Exercise **CLOZE TEST** *Read this item developed on the basis of an October 2018 submission of comments to the European Commission from a UK-based NGO called Saferworld, before writing into each gap* **ONE** *suitable word that fits grammatically and in context.*

As they work to _____ policy into effect, civil servants are increasingly interested in doors to public participation _____ opened. As is probably _____ to everybody, this is the process by which people _____ are not elected officials or appointed public servants _____ part in decisionmaking on policy relevant _____ their lives. There is a long _____ of ways in which the public can participate, *inter alia* through public hearings, polls, formal objections, public voting and citizen forums. _____ successful, public participation can lead to better articulation of the community's needs and clearer solutions to present challenges. Citizens _____ more responsibility for policy implementation; and _____ an ever-stronger sense of civic duty. The process can help develop trust and consensus, _____ to empowerment; and will most likely _____ attachment and identification with the community. In some instances, participation may even shorten the process of policy setting, in this way reducing the _____ of money needing to be _____. Of course, _____ are downsides too, and academics have long argued _____ the wisdom of citizens participating. A first challenge relates to identity: as those _____ power start to work with "the public", _____ is inevitable – even by chance – that some groups will be represented disproportionately. Beyond that, some will work actively to manipulate the system to advance their individual, as opposed to common, interests. Full transparency may be lacking, and participation can _____ conflict in society. Under such circumstances, policy-setting might _____ up being *more* expensive and lengthy, rather _____ less. A further major challenge reflects the fact that we cannot preclude irrational _____ of decisions. While a rational governmental and/or expert process probably involves: 1) identifying the problem or opportunity; 2) brainstorming alternative solutions; 3) evaluating alternatives and _____ one solution; and 4) implementation and ongoing evaluation, this _____ of thing may not be expected from citizens. _____ this and other reasons, those who manage participation will need to ???_____ guidance, and that means _____ a bottom-up approach to the building of trust. In _____ to win that trust, officials must study the social environment, _____ more in that way about the composition and characteristics of the community, and especially its competing interests. The agenda of the community as _____ whole must be understood, and that means special note being taken of _____ matters to groups on the margins. Community history should also be reviewed via "social scanning". This kind of approach will help ensure that, when participation does begin, it is pursued in _____ responsible and careful a _____ as possible.