Catching the Deliberative Wave

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Three pillars of stakeholder participation

As defined in the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government (2017)

1. INFORMATION
   - Initial level of participation
   - One-way relationship
   - On-demand provision of information
   - Proactive measures to disseminate information

2. CONSULTATION
   - More advanced
   - Two-way relationship
   - Requires provision of information plus feedback on outcomes of process

3. ENGAGEMENT
   - When stakeholders (including citizens + civil society) are given opportunity and necessary resources to collaborate during all phases of the policy-cycle and in service design + delivery
## Involving stakeholders

### Benefits
- Official stakeholder perspectives
- Expert opinion and knowledge
- Ensures representation of key players

### Considerations
- Low threshold for participation
- Clear interest and incentives
- Experience interacting with public authorities and role in decision making

## Involving citizens

### Benefits
- Public opinion / public judgement
- Diversity of views
- Rarely heard voices
- Can be representative of broader public
- Public communication and public learning
- Tailor made and effective solutions

### Considerations
- Requires breaking down barriers to participation
- Motivation to participate should be ignited
- Requires clear links to decision making, invitations from high-level figures
First empirical, comparative study of representative deliberative processes for public decision making

- 289 examples from 1986 – Oct 2019
- 18 OECD countries + international level
- All levels of government
- 12 models of deliberative processes
- 11 principles of good practice
Poznań Citizens' Panel, Poland
What is a representative deliberative process?
What is a representative deliberative process?

Public problem:
Formulated as a clear task
in form of a question
What is a representative deliberative process?

Civic lottery

Public authority

Public problem:
Formulated as a clear task in form of a question

Small representative group of everyday people (Citizens' Assembly)
Civic lottery
(Two-stage sortition process)

Invitation sent to a random sample of the population (2,000-30,000)

Recipients can volunteer to opt in to the lottery

Second selection by lot amongst the volunteers

Stratified based on:
- Gender
- Age
- Location
- Socio-economic criteria

Final group

Broadly representative of the community concerned (city, state, country etc.)
What is a representative deliberative process?

Public problem: Formulated as a clear task in form of a question

Small representative group of everyday people (Citizens' Assembly)

Orientation & learning

Civic lottery
What is a representative deliberative process?

1. **Public authority**
   - Public problem: Formulated as a clear task in form of a question

2. **Civic lottery**

3. **Small representative group of everyday people (Citizens’ Assembly)**

4. **Orientation & learning**

5. **Deliberation**
What is a representative deliberative process?

Public problem: Formulated as a clear task in form of a question

Public authority

Small representative group of everyday people (Citizens’ Assembly)

Civic lottery

Orientation & learning

Deliberation

Drafting recommendations
What is a representative deliberative process?

Public authority

Civic lottery

Small representative group of everyday people (Citizens’ Assembly)

Orientation & learning

Deliberation

Drafting recommendations

RESPONSE
The “deliberative wave” has been building since the 1980s, gaining momentum since 2010.

Number of representative deliberative processes per year, 1986 – October 2019

Notes: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union. Processes that spanned over multiple years are noted by the year of their completion (except for permanent ongoing processes).

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).
Representative deliberative processes have been used at all levels of government.

Note: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union.

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).
Public authorities have commissioned representative deliberative processes for a wide range of policy issues.

Number of times a policy issue has been addressed through a representative deliberative process

Notes: n=282; Other policy issues include: agriculture; constitutional questions; consumer protection; cooperative housing; culture; firework use; gambling regulations; gender equality; justice; legislative reform; migration; noise pollution; safety; socioeconomic development; science and research; sustainable development; taxation; water management; youth.

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).
Types of problems that deliberative processes are well-suited to address:

- Values-based dilemmas
- Complex problems that require trade-offs
- Long-term questions
Good Practice Principles for Deliberative Processes for Public Decision Making

1. Purpose
2. Accountability
3. Transparency
4. Representativeness
5. Inclusiveness
6. Information
7. Group deliberation
8. Time
9. Integrity
10. Privacy
11. Evaluation
Step 1 DISCOVER

Step 2 IMPLEMENT

Step 3 EVALUATE

Step 4 EMBED
Deliberative processes are not a silver bullet. But evidence shows that, if designed well, they can bring public judgement to democracy, helping solve complex public problems and increase public trust.