

# Innovative Citizen Participation



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## CONTEXT

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.

## ACTIVITIES

*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

### 2. OECD Innovative Citizen Participation Network



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.

### 3. Participo

Research & practice of innovative  
citizen engagement

Participo is a digital space of exchange between public servants, practitioners, researchers, academics, and designers about innovative citizen participation and the future of democracy more broadly. The OECD team post regular blogs and updates about the project, research, related events, and interviews with experts. There is also external content commissioned by the OECD team on the key themes of this area of work.

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

### Capacity-building

The OECD provides capacity-building 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. Capacity-building can be provided in the form of:

#### 1. High level technical seminars & 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

### Policy advice and evaluation

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: 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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.