

Next level citizen participation

Institutionalising European Citizens' Assemblies

September 29, 2022

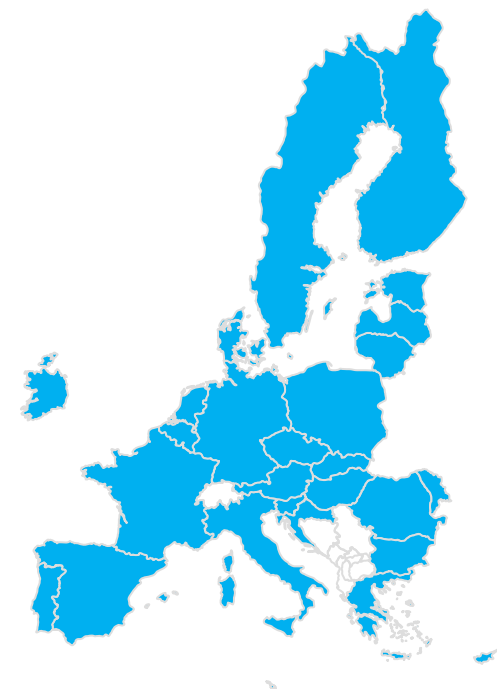
| Bertelsmann**Stiftung**

Citizen participation in the EU: what do Europeans lack, think and want?

78% think they should have a bigger say in EU politics

46% believe their voice counts in the EU

Only 15% find it easy to participate in the EU politics



Source: BSt Euopinions survey, 2020



What is to be done to meet citizens' expectations?

What is on offer in the EU: a diverse system of underused instruments

EU participatory instruments

European elections

The European Citizens' Initiative

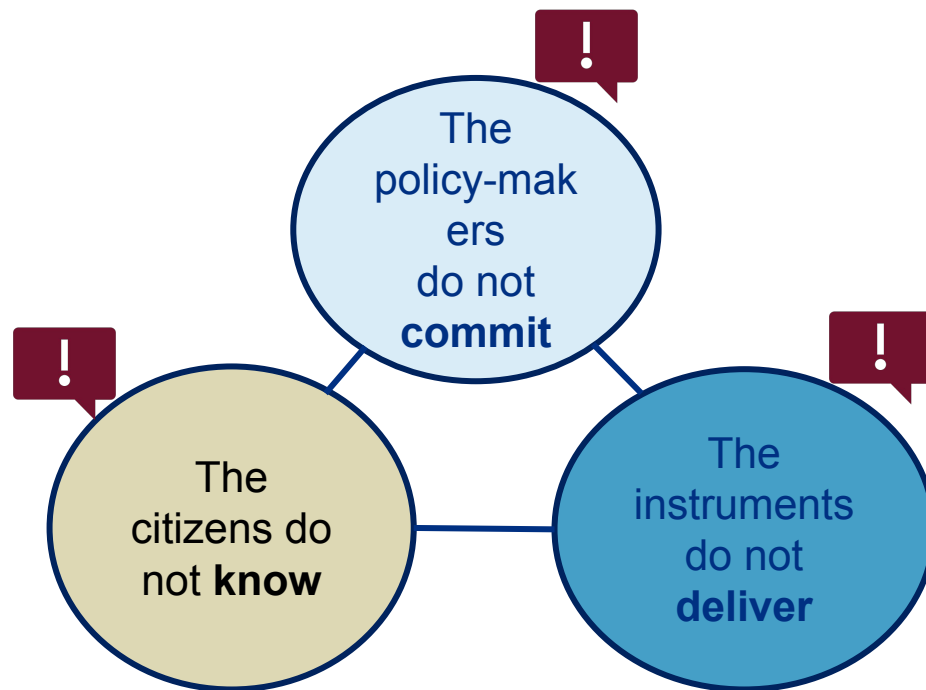
Petitions to the EParliament

The European Ombudsmann

Public consultations

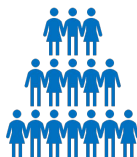
The Citizens' Dialogues

European Citizens' Consultations



What participatory instruments can improve citizen participation in the EU?

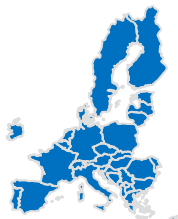
Citizens' assemblies in the EU: added value and benefits



Citizens:
Learning / Socialization / Identity



Policy-makers:
Knowledge / Expertise / Deal-breaking

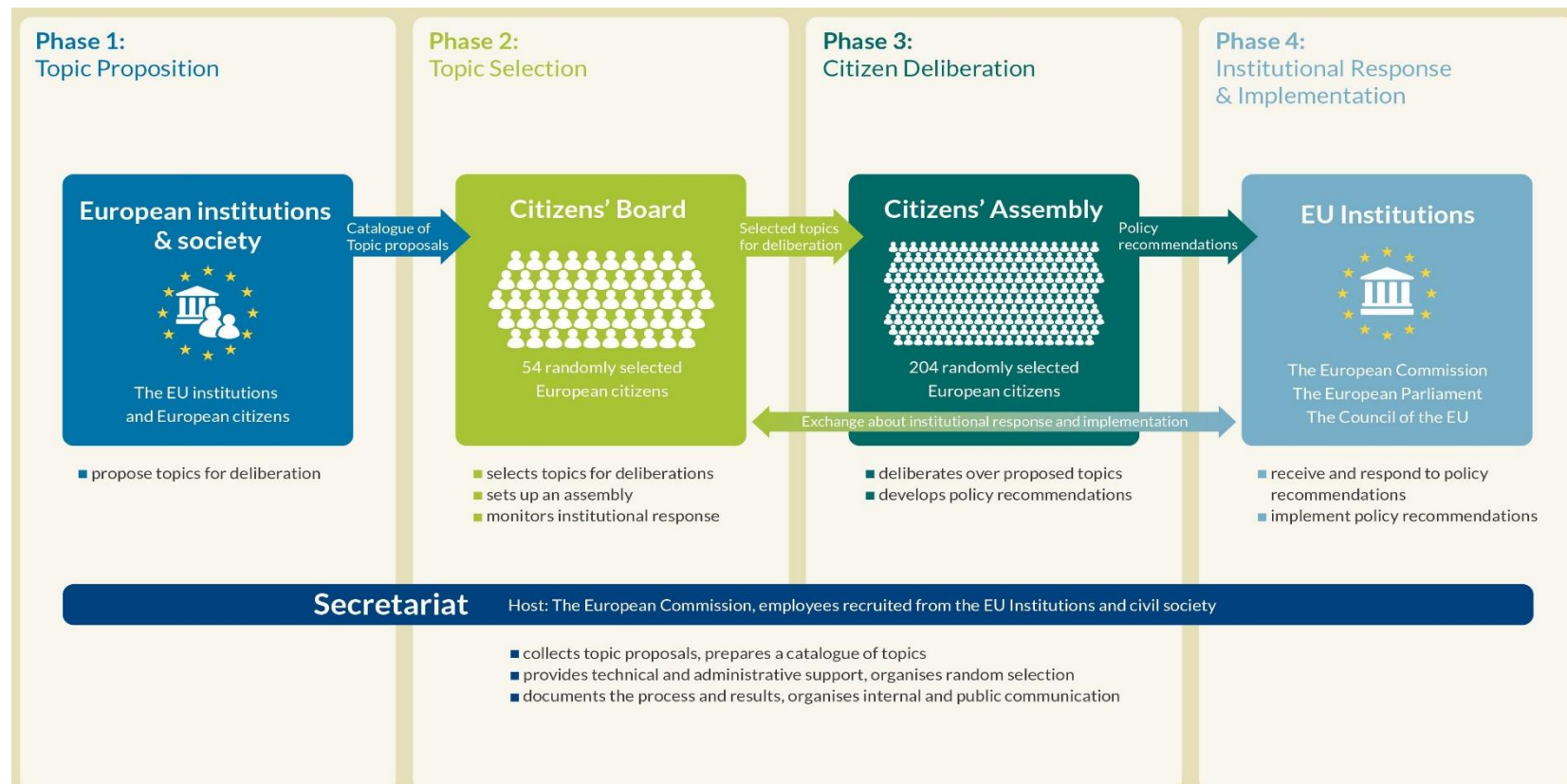


The EU:
Public sphere / Acceptance / Legitimacy



How to institutionalize citizens' assemblies to bring these positive effects out?

The model consists of clearly distinguished phases, bodies, functions



The model designed specifically for the EU context: distinct features

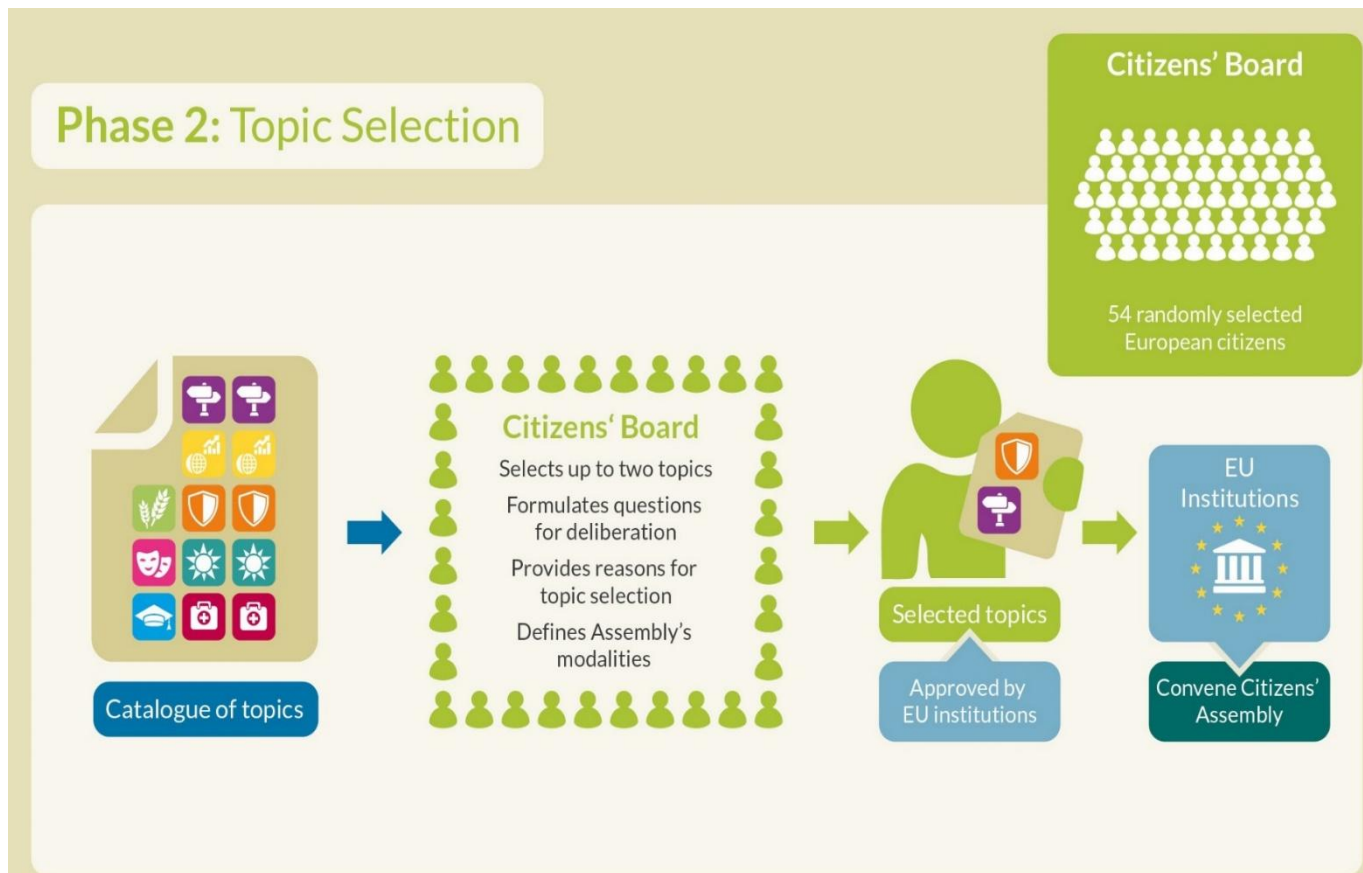
Citizens-centered	Europeans set the agenda for deliberation in ECA's
Scope	ECA's for topics within and outside the immediate EU competence
Permanence	Continuously working instrument with fixed form and schedule
EU participatory infrastructure	Synergy via connection to existing participatory instruments
EU policy cycle	ECA's for a broad range of EU legislative and policy issues
Legal basis	Institutional add-on without the Treaty change

Broad range of topics within and outside the EU immediate competence

Phase 1: Topic Proposition

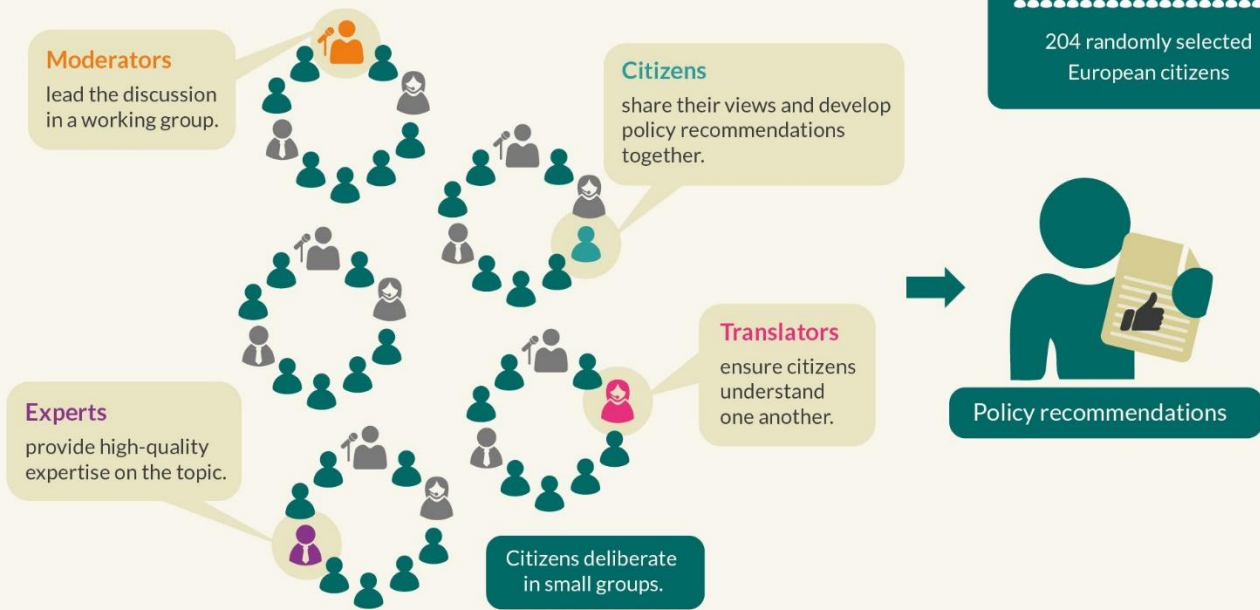


Putting citizens in the driving seat of the process



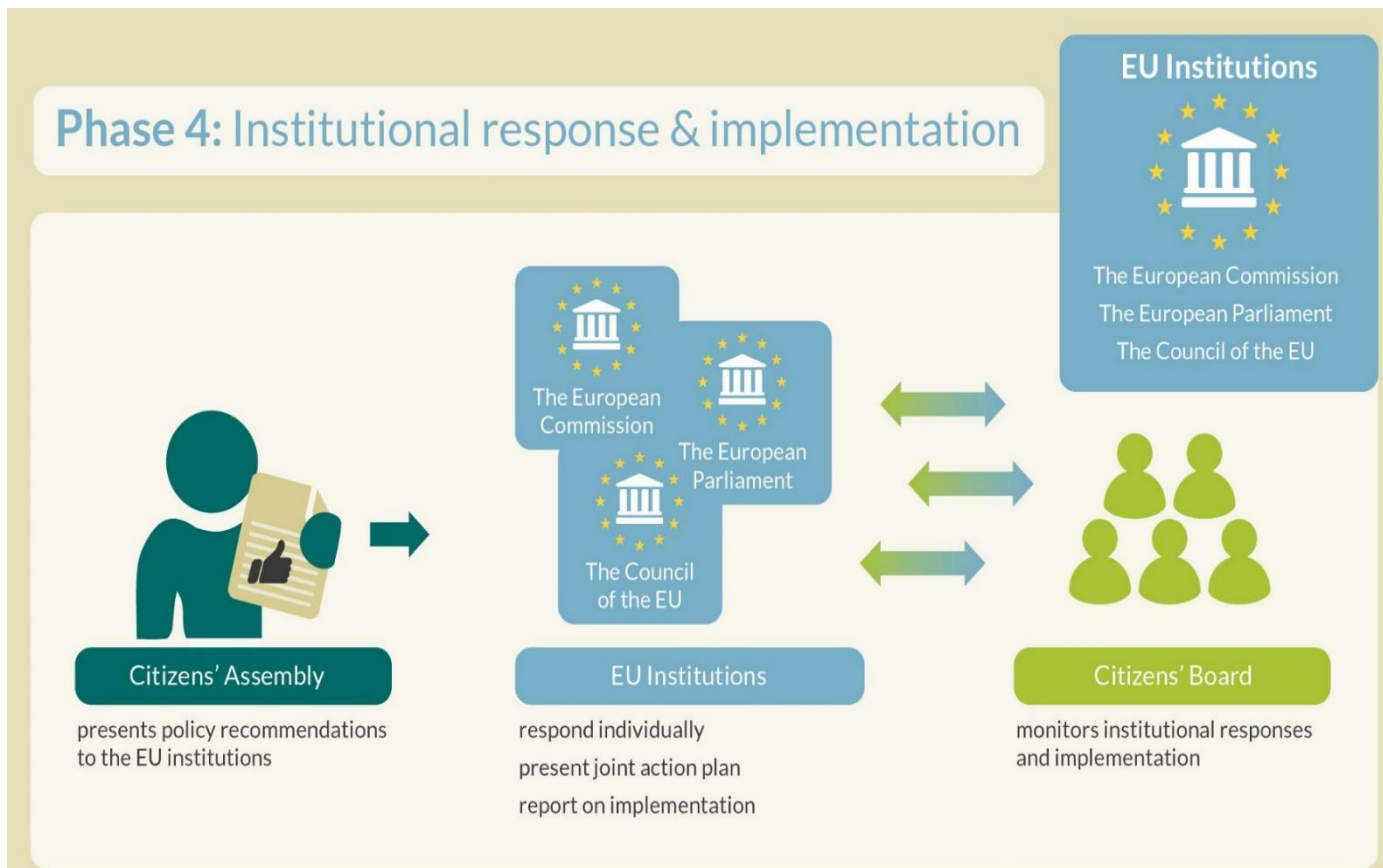
,4-8-12': our optimal formula for EU citizens representation

Phase 3: Citizen Deliberation

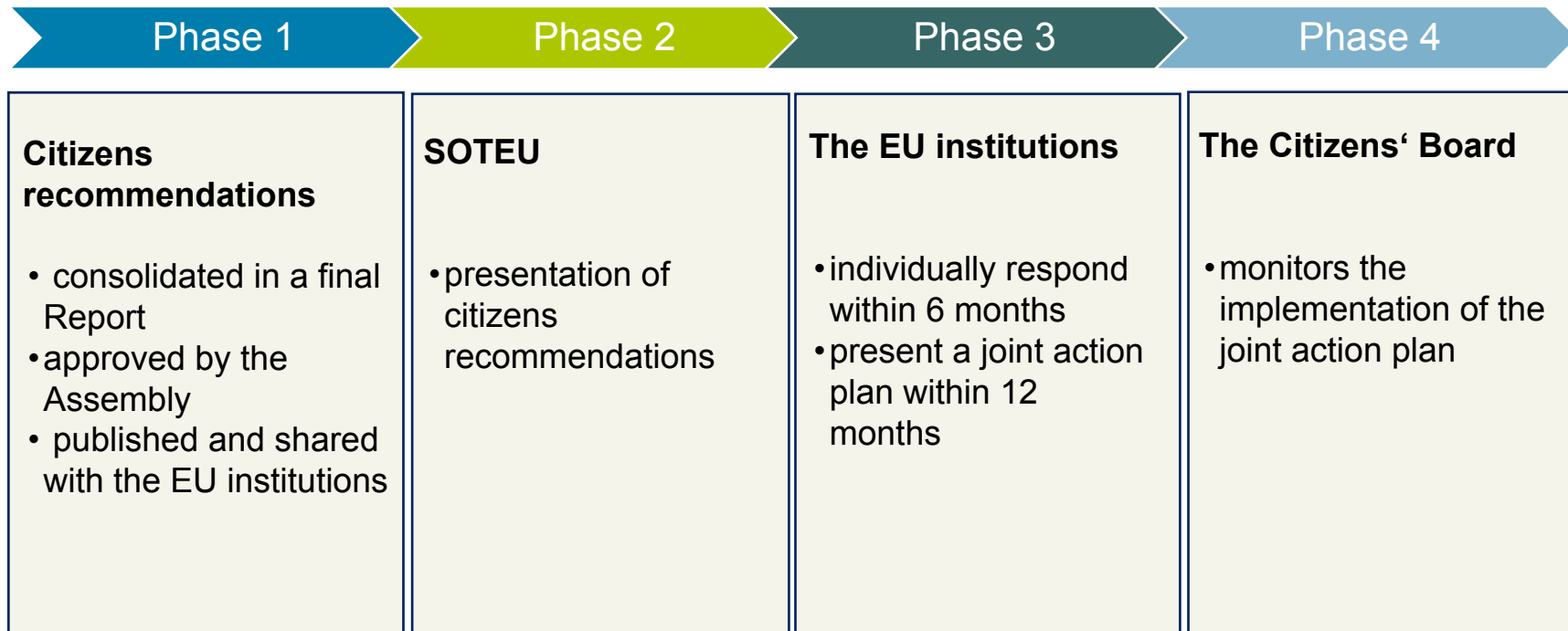


Phase 4: Institutional response & implementation

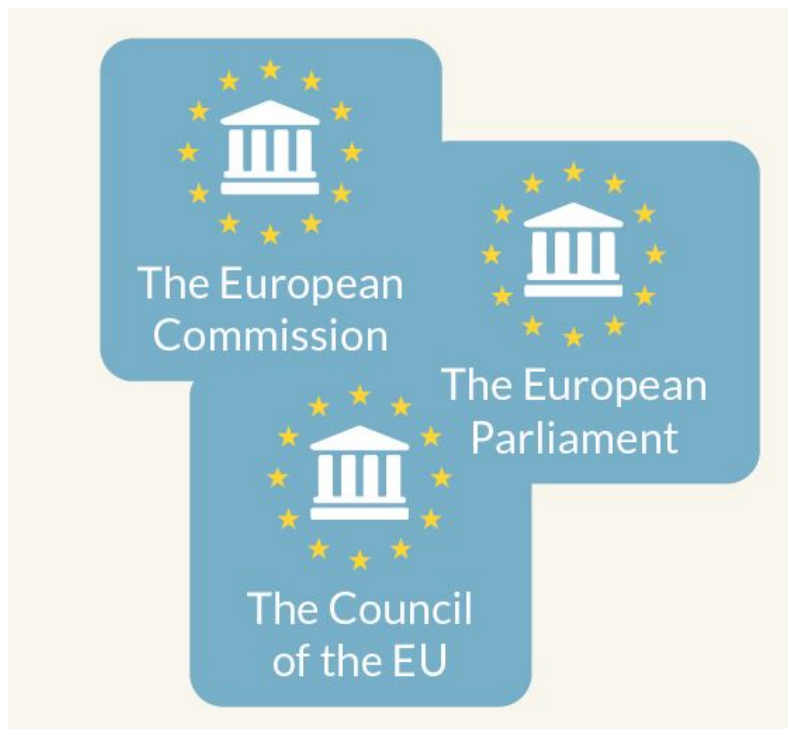
Well-defined and transparent mechanisms of institutional response to citizens' input



Institutional response and implementation: taking citizens' input seriously



Interinstitutional Agreement: a feasible, straightforward and parsimonious legal pathway for ECA's



The Treaty

Article 11 (1) / Article 10 (3) / Article 295

Our proposal

Interinstitutional Agreement on deliberative law-making:

- ❑ **does not require Treaty change**
- ❑ **respects the principle of institutional balance**
- ❑ **ensures institutional commitment**

Thank you!

Besuchen Sie uns auch auf

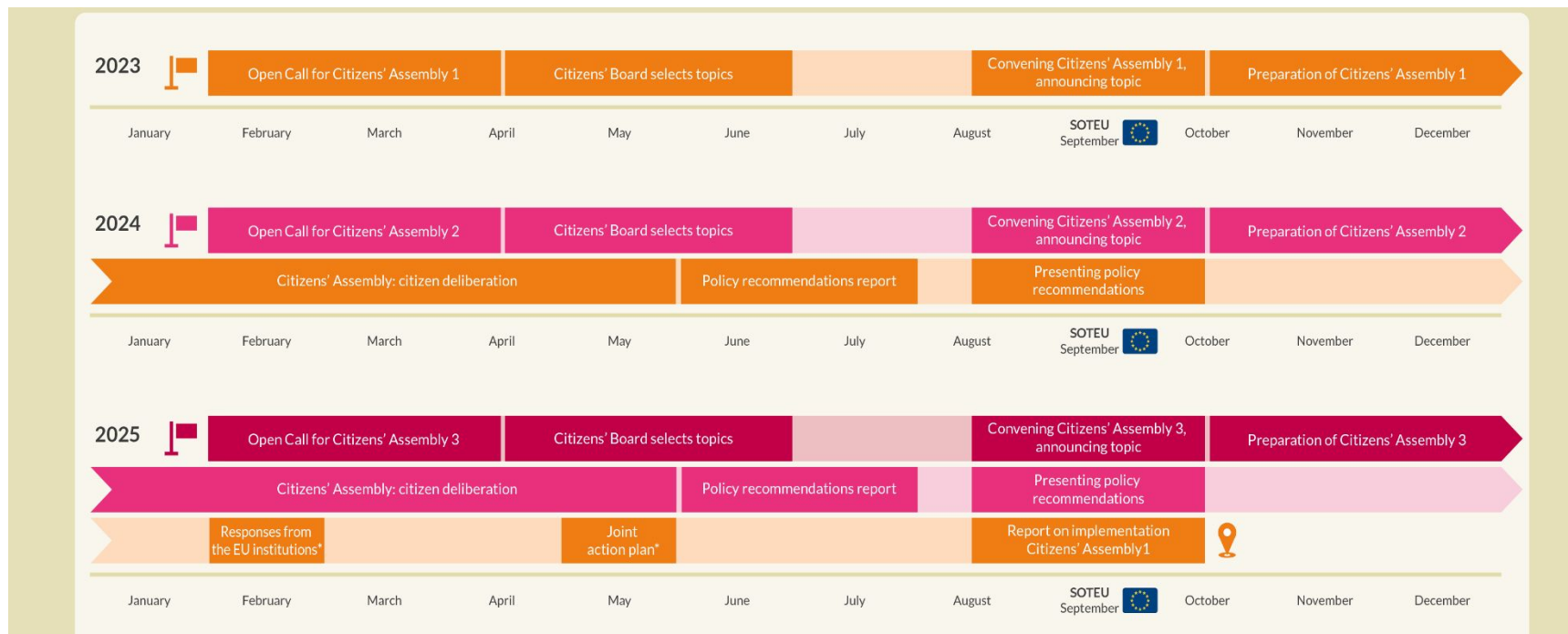


YouTube

XING[®]

www.bertelsmann-stiftung.de

Proposed ideal timeline for European Citizens' Assemblies



Citizens' assemblies: a novel instrument out there



- 2012/14, 2016
- Marriage equality and abortion legislation



- 2019/20
- Climate Change Bill



Bürgerdialog
in Ostbelgien

- Institutionalized in 2019
- Dual-citizens body structure



- Institutionalized in 2013
- ‚Citizens‘ Council‘ format

Group work



What are the **strengths** of the proposed model / what are the **chances** for its implementation?



What are the **weaknesses** of the proposed model / what are the **risks** for its implementation?

1-2 min. personal thoughts, ideas, notes

8 min. intra-group discussion / sharing the thoughts – filling in cards

15 min. short group reports – pinning the cards down on the board

10 min. concluding plenary discussion

Institutionalization of European Citizens' Assemblies in a complex transnational institutional, legal and policy-making environment

September 14, 2022, SOTEU:

‘Citizens’ Panels, that were central to the Conference, will become a regular feature of our democratic life’

(President Ursula von der Leyen).



How to embedd ECA’ into the EU institutional and legal set-up?



What is the scope of ECA’ functioning?



What is ECA’ format: what gets deliberated, who deliberates, how, what happens to the outcomes of deliberation?

Citizens' assemblies at the 2021/22 Conference on the Future of Europe



Political buy-in

Scope / objectives

Timing

Media coverage



Conference
on the **Future**
of **Europe**



Random citizens selection

4 thematic Citizens Panels

Deliberation in 24 languages

Citizens' positive feedback about
Panels



What lessons of the CoFE can be learned for institutionalization of citizens' assemblies?