

Descriptions of workshops & training sessions

Democracy R&D Annual Conference 2022

Workshops round 1 - September 28, 14:00-15:00 CEST

WS 01 The conference on the future of Europe's Plenary: desirable innovation or smokescreen?

Stream: Political buy-in

In most deliberative processes, citizens formulate recommendations before handing them over to decision-makers. The CoFoE's Plenary was designed as an intermediary step between these two stages. During the Plenary sessions, citizen Ambassadors from the panels worked alongside representatives of civil society, members of the European institutions, and national Parliaments. The purpose of these sessions was to debate, enrich, and confront the recommendations with the reality and the functioning of the institutions, in a mixed audience setting. In this workshop we propose to explore whether or not the Plenary had an added value.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Yves Mathieu & Antoine Vergne (Missions Publiques) & Gaëtane Ricard-Nihoul

WS 02 Enclave deliberation

Stream: Inclusive participation

In this workshop we will explore our collective experience of enclave deliberation, where like-minded people deliberate, whether minority or specialist groups. This will be an interactive collaborative workshop covering both the research and practical experience of Democracy R&D members. We will explore questions of whether this is a solution for involving minority groups more substantially in deliberation and/or whether it leads to less compromise and greater polarisation.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Kimbra White (MosaicLab)

WS 03 Wartime democracy: what's going on w/ democracy & how to cope w/ war? Experience of Ukraine

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

We invite everyone to think about the following questions together with the workshop's key speakers: How is democracy possible in times of war and post-war national recovery? What is the strength of democracy in the fight against military aggression? What are the fundamental challenges to democracy under the neo-imperial military aggression of Russia against Ukraine as well as under the further post-war national recovery? How to keep democracy on a 'razor's edge' between risks of failure in authoritarianism vs. chaotic populism under the (post-)war, between a rigid and ruthless public policy produced by the elites, and a soft agentic democracy produced by the civil publics? What lessons can we learn for further development of deliberative democracy?

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Olga Kutsenko (Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv & Technical University of Berlin)

Note: this workshop takes place in hybrid format.

WS 05 Gardener, sailor, firefighter - a collaborative response in times of crisis

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

In the UK, we are seeing a rolling back of democratic norms and freedoms, with new laws being put through parliament restricting the ability to protest, removing the independence of the electoral commission and disenfranchising millions of voters through the introduction of voter ID. This

workshop will host a panel discussion hearing from three different initiatives and projects that are responding to the threats to democracy whilst also seeking to renew UK democracy through building a movement for change.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Jessie Joe Jacobs (The Democracy Network, Involve) & Tom Brake (Unlock Democracy, Democracy Defence Coalition)

WS 06 New deliberative institutions for the next democratic paradigm

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

Our current democratic institutions fail to reflect society's diversity, they tear us apart, they concentrate power in the hands of the few. We need new democratic institutions - permanent deliberative institutions with rotating citizen representatives at the heart of the democratic system. In this workshop we will take a step to the future and, inspired by existing examples and principles of representation, rotation, and deliberation, we will open up the space to imagine new citizen deliberation based democratic institutions for different parts of the democratic system.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Ieva Cesnulaityte & Aviv Ovadya

Workshops round 2 - September 28, 15:30-16:30 CEST

WS 07 Beyond crisis: reimagining democracy urgently for a shared future

Stream: Political buy-in

This workshop will build on Involve's blog series on visions for the future of democracy in which various contributors imagined what the landscape of deliberative democracy in the UK would look like in 2035. Using and demonstrating futures techniques, participants will have the opportunity to creatively share experiences, knowledge and ideas on their visions for democracy, to move us beyond today's constraints into a more hopeful shared future. While this uses a longer term time horizon than today's crises, it's prompted by the urgency we feel today - to get going now, with the radical solutions which will improve the future.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Sarah Castell & Charlotte Obijiaku (Involve)

WS 08 Unpacking the Global Assembly: an exploration of the first global citizens' assembly pilot

Stream: Inclusive participation

The Global Assembly team will present an overview of the 2021 global citizens' assembly, and invite a conversation amongst peers around the methodology and implementation. The purpose of the session is to enrich our collective understanding of these processes, and how our network might work together to further the experience, implementation and impact of transnational assemblies.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Claire Mellier, Remco van der Stoep (G1000.nu) & Jon Stever (i4Policy)

WS 09 Creative techniques to foster more equal and inclusive deliberation

Stream: Inclusive participation

In our recent deliberations we have been promoting the use of creative processes to enable participants explore an issue from more than just a 'knowledge' perspective. Often citizen deliberations are seen as 'filling empty buckets' with the expertise of commentators or witnesses to enable an informed deliberation. Our concern is that this can diminish the validity of lived experiences, reduce the communicative impact with the wider public, be a bar to marginalised community members

feeling confident to voice divergent opinions and reproduce structural inequalities. We want this workshop to explore 'what is valid knowledge', and 'how to release lived experiences'.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Jez Hall & Pete Bryant (Shared Future CIC)

Note: this workshop takes place in hybrid format.

WS 10 Mirar la democracia deliberativa desde el Sur Global/Global South perspectives of del. democ.

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

How is it possible to expand deliberative democracy in the so-called Global South, but also how do we understand the particular needs and processes of the territories and people of the Global South? This workshop will discuss ways to unsettle the very distinction between Global South and North. In this vein, it will reflect on the following questions: How is deliberative democracy transformed through contexts in the Global South? What methodologies can be employed to expand, if not transform, current understandings of democracy in the Global South? Scholars and activists who undertake such inquiries are invited to jointly develop reflections, arguments and/or proposals for the conversation at stake.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Sofia Castillo & Carlos Brown (SUR Institute)

WS 11 Assembling a volunteer-based citizens' assembly with zero budget in times of political crisis

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

How to successfully engage local municipalities and top facilitators at zero budget to achieve outstanding results and substantial recognition. Best practices and lessons learned following the first-ever Citizens' Assembly in Israel.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): David Dunetz & Ronen Goffer (The Heschel Center for Sustainability, CAI)

WS 12 How to include citizen participation in crisis management?

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

This workshop aims to provide ideas on how to use collective intelligence and crowdsourcing to improve the quality of decision making even in times of crisis. We will consider a process that blends online participation tools (liquid democracy) with established policy-making.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Charly Pache

Workshops round 3 - September 29, 9:45-11:00 CEST

WS 13 Let a thousand flowers bloom: scaling out and replicating citizen deliberation

Stream: Political buy-in

Shared Future CIC and Delibera Brasil are both involved in programs to encourage more local municipalities to develop more deliberative processes. We want to share with and learn from DRD colleagues how to approach scaling out (spreading the practice) to local administrations of different sizes, when it may not be possible to accompany all those processes, and the cost of a fully facilitated process are beyond the reach of smaller municipalities. It's important each deliberation is context specific, and responds to local circumstances, and also that good design choices are made, and local

capacity built. Challenges exist around maintaining quality, ensuring best practices are followed and coping with the inevitable limitations on resources, capacity, timing as well as political instability. What does it require to let go of direct control, replicate what works, whilst maintaining consistency and quality?

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Silvia Cervellini (Delibera Brasil) & Pete Bryant (Shared Future)

Note: this workshop takes place in hybrid format.

WS 14 Next level citizen participation in the EU - institutionalising European citizens' assemblies

Stream: Political buy-in

The workshop will bring together citizen deliberation experts and practitioners to discuss pathways and challenges for institutionalisation of citizens' assemblies for the EU policy-making process. The starting point for discussion will be the model of European Citizens' Assemblies proposed by the Bertelsmann Stiftung together with Gabriele Abels, Alberto Alemanno, Ben Crum, and Alexander Trechsel.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Andrey Demidov, Dominik Hierlemann & Anna Renkamp (Bertelsmann Stiftung)

WS 15 Including the ignored

Stream: Inclusive participation

Hard to reach is the phrase that has been popularised to define those communities disengaged. However, those communities are rather ignored than disengaged. They are usually represented by saviour organisations that 'provide them with a voice', while they are not voiceless, they simply do not have the means to be heard. In this workshop, FIDE will look at the narrative of inclusion with critical eyes and will facilitate a space to improve deliberative democracy by including the ignored.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Irene Alonso Toucido & Yves Dejaeghere (FIDE)

WS 16 Rising above crisis: deliberative democracy and consolidation of democracy in Central Africa

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

The workshop session proposes to examine the state of democracy especially from the perspective of deliberative democracy and the fundamental challenges to both the practice and consolidation of democracy drawing from case studies of three states with elective civil rule in the Central African region. The goal is to tease out the challenges and limits of democracy as well as explore the prospects of employing and widening deliberative democracy. Our discourses also focus on the rising conflicts in the Central African region on one hand, and the receding of democracy on the other hand.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Edlyne Anugwom, Ben Nwosu & Chikodiri Nwangwu (University of Nigeria)

WS 17 Bursting our bubble: using deliberative practices for constitutional reform & political result

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

Deliberative democrats around the world are bumping up against cramped and outdated laws and practices--both formal and informal--as we strive to address pressing problems. Often, we think "there is nothing we can do about it" and are content to create reports in our own cosy bubbles, without directly taking on those outdated systems or engaging with duly elected representatives. We feign surprise or even talk of "betrayal" when no political change follows. Can we use the tools of

deliberative democracy to bring change to those systems and forge relationships with elected representatives? During this workshop, we will revisit foundational but often outdated democratic structures and norms and suggest how we can evolve the local, national and global democratic space and recreate our democratic culture to be fit to solve seemingly intractable problems.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Wendy Willis (Oregon's Kitchen Table; Deliberative Democracy Consortium) & Graham Allen (Former Member of Parliament)

WS 18 Where next for climate assemblies?

Stream: Democracy in (times of) crisis

We have witnessed the first wave of climate assemblies, particularly prominent at national level across Europe. What can we learn from these early movers? How can we ensure a next generation of climate assemblies with impact?

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Graham Smith (Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies) & Mark Beanland (Danish Board of Technology)

Deliberative Democracy School

Training sessions round 1 - September 30, 9:30-10:45 CEST

TS 01 Decision-makers as movers and shakers, communities as moonrakers: comparing two models

Our two case studies are Newham Councils' Democracy Commission and its recommendation for a Standing Citizens' Assembly and the surprising innovation resulting from London School of Economics Students' Union Democracy Review. We invite people to explore multi-directional layers of political buy-in for ongoing, regular institutionalised deliberative democracy processes. By sharing our experience and emerging impact from two case studies, we encourage participants to roll up their sleeves, delve in and explore both top-down and bottom-up approaches. Our workshop will discuss the merits and risks of both, with an aim to unlock thinking, ideas and better planning for ongoing processes based on both top down and bottom up political buy-in.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Mel Stevens, Pandora Ellis (Democratic Society) & Tom Lord (Sortition Foundation)

TS 02 Talking change: speaking the story of deliberation into reality

The time to convey a strong message to both decision makers and the broader public that change is coming to politics is now. The better we can be at telling the story of this inevitability, the more likely that it will happen smoother and sooner. Join this highly interactive session to learn how to construct a simple and effective communication strategy about deliberation no matter your audience.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Polly Cameron (newDemocracy Foundation / Change Politics) & Adam Cronkright (ofbyfor)

Note: this training session takes place in hybrid format.

TS 03 Partnership and participation: the G1000.nu approach to whole system buy-in

The Dutch organisation G1000.nu has developed its approach to securing impact through learning by doing, across 30 Citizens' Assemblies spanning nine years. This resulting method builds on the Open Space principle of 'the whole system in the room' and sees, among other aspects, political buy-in secured through partnerships, mechanisms for wider stakeholder buy-in and participation, and special attention to the language of the citizens' proposals. The G1000.nu team will share the lessons they learned over the years and together we'll explore how the resulting approach allows for impactful deliberative processes.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Harm van Dijk, Mirjam de Pagter & Remco van der Stoep (G1000.nu)

TS 04 Facilitating collaboration: groups self-writing reports & reaching common ground - part 1

At this training session participants will learn some key facilitation processes plus some tips that allow for deliberators to create their own ideas for meeting the remit, write their own draft recommendations, refine over several iterations and come to final agreement. The session will draw on MosaicLab's experience of facilitating 39 deliberations to date, both our successes and failures. It will be an engaging and interactive session that will seek to compare and contrast the processes being presented with those used by other participants attending the training session.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Kimbra White (MosaicLab)

Note: TS 04 and TS 09 are an integrated session with TS 09 (part 2) building on the work

undertaken during TS 04 (part 1). The activities and material from part 1 will not be repeated in part 2.

TS 05 Towards collaborative governance: enabling public authorities to harness the power of deliberation

Experimentation with instruments of deliberative democracy can increasingly be observed at all levels of the respective political systems. Moreover, the question of institutionalisation and integration with existing governance structures is being addressed with growing intensity. Against this background, this workshop will focus in particular on the question of dovetailing deliberative democracy with the executive branch of government: What structures, processes and competences do ministries, agencies and other governmental organisations need in order to effectively harness the potential of deliberative instruments such as mini-publics?

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Patrizia Nanz, Giulia Molinengo, Lukas Kübler, Monika Arzberger & Torben Voss (CO:LAB | BASE)

Training sessions round 2 - September 30, 11:15-12:30 CEST

TS 06 Taking deliberations online

This session will explore how to engage large numbers of citizens in deliberations using videoconferencing through sharing the example of our Future of Britain project. We will explore the current status of moving deliberation online and its place and potential in digital democracy.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Ceri Davies & Duncan Grimes (National Centre for Social Research)

TS 07 Bringing citizens' assemblies to the public

Citizens' assemblies have the most impact, when they can be followed by the public. In this session you learn how to communicate with the public via media and social media.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Thorsten Sterk (Mehr Demokratie e.V.)

TS 08 Pre-deliberation learning focused on lower formal educational groups make better assemblies

Departing from two or three success cases of planning and elaborating Information Materials/Learning Process pre-deliberation, nexus institute and Delibera Brasil will facilitate a discussion about challenges and choices in this crucial moment, focused on lower formal educational groups, but resulting in much better Citizen Assemblies and Mini-Publics in all aspects.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Ana Lucia Lima (Delibera Brasil) & Christiane Dienel (nexus institute)

TS 09 Facilitating collaboration: groups self-writing reports & reaching common ground - part 2

At this training session participants will learn some key facilitation processes plus some tips that allow for deliberators to create their own ideas for meeting the remit, write their own draft recommendations, refine over several iterations and come to final agreement. The session will draw on MosaicLab's experience of facilitating 39 deliberations to date, both our successes and failures. It will be an engaging and interactive session that will seek to compare and contrast the processes being presented with those used by other participants attending the training session.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Kimbra White (MosaicLab)

Note: TS 04 and TS 09 are an integrated session with TS 09 (part 2) building on the work undertaken during TS 04 (part 1). The activities and material from part 1 will not be repeated in part 2.

TS 10 Democratic infrastructures: turning one-off deliberations into resilient democracies

Today, democracy faces fundamental challenges—polarisation, democracy 'washing', power unbalance, digitalisation and climate change, and democracy 'myopia' amongst others. As a response, we propose designing and building 'Democratic Infrastructure', which strategically connects moments of deliberative democracy with other instruments of democracy—including other processes, networks, and capabilities—which are fit for purpose to engage our current and future crises. This session will introduce some of our thinking while primarily focusing on working with other practitioners to explore how we might enable our limited-duration deliberative events to become long-term democratic infrastructure.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Hanne Bastiaensen & max stearns (Democratic Society)

Training sessions round 3 - September 30, 13:30-14:45 CEST

TS 11 How to train politicians and senior leaders on climate engagement

This "train the trainer" session will share learning on how best to train politicians and senior leaders in local government to make the most of public participation to help them tackle major challenges; using the example of the climate emergency. It will draw on learning from our work training politicians and senior leaders from over 20 Local Authorities across England in 2022 to share best practice and what we have learned about helping them understand the value of public participation, how it relates to their roles, what good looks like and addressing common challenges they face. After this session you will be able to design training which helps leaders initiate and communicate public engagement; and also helps them set individual projects in a context of building the infrastructure they need for continued public engagement.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Sarah Castell & Sarah Allan (Involve)

TS 12 Recruiting representative samples by democratic lottery: what does this actually mean?

How does one recruit a representative sample of people? What does "representative" mean? How can recruitment be as fair, as inclusive and as legitimate as possible?

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Rich Rippin (Sortition Foundation)

TS 13 We're gonna need a bigger room: large-scale participant-led deliberation

How can a deliberative process cater for upwards of 500 participants without becoming overly expensive or burdensome? How can a group of this size produce useful results? Can participants be trusted to lead themselves? We delve into the specifics of the G1000.nu approach to large-scale deliberative events, informed by many years' work with Large Scale Intervention and Open Space methodologies, applied on as many as 30 Citizens' Assemblies.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Harm van Dijk, Mirjam de Pagter & Remco van der Stoep (G1000.nu)

TS 14 Reflections on the politics of deliberative action in Taiwan

This session will explore the politics of deliberative action in Taiwan over the past decade. We will discuss the relevant actors' perspectives and attitudes' change (or not) driven by their involvement in deliberative meetings of various types in different cases. Specifically, the session will look at the role of deliberators trying to illustrate the deliberative politics in Taiwan.

Initiator(s)/Organiser(s): Tze-Luen Lin & Chia-Hua Lu (National Taiwan University)

Note: this training session takes place in hybrid format.