Innovative Citizen Participation

This area of work supports countries in the implementation of Provision 9 of the Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017), which focuses on exploring innovative ways to effectively engage with stakeholders to source ideas, co-create solutions, and seize the opportunities provided by digital government tools. It focuses on new research in the area of innovative citizen participation practices to analyse the new forms of deliberative, collaborative, and participatory decision-making that are evolving across the globe.

CONTEXT

This area of work has three pillars of activity:

1. Research & analysis of innovative citizen participation practices

As the Recommendation highlights inclusiveness and representativeness, the first focus in this research series is on deliberative processes, such as Citizens’ Assemblies, Juries, and Panels. They are one part of a bigger picture of the systemic change needed.

OUTPUTS 2020

→ Report: Catching the Deliberative Wave: Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions
   • Comparative analysis regarding design integrity, sound deliberation, and influence on public decisions
   • Identifies different models of deliberative processes
   • Highlights global, regional, and national trends

→ Principles of Good Practice for Deliberative Processes Used for Public Decision-making

The OECD has been engaging with a network of ~70 practitioners, designers, academics, researchers, civil servants, and curators to frame the topic and scope of research, to gather feedback and inputs to the research in an ongoing manner, and to strengthen the ties between these important groups of actors.
OECD Reviews provide in-depth analysis of countries’ innovative citizen participation practices at all levels of administration, from the design to the impact. Reviews are:

- Based on a partnership with the requesting country
- Tailored to the country’s institutional, cultural & legal context
- Include all relevant actors, outside and within public institutions
- Are conducted by a team of experts in the OECD Secretariat
- Are supported by peer reviewers from OECD member and partner countries
- Provide an international comparative perspective based on qualitative and quantitative evidence

**EXAMPLE OF A DELIBERATIVE PROCESS**

**The Irish Citizens’ Assembly (2016-2018)** involved 100 randomly selected citizen members who considered five important legal & policy issues: 8th Amendment of the Constitution on Abortion; Ageing Populations; Referendum Processes; Fixed-Term Parliaments & Climate Change. The Assembly’s recommendations were submitted to Parliament for further debate. Based on its recommendations, the government called a referendum on amending the 8th amendment and declared a climate emergency. It was selected by the OECD as a winning case of the first call for innovative Open Government cases.