable online and offline participatory formats for municipalities and supports their implementation.

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Organisation and facilitation of participatory processes

Public Participation is vital for transparent development projects

Smart cities and regions rely heavily on digital participation and co-creation. The integration of the needs and interests of all stakeholders leads to sustainable decisions that will be supported by many, thus enabling smooth planning procedures.

Digital tools and platforms open up new doors for public participation and make engaging the population in decision-making easier than ever before. Successful public participation requires the following actions:

- Design user-friendly solutions
- Combine online and offline formats
- Strengthen digital literacy
- Set up feedback possibilities on digital tools and platforms.

Even in a smart region, online public participation tools should not completely replace offline methods. It is crucial to combine various formats that can complement each other, and to gather feedback from a wide spectrum of stakeholders.

Our services

Implementing participatory processes locally

Using a wide range of analogue and digital formats, atene KOM develops a participation strategy that suits your specific topic or issue. Even in a smart region, online public participation tools should not completely replace offline methods. They can be used in parallel and complement each other.

Approaches and methods

Strategy and concept development

The participation method constitutes the conceptual basis for strategy development. Together with you, we design a public participation model that stimulates the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and ensures sustainable effects.

Implementation plan

To establish effective public participation formats, the implementation plan includes:

- Dedicated funding
- Detailed schedule
- Public relations and communication plan
- Documentation of results

Facilitation

In close consultation with you, we facilitate online and offline forms of public participation. Our goal is to motivate as many stakeholders as possible to actively engage. We attach great importance to creating a climate of trust, in which a wide array of views and concerns can be freely expressed.

Community outreach and public relations

Outreach activities and public relations are key to establish effective and transparent public participation. atene KOM prepares various tailored content, ensuring easily understandable and accessible information to educate the public about the issues and options.

Evaluation and monitoring

We document the participation results and continuously monitor the effectiveness of jointly agreed goals. After the participation process has been completed, we review the formulated goals to check how successfully they have been implemented through the strategy.



Offline participation

- **Open workshops** are collaborative events where the use of (open) data is the main focus.
- **Future workshops** are formats that help citizens to participate, mostly in urban planning projects. They aim at confronting diverse visions of current challenges and fostering co-created solutions.
- **Planning cells** are participation processes in which citizens are to find joint solutions to social issues and challenges. The process is moderated, takes place in several phases and is mostly used by municipalities for urban planning.
- **In roundtable discussions**, everybody has an equal right to participate and works to build solutions that are supported by every participant.
- **Dialogue events** such as facilitated podium discussions and citizens' forums support open, direct exchange between local decision-makers and citizens and promote a transparent decision-process.
- **Participatory Budgeting (or Citizen Budget)** is a process in which citizens deliberate over the distribution of public resources. This procedure doesn't necessarily require digital tools, but is significantly enhanced by online formats.

Online participation

- **Crowdmapping:** users provide information, regarding the spread of certain events (i.e., fires, floods, air pollution). This data is aggregated and helps to create up-to-date digital maps of given events.
- **Citizen sensing:** users share sensor data to generate knowledge; for example, on fine dust ionant levels in the area where they live.
- **CitizenLab platforms** are online platforms where citizens can vote and comment on projects.
- **Online petitions** can reach a large audience when shared online. They can request (local) parliaments to deal with specific issues or take a specific action.
- **Visualisation:** Virtual and Augmented Reality are not participation formats per se, but they can be used for illustration and make planned changes more tangible for citizens.

Smart Regions Team

atene KOM's multidisciplinary smart region team supports your region in its digital transformation. Our core team of city and regional planners, technicians, lawyers and various experts in fields such as mobility, energy, education and sustainability enables the systematic processing of diverse challenges. We are on the spot to support you in eight locations in Germany as well as in Brussels and Kyiv.