

Innovative Citizen Participation Project



alessandro.bellantoni@oecd.org

claudia.chwalisz@oecd.org

#OECD OG

CONTEXT

In the context of the OECD's work on [open government](#), we are taking further the research that led to the [Recommendation of the Council on Open Government](#) in the area of innovative citizen participation practices. Through numerous reviews, we have identified certain trends of declining trust in government, citizen demands for more openness and growing numbers of innovative approaches that give people more agency in shaping public decisions. Now we are taking a closer look into those practices and their potential.

THE PROJECT

We are exploring the paradigm changes underway towards a more inclusive governance. Together with a network of democratically and civically minded individuals and organisations, we are analysing the new forms of **deliberative, collaborative, and participatory decision making** that are happening.

Data collection is underway to collect & analyse all cases worldwide of deliberative processes that meet three criteria:

- 1. Influence:** Commissioned by a public institution
- 2. Representativeness:** Participants are randomly selected & demographically stratified
- 3. Deliberation:** Requires time, so there is a minimum of 1 full day of meetings

1. To better understand the use of **deliberative processes by public institutions for policy making**, we are [collecting all cases](#) of deliberative processes. For each case, we are looking at 56 criteria, aiming to identify trends regarding what public issues are best suited to be addressed in this way, and how deliberative processes are used and could be used to in connection with other forms of stakeholder and citizen participation.
2. Having analysed what works and what does not, we aim to start a discussion about **principles of good practice**.
3. Collaboratively with our network of practitioners, experts, academics, designers, and civil servants, we will identify ways in which deliberative processes can be **institutionalised and embedded into democratic institutions** to address policy challenges.

OUTPUTS & ACTIVITIES



Report

Early 2020



Network

Global network of ~70 practitioners, academics, designers & civil servants



Principles

Development of principles of good practice



Medium

[OECD Medium](#):
Articles on Innovative Citizen Participation Practices

THE OECD BRINGS

Technical assistance & policy advice

The OECD provides technical assistance and policy evaluation and advice to requesting countries, drawing on the open government principles, government practices from its member countries, and a global network of practitioners. Policy advice and technical assistance can be provided in the form of:

1. High level technical seminars & capacity building workshops for civil servants and civil society on:
 - designing & implementing deliberative processes for policy making
 - specific aspects of participation
2. Seminars and/or guides on monitoring & evaluation of citizen participation, such as deliberative processes

Reviews

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 Deliberative Processes

[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.