

@oecdgov | @claudiachwalisz | #delibWave



Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: **CATCHING THE DELIBERATIVE WAVE**

Claudia Chwalisz

Innovative Citizen Participation Lead, OECD Open Government Unit

22 February 2021



First empirical, comparative study of
representative deliberative processes
for public decision making

289 examples from **1986 – Oct 2019**

18 OECD countries + international level

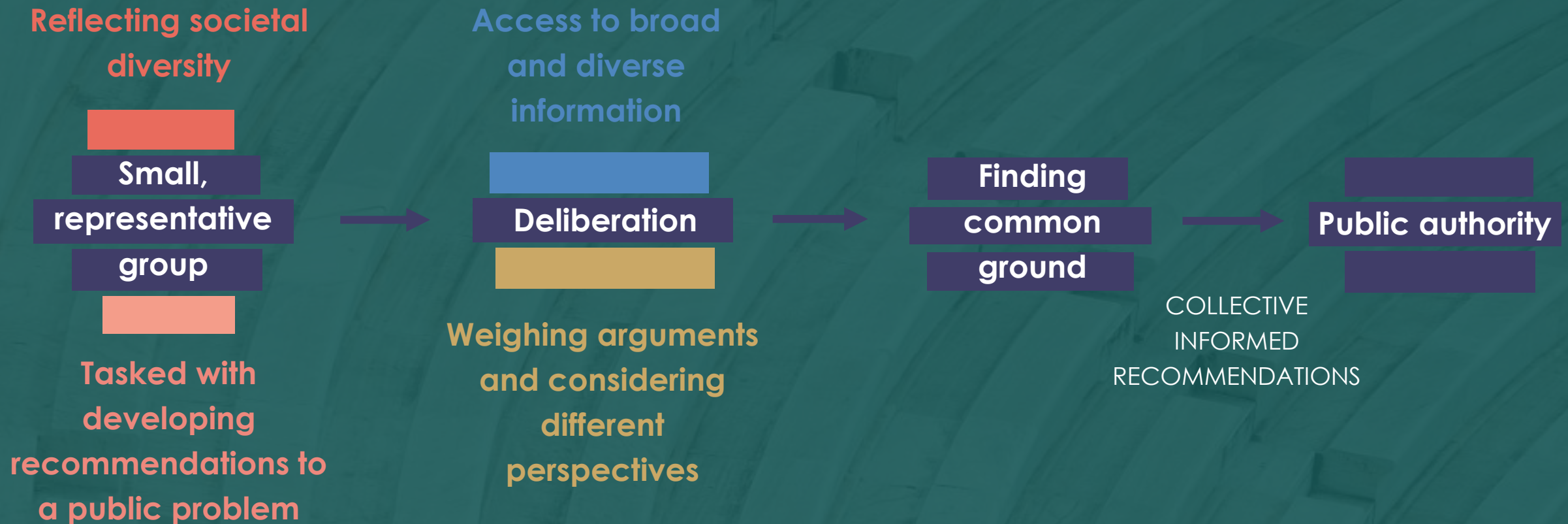
All levels of government

12 models of deliberative processes

11 principles of good practice

3 routes to institutionalisation

What is a representative deliberative process?





Irish Citizens' Assembly

Dr Noelle Higgins from Maynooth University - International Human Rights Law and Fatal Foetal Abnormalities speaking at the second meeting of the Citizens' Assembly in January 2017. Photo: Dara Mac Dónaill / The Irish Times

Bürgerrat Demokratie Citizens' Council



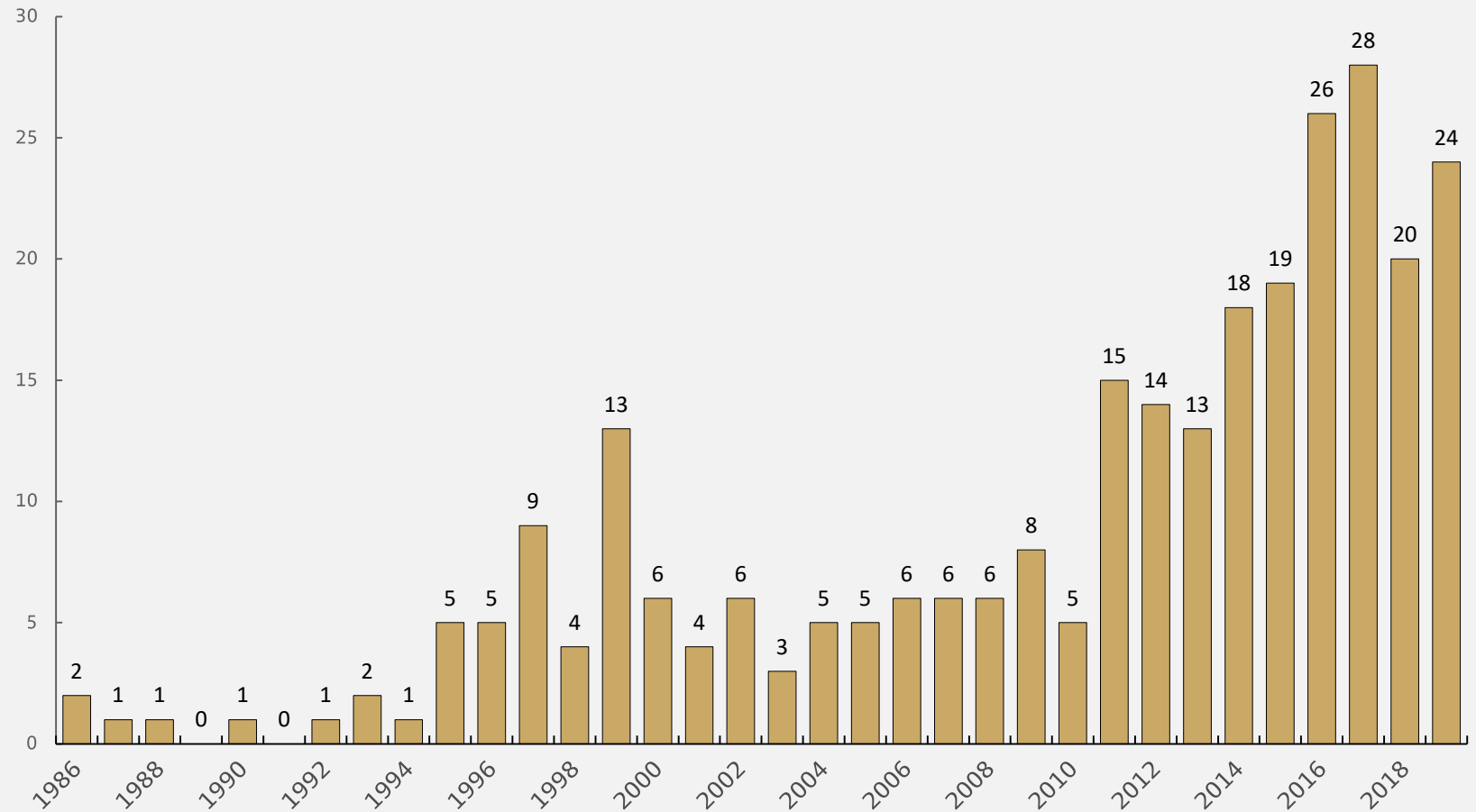
The 160 members of the Bürgerrat Demokratie Citizens' Council

**Three
criteria for
a case
study to be
included in
OECD
report:**

- 1. Representativeness:** Participants randomly selected & demographically stratified
- 2. Deliberation:** Requires time – operationalised as a minimum 1 full day of face-to-face meetings
- 3. Impact:** Commissioned by a public authority

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

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



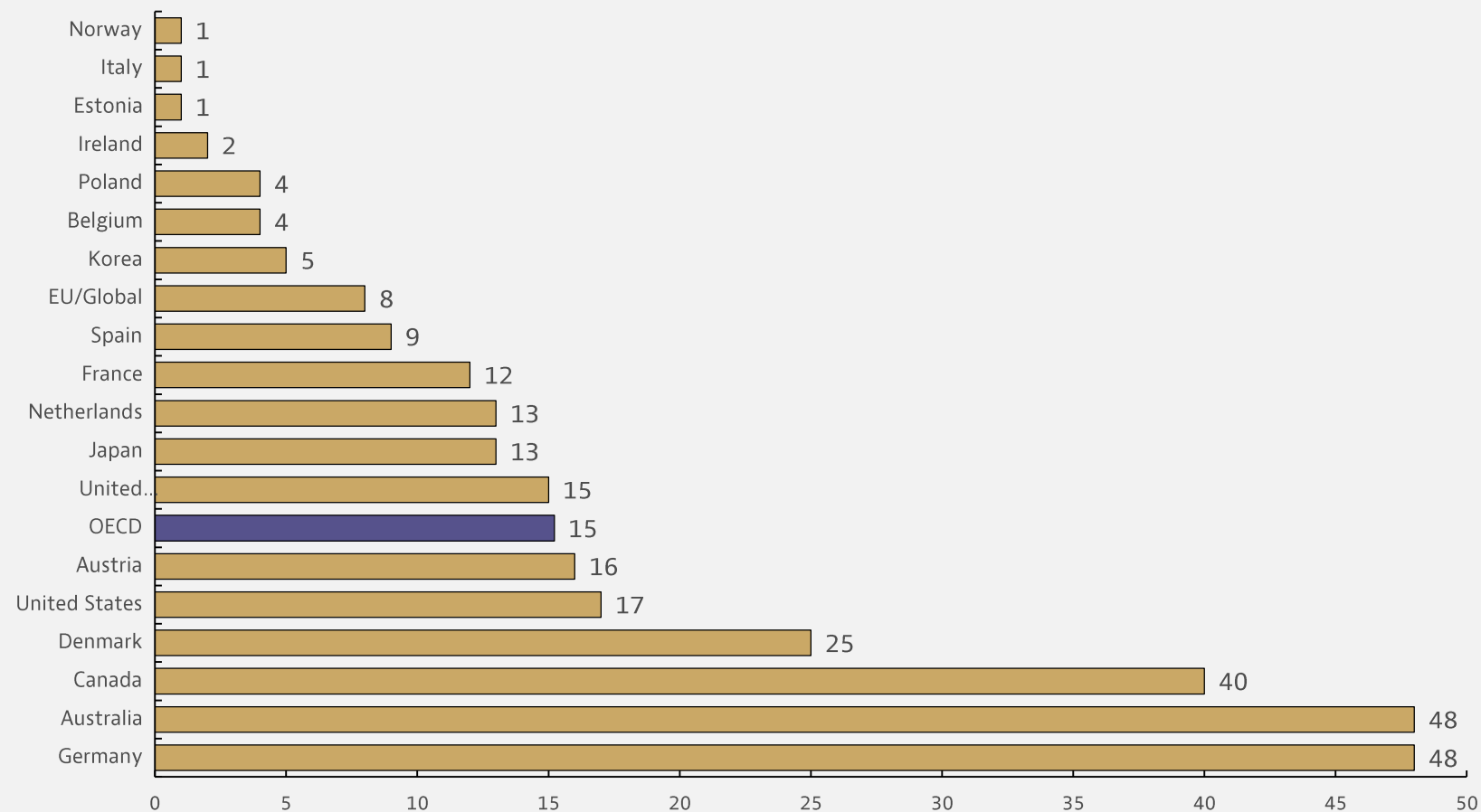
Notes: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union. Processes that spanned over multiple years are noted by the year of their completion (except for permanent ongoing processes).

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).

Where cases of representative deliberative processes were found

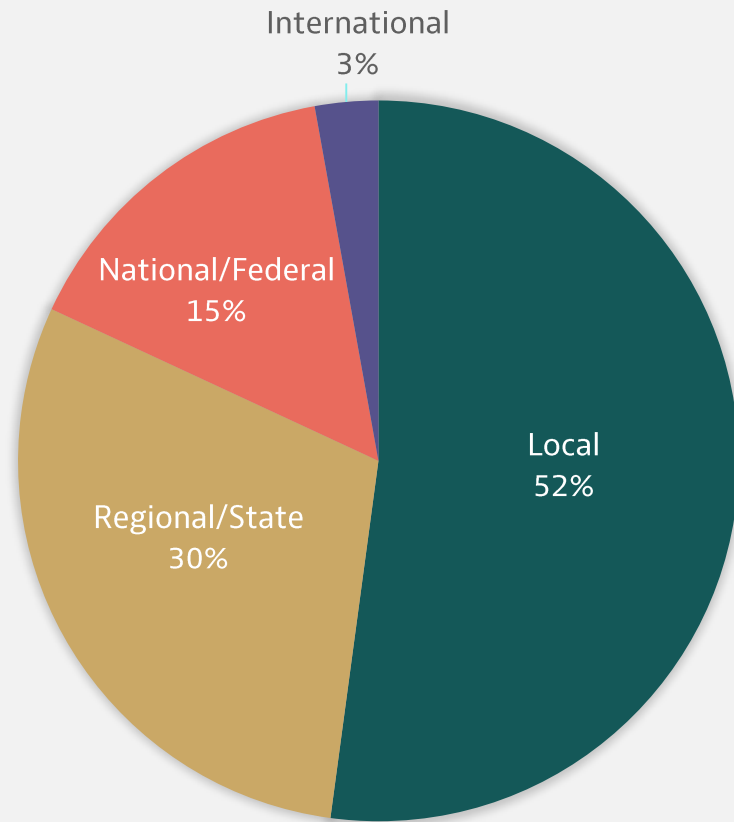
Number of representative deliberative processes per country, 1986-2019*

*This figure is not a ranking nor is it representative of all the cases in a country. It is a graphic representation of the number of cases that the OECD has collected.



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).



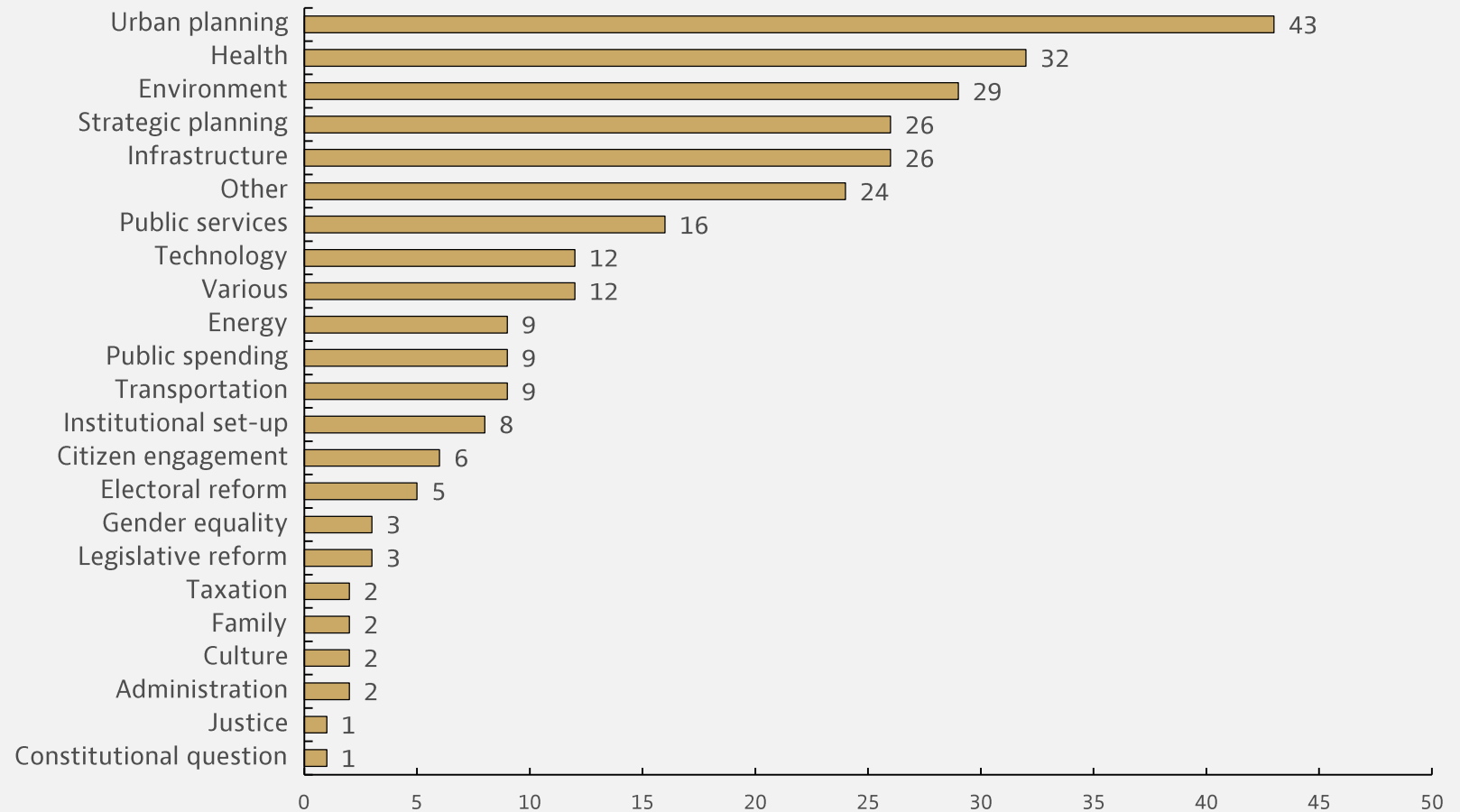
Note: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).

**Representative
deliberative
processes have
been used at all
levels of
government**

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

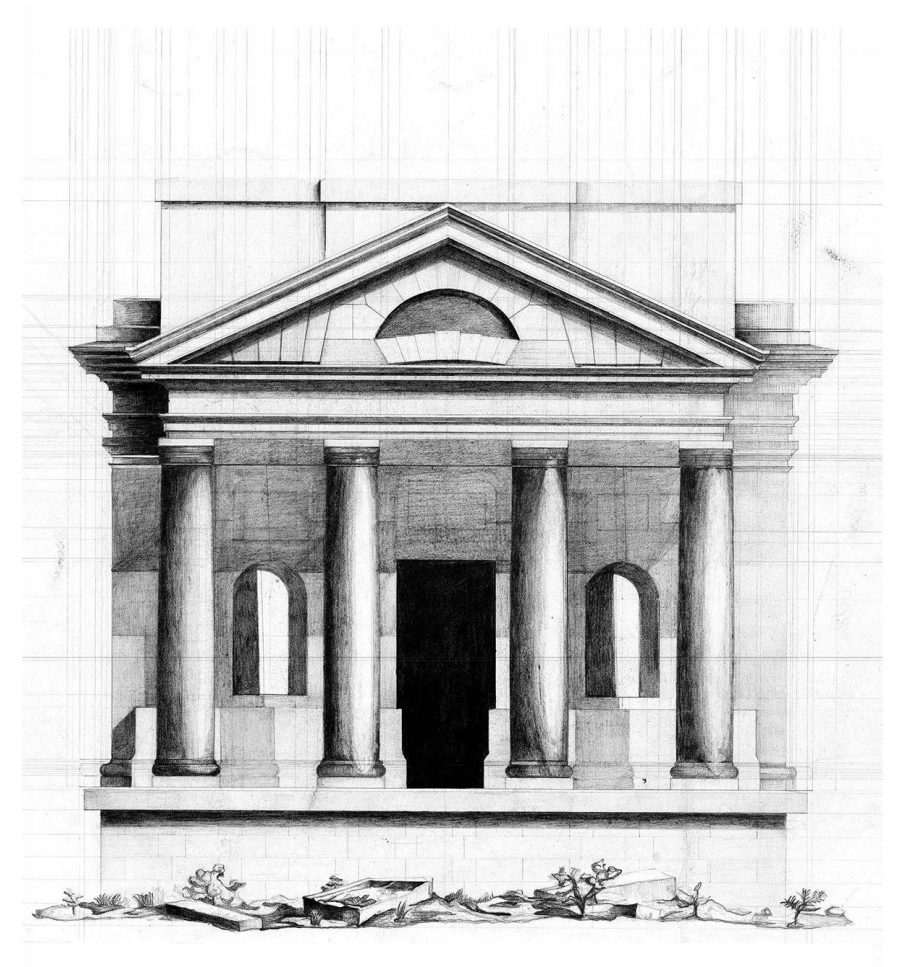
Good Practice Principles for Deliberative Processes for Public Decision Making



Benefits of representativeness and deliberation

1. **Better policy outcomes** because deliberation results in public judgements rather than public opinions.
2. **Greater legitimacy** to make hard choices.
3. **Enhance public trust** in government and democratic institutions by giving citizens an effective role in public decision making.
4. **Signal civic respect** and empower citizens.
5. **Make governance more inclusive** by opening the door to more representative groups of people.
6. **Strengthen integrity and prevent corruption** by ensuring that groups and individuals with money and power cannot have undue influence on a public decision.
7. **Help counteract polarisation and disinformation.**

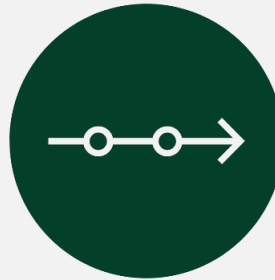
Beyond *ad hoc*
processes,
towards re-
designing
democratic
institutions



Three approaches to institutionalisation so far



A permanent or ongoing structure for representative citizen deliberation

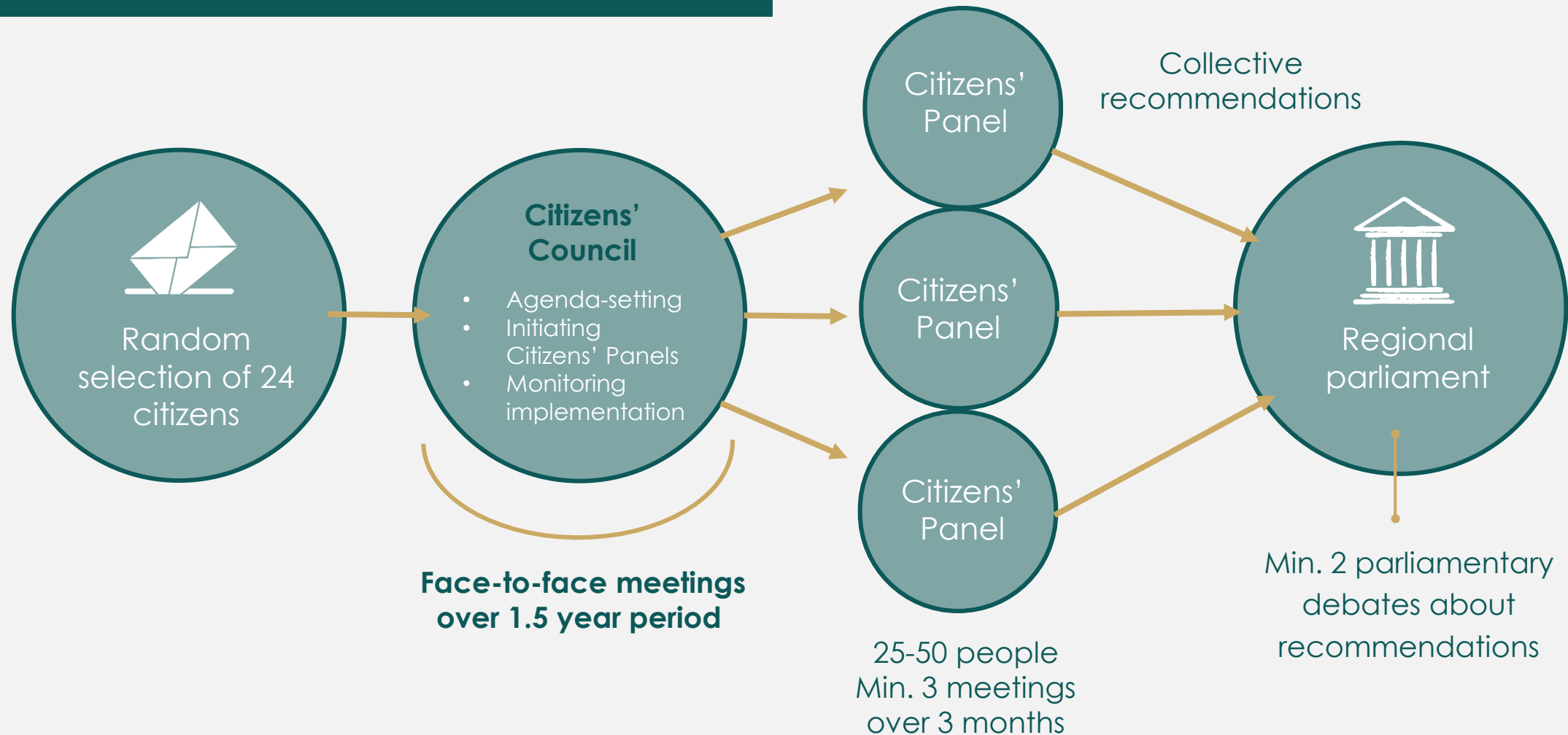


Requirements for organising representative deliberative processes under certain conditions



Rules allowing citizens to demand a representative deliberative process on a specific issue

Ostbelgien Model



The deliberative wave has been building over time; we have a **good idea of 'what works'** (**Good Practice Principles**).

Deliberative processes are not a silver bullet, but if designed well, they can **help solve hard problems and increase public trust.**

**A key trend to follow is the move
from projects to permanence.**



READ THE
REPORT:



Thank you

claudia.chwalisz@oecd.org

[@oecdgov](#) | [@ClaudiaChwalisz](#) | [#delibWave](#)

oe.cd/innovative-citizen-participation | medium.com/participo