



AUTUMN SCHOOL ON DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

12-14 OCTOBER

TARTU, ESTONIA

—General Information

The Autumn School on deliberative democracy aims to inspire public servants and politicians about the opportunities of working with randomly selected citizens in policy making settings.

Deliberative democracy is a method to include a group of everyday citizens in a qualitative way in policymaking. It is increasingly becoming used as a means for citizens to participate at all policy levels.

From cities like Amsterdam, Budapest, or Paris to villages of a few thousand (or even hundred) people in places like Norway or Sicily have all started working with this method. Ireland, Scotland, France, and Germany have used it at regional and national level for topics ranging from abortion to climate policy. The appetite for this democratic

innovation goes as far as the head of the European Commission, Ursula Von Der Leyen publicly advocating for the incorporation of citizens panels in the legislative decisions of the European Union. It is clear this method is becoming an essential part of the policy-making toolkit at all levels of government.

The political polarization, an increasing disconnection of citizens from institutions, and the political party's dependency on electoral cycles signals an urgent need to transform democracy. Using randomly selected groups of citizens in a deliberative setting has proven an effective means to resolve polarized debates and long-term issues. However, this deliberation needs to be impactful, thoroughly designed and based on high standards for citizens to regain trust in their political system and feel their voices heard.

To give politicians, civil servants and organisations connected to policy-making a deep insight into this method and how to use it in their community, the [Federation for Innovation in Democracy Europe](#) is partnering up with [Rohetiiger](#) for an Autumn School in deliberative methods in Tartu, Estonia. From the 12th to the 14th of October different speakers from all over Europe with experience using this method will cover all aspects to consider when setting up a deliberative process. Tartu's Autumn School will offer six real-world examples where deliberative democracy has been applied. Half of them will focus on resolving long-term issues, such as climate change or environmental issues; the other half will delve into deliberation for polarised communities. The experts presenting the case-studies will cover both political and societal considerations as well as critical technical and operational details to bear in mind. The Autumn School will also tackle case-studies where deliberative democracy has been institutionalised. All participants will be assisted into the development of their own project.

»» Why take part in the Autumn School?

The Autumn School on Deliberative Democracy will gather politicians, civil servants and organisations connected to policy-making that wish to learn about deliberative process.

The main goals are to:

- ▲ **Offer** specialised training in deliberative methods applied to different geographical contexts, aimed at acquiring skills and abilities in the management of deliberative participation, from the designing of the process and the needed technical requirements to the communication strategies and the engagement of citizens.
- ▲ **Promote** a critical approach to the aims of deliberative democracy, deepening the understanding of the method to strengthen our democratic systems.
- ▲ **Provide** the necessary tools to draft a deliberative process adapted to the political context of each participant. Under the guidance of experts in the field, through multidisciplinary and international experiences, participants will be able to make a draft for projects in their own communities.
- ▲ **Encourage** the development of a network of practitioners, politicians, and civil servants across Europe knowledgeable on deliberation.

As one of the main goals of Tartu's Autumn School is to be assisted by experts in developing a deliberative project, we require participants to come with some reflection on their political context. Whether it is a concrete deliberative process or a problem hard to solve within your community, we recommend considering how and to what extent you would like to integrate the deliberative processes structurally in the political processes of your community. This way, our experts will help you design a deliberative pilot project adapted to your needs.

»» Who is FIDE and Rohetiiger?

The Autumn School on Deliberative Democracy is organised by the Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe (FIDE) and Rohetiiger.

FIDE is an International non-profit organisation that unites leading democratic innovators advising governments and non-governmental actors on design-principles and best practices related to citizens' participation, deliberative democracy, and civic lottery. FIDE's experts have designed deliberative processes such as the 'Ostbelgien Model,' the first permanent political institution with citizens drafted by lot, but also the "Assemblée Citoyenne" of the city of Paris.

Rohetiiger, the Green Tiger Foundation is a cross-sectoral collaboration platform for sustainable Estonia. Rohetiiger is working with enterprises, with environmental and democracy renewal organisations, universities, and the public sector. Rohetiiger has organised two climate assemblies in Estonia and will continue laying the path for deliberative decision-making with mini publics.

The theoretical vision and practical expertise of both organisations will provide a knowledgeable environment to delve into deliberative democracy.

»» The programme

Taking place fully in English, the Autumn School will have a twofold thematic focus: Deliberation for long-term issues such as climate change and deliberation for depolarization.

During the 2 days, participants will attend several workshops presenting seven different case studies within the particular theme of the day. The Autumn School will offer a general introduction to the theme of deliberative democracy, six workshops built around one of the different stages of a deliberative process and an interactive session that will mirror what it is like to participate in an assembly.

Each workshop will start with a brief introduction on some of the key aspects of the particular case-study to then focus on one of the stages within our framework (see below). During each one of the six workshops that will delve into case-studies, you will get:

- 30' specific information related to the case study of that workshop
- 30' to ask questions and have a general debate among participants
- 30' to think about the issues that were raised during the workshop and apply them to your own project¹

During the 2 days of the Autumn School we will delve into what we consider the 5 main stages of any deliberative process. We will give answer to the most common questions of those 5 stages to produce the ideal roadmap of a deliberative process.

THE FRAMEWORK



¹ For having productive working sessions, we require that all participants come to the Autumn School with some reflection on their own project or a particular problem that is hard to solve within their current political system.

Preparation

1.

You have decided to start a deliberative process, what are you supposed to do now? Within the preparation stage we will address the following questions:

- How and when to plan a deliberative process?
- What are good policy problems to tackle with this methodology?
- How to decide on the mandate you will give the citizens (what will be the place of their work in the policymaking process)?
- How to deal with very sensitive/conflictual subjects?
- How do I align with members of my parliament/council and other ministers?
- How to cooperate between government and administration?
- How can I convince non-believers in the process?
- How to set up a balanced committee to observe the process? What are their responsibilities?
- Which place can stakeholders have in the process?
- What resources do I need?

Recruitment

2.

Recruitment, one of the breaking concepts within deliberative democracy, what makes it so innovative?:

- How to select a representative random sample for Citizen Assemblies?
- How do I organise a random sortition in practice?
- How do I pick the sortition criteria?
- What kind of additional measures are possible, e.g. to include specific target groups?
- How can I make sure that people will show up –and keep showing up?

Deliberation

3.

Deliberative democracy is not the sum of individual opinions, is the common ground found in citizens collective intelligence, but how to achieve that?:

- How to moderate a Citizen Assembly?
- How do I compose a balanced group of experts? How much and what kind of information do they need to provide?
- What is good deliberation? What can I do to organise this?
- How to combine offline and online methodologies, and to what end?
- What learning formats exist and how to use them?

4. **Outputs and Impacts**

4.

Deliberative Democracy, if done well, strengthens our political systems. How can we design an impactful process to achieve that? We will delve into the following questions:

- What can Citizen Assemblies accomplish?
- What kind of different outputs are possible? What are 'good' outputs?
- What kind of impacts are possible? What is achievable already, but where do we have critical learnings about the system?
- How to draft the process to create the best possible environment for implementation?
- What is a good follow-up after the process?
- How to evaluate a deliberative process?
- How to activate the wider public?
- How to create a communication strategy?

5. **Institutionalization**

5.

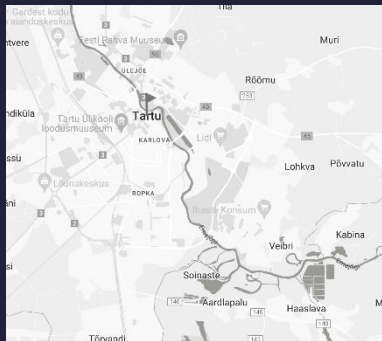
Why institutionalise deliberative democracy? The Institutionalisation of deliberation is an open debate. Many of its advocates aim to make deliberative processes more than mere informative citizen bodies. The questions addressed in the Autumn School related to this stage will be:

- How to institutionalise the practice of Citizen Assemblies?
- Why should governments consider structurally integrating deliberative practices in their democratic apparatus?
- How can you link fixed deliberative processes with existing bodies of government and administration?
- Is there a step-by-step approach to achieve this?

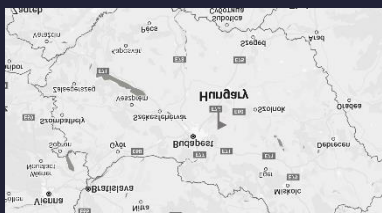
»» CASE STUDIES

From Tartu all the way to Scotland. Here are the case-studies that the Autumn School will delve into:

Thursday - Deliberation for the long-term (Climate Change) 13/10/2022



Tartu, Estonia



Miskolc, Hungary



Scotland

In April and May 2022, a mini-Tartu comprising of forty-five inhabitants gathered over two weekends to learn about the climate and sustainable mobility goals of Tartu, hear experts and stakeholder groups and deliberate on solutions. Sixty-six recommendations on calming traffic, creating more space for pedestrians and bikers, as well as preserving and increasing biodiversity in Tartu were made to the town hall. The assembly was organised by the Green Tiger and Tartu town.

The first ever Citizens' Assembly of Miskolc took place in 2021 on the topic of 'Air quality'. Over two weekends fifty participants that reflected the demographics of the Hungarian city gathered to 'breathe for the city.' The assembly delivered seven recommendations that reflect the strong collective wisdom of the Miskolc citizens.

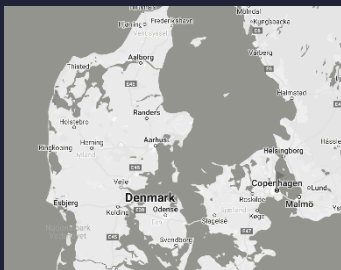
The Scotland Climate Change act of 2019 contained a provision to set up a Citizens' Assembly so citizens could propose recommendations on Scottish Climate policy. Due to Covid, the 105-member assembly had to take place online over seven weekends. In June 2021 it delivered its report to the Scottish parliament with eighty-one recommendations on Climate Policy measures. The Scottish Assembly also included a Children's Assembly, and their conclusions were included in the main report.

Friday - Deliberation for depolarization 14/10/2022



Ireland

The Irish Citizens' Assembly (2016-2018) considered a complete ban on abortion. The Assembly met across five weekends between November 2016 and April 2017, to consider the topic, one of the most divisive and difficult subjects in public life in Ireland. The Assembly Members voted that they wanted to remove Article 40.3.3° from the Constitution, and for the avoidance of doubt, to replace it with a provision in the Constitution, which would make it clear that termination of pregnancy, any rights of the unborn, and any rights of the pregnant woman are matters for the Oireachtas (parliament). This was put to a referendum on 25 May 2018 and approved by 66.4% of voters.



Copenhagen, Denmark

In 2018 the Danish government signed a principle-agreement to build the Lynetteholm, an artificial island off the coast of Copenhagen, which among other things is expected to house 35.000 people and protect the city's harbour from rising water. Set to be constructed over the next 50 years, the island project has been met with concerns in relation to the environmental impact, climate protection and the decision-making process. A Citizens' Assembly is expected to begin in 2022 to deliberate on this important and contested issue for the citizens of Copenhagen.



Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Mostar (Bosnia) Assembly of 2021. With support from the Council of Europe, the city of Mostar set up a Citizen Assembly in the summer of 2021 on the cleanliness of the city and the maintenance of public spaces, a topic chose by the citizens. In a city that has known political impasse for over a decade with no local elections, the Assembly succeeded in bringing together forty citizens that produced thirty-two recommendations for the city-council. The city council decided to implement the recommendation to the greatest extent.



Ostbelgien, Belgium

In February 2019, the Parliament of the German-speaking region in Belgium unanimously voted to install a permanent form of citizen-involvement in policy making for the region through deliberative panels. One to three assemblies can take place every year and the agenda-setting and follow-up is left to a separate but permanent citizen-led body called “Citizen Council.”

»» THE SPEAKERS

Our inspiring speakers have extensive and fruitful expertise and trajectories in the field of deliberative democracy.



Teele Pehk is leading the organizing of climate assemblies at the Green Tiger Foundation (Estonia) to enrich decision-making around the environmental challenges of today. She is an experienced democracy artist who has worked at the Open Knowledge Estonia, the Estonian Cooperation Assembly, the Estonian Urban Lab (Linnalabor) and with many initiatives at the crossroads of civil society, democracy, and governance.



Eva Bordos is the director of DemNet, one of the largest and oldest development NGOs in Hungary. She is a member of the board of the Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid (HAND) and is actively involved in numerous pan-European development networks. She has also worked for the British Embassy in Budapest, OSCE, UNICEF and the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC).

Eva has overseen the design of the Climate Assemblies in Budapest and Miskolc.



Damir Kapidzic is an Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina. His research looks at ethnic conflict, political parties, and power-sharing, as well as the process through which democratic or authoritarian politics are institutionalized. He has advised several deliberative mini-public processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, all of which included substantial elements of demographic diversity.



Zakia Elvang is working from Copenhagen where she is the founder of and partner in the Danish consulting agency, We Do Democracy and leading the NGO and democracy innovation house in Copenhagen – Demokrati Garage. Zakia is one of the main characters behind the growing Danish deliberative movement also in the role of moderating and leading several citizens assemblies. She has been the initiator of numerous democratic initiatives like the democracy fitness programme and the platform for democracy festivals in Europe. Zakia is one of the founders of the Latvian democracy festival and is helping democracy festival organisers from all over the world build their own festivals.



Yves Dejaeghere worked as a senior researcher in political science at KULeuven and the University of Antwerp. From 2018 to 2020 he was the coordinator of the Belgian G1000 organization, a think tank with expertise in the use of sortition and deliberative democracy. He has acted as an expert amongst others for the European Court of Auditors, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European Commission, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a number of local, regional and national governments.



Jane Suiter is Professor in the School of Communications, at Dublin City University. Her research focus is on the information environment in the public sphere and in particular on scaling up deliberation and tackling disinformation.

She has been involved with all the Irish deliberative processes as a member of the expert advisory group (CA 2022; Irish Constitutional Convention 2012-2014); as the Senior Research Fellow on the Irish Citizens' Assembly on gender equality (2020-21) and as co-PI on the Irish Citizen Assembly (2016-2018) and as a founder member of We the Citizens (2011), Ireland's first deliberative experiment.



Maiu Luring is a civic society expert and impact analyst. She has served as a civil society analyst at the think tank Praxis, directed the annual Opinion Festival (Estonian democracy festival) and served as a member of National Foundation of Civil Society. Currently Maiu works at the Green Tiger Foundation on initiating and implementing climate assemblies in Estonia.



Kelly McBride is dedicated to building democratic infrastructure to ensure that citizens have the governance, organisations, and society that is supported and ready to deliver ambitions for more participatory democracy. Currently, she works at TPXimpact with a multidisciplinary team to explore the role of organisational design and change, service design and technology alongside her participation interests.

She has been part of the organising team of the Citizens' assembly of Scotland or the Scotland's Climate Assembly among other deliberative processes.

>>> AGENDA

12/10/2022	<p>Arrival of participants at Hotell Tartu 20h - Optional informal drink</p>	
	TIME	DESCRIPTION
13/10/2022	9:00 – 9:30	WELCOMING RECEPTION
	9:30 – 10:15	Welcome to Tartu, one of the European 100 climate-neutral cities. How Tartu is tackling the big climate issues? Keynote by the Vice Mayor of Tartu - Gea Kangilaski
	10:15 – 11:00	Why Deliberative democracy? With Yves Dejaeghere
	10:45 – 11:00	BREAK
	11:00 – 12:30	Scotland's Climate Assembly with Kelly McBride – Deliberation, media engagement, outputs and impacts
	12:30 – 13:30	LUNCH
	13:30 – 15:00	Tartu Climate Assembly, Estonia, with Teele Pehk and Maiu Luring, Green Tiger Foundation. — How to design a climate assembly for systemic change?
	15:00 - 15:15	BREAK
	15:15 – 16:30	Citizen Assembly in Miskolc, Hungary with Eva Bordos
	16:30 - 17:15	Dynamic session on design learnings
	19:00	DINNER
	14/10/2022	9:30 - 10:00
10:00 - 11:00		The 'Irish Model' for Deliberative Democracy with Jane Suiter — Workshop on Preparation
11:00 - 11:15		BREAK
11:15 - 12:30		The Citizens' Assembly of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina with Damir Kapidzic — Workshop on Recruitment
12:30 – 13:45		LUNCH
13:45 – 15:00		Institutionalising citizen assemblies. The Ostbelgien model with Yves Dejaeghere — Workshop on Institutionalisation
15:00 – 15:15		BREAK
15:15 – 16:30		Copenhagen Assembly with Zakia Elvang — The facilitation atelier
16:30 – 17:30		The wrapup session

»»» Practical Information



TARTU

The city of Tartu is the second largest in Estonia, after the capital Tallin. Tartu is home to the country's largest university and one of the oldest in Europe. Considered by Estonians as a city focused on intellectual and scientific life, it is inhabited by a young population which also makes it a thriving cultural hub.

Getting to Tartu



Tartu is located about 185 kilometres southeast of Tallinn, the capital city. Being the second-largest town in Estonia, the connections with Tallinn are frequent.

Tartu has a small airport that connects with Helsinki (Finland) only. If travelling by plane, Tallinn International airport would be the preferred option.

Getting to Tartu from Tallinn or Riga is an effortless journey by train or bus (2 to 2,5 hours). We recommend you have a look at:

- [The train connections between Tartu and Tallinn](#)
- [Bus connections from Tallinn and Riga to Tartu](#)

Hotel

The participation fee to the Autumn School on Deliberative Democracy includes a two-night stay in the [Hotell Tartu](#), situated in the centre of the city and 700 meters from the venue for those registered before 12 September. Each participant can opt for a private bedroom or a shared one which involves a discount on the fee.

After 12 September newly registered participants will have to look for their own accommodation, this will no longer be included in the registration fee.

Catering

The participation fee includes a catering service throughout the whole event and a dinner on the night of the 13th of October.

Venue



The Autumn School will take place in Tartu's Nature house, the environmental Education Centre in the middle of the city.

The Tartu Nature House is a symbiosis between a zoo, botanical garden and school inspired by a tree stump.

Address: Lille 10, 51010 Tartu, Estonia

»»» Registration Fee

Type	Standard fee	Participants sharing accommodation
Full price	300€	250€ per participant
Discount Fare	150€ per participant	
Registrations after 12 September	185€ per participant (accommodation excluded)	

Cancellation policy:

- *Cancellation before 08 September – Full refund*
- *Cancellation before 12 September: 70% of your ticket will be refunded*
- *There will be no refunds given after 12 September*

The registration fee includes the participation in the Autumn School, the accommodation for two nights including breakfast and the catering throughout the whole event. The travel arrangements must be organised by each participant. The Autumn School has place for a total of 60 participants. The accommodation is not included for those participants registered after 12 September. We offer 10 spots at half the price for those restricted by financial burdens. Please contact irene.alonso@fide.eu directly if interested in this option.

As the Autumn School is designed as a comprehensive two-day course, it is not possible to attend the event only one day. The registration will only be positive once the participant has received the confirmation email from the organisation, which will include the method of payment.

REGISTER HERE

Are you convinced?



**We have a limited number of spots available, we encourage you to apply as soon as possible*

Contact

For any enquiries contact Irene Alonso Toucido, FIDE's project manager at:
irene.alonso@fide.eu