



**Knowledge Network On  
Climate Assemblies**

# The Art of the Sortition

How to organise a democratic lottery

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KNOCA and The Danish Board of Technology

# Our time together

1. Why all this talk of recruitment?
2. Ok - so how do you do it?
3. I believe! So let's practice.



Aarhus  
Klimaborgersamling







Hvilken proces har vi været igennem?

- 1. Helt på den gamle måde
- 2. Planlægning
- 3. Sammenlægning af de gamle
- 4. Bredt udsnit af deltagere
- 5. Fælles beslutninger
- 6. Sammenlægning af de gamle
- 7. Sammenlægning af de gamle

Informational poster on the left side of the stage.

Informational poster on the right side of the stage.

Informational poster on the right side of the stage.

# Democratic Involvement

**Representative Democracy**

**Participatory Democracy**

**Deliberative Democracy**

# The case for deliberative mini-publics

People matter!

The oil industry vs. Greenpeace  
... and how to mirror a maxi public



# Selection methods

- **None:** You announce the event and those who come, come...
- **Mixed:** All important stakeholder groups must be present - but number distribution is not so important
- **Balanced:** Equal parts of them, them and them
- **Diversity:** Get them to write an application and put together the panel so that they are from far and wide
- **Random:** Invite from a representative sample and accept the composition of those who sign up.
- **Sortition:** Invite and select so that the participants fit the composition of the population



The Kleroterion, used in Athens since 370BCE



**RANDOM  
SELECTION**



**SEND  
INVITATIONS**



**PARTICIPANTS  
REGISTRATION**



**STRATIFICATION**



**CITIZENS'  
ASSEMBLY**

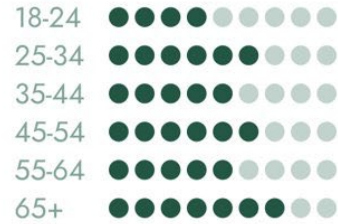


# Time for some exercise

Which criteria would you choose to base your selection on?



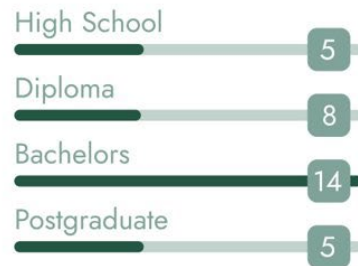
### Age



### Geographic locality



### Education



|            | TARGET | RESPONDENTS | SELECTED (ORIGINAL) | SELECTED (CONFIRMED) |
|------------|--------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| GENDER     |        |             |                     |                      |
| AGE        |        |             |                     |                      |
| ETHNICITY  |        |             |                     |                      |
| DISABILITY |        |             |                     |                      |
| EDUCATION  |        |             |                     |                      |
| GEOGRAPHY  |        |             |                     |                      |
| IMD        |        |             |                     |                      |





Factual

vs



Attitudal

# Some arguments

- The application of climate-specific selection criteria has generated an interesting debate. Both UK and Scotland used "concern about climate change" as one of their criteria. This is to avoid political challenges that assemblies are full of climate activists - or at least, the strongly climate concerned. To be honest, this is a problem for many assemblies that didn't use such an approach (mostly got away with it).
- The second way that more specific criteria are relevant is when the topic relates specifically to different social practices. So, for example, when the focus is mobility, it is critical to ensure that members include those who use different transport modes: cars, public transport (of different types - in the UK trains tend to be used by middle class; buses outside cities by the poor), bikes, walking. You'd probably also want to include a rural/urban criteria too where relevant. Similarly, when the focus is on homes (e.g., insulation), then ensuring participation by both homeowners and renters is critical.
- This makes for better recommendations, but also defends the assembly against critics.





What's your reference data?

# Exercise II

Case 1: A global assembly on climate justice and reparations

Case 2: A national assembly on flood proofing and climate adaptation

Case 3: A local assembly on transportation and mobility



# The dilemma of representation

- Those who don't say yes
- Political confidence
- Trust in the system
- Trust that your voice will be heard
- The ever present risk: Deligitimizes if it isn't taken seriously by policy makers



# Reimbursement

Compensation signals that a participatory process is inclusive and for everybody, also if you need to be away from family duties.

If the citizens are paid a fee, it is vital that the amount is well balanced in order to avoid that money is the only motivation for participating.

Other kinds of reimbursement include providing compensation for travel expenses, issuing a certificate, or offering a gift certificate.



# Making contact

Some examples:

- France: Phoning
- UK: Snail mail
- Denmark and Estonia: Governmental email
- Scotland's first: Knocking on doors

# Low respons rates

- what does it say about representation?

The goal is to lower the barrier to respond and to increase trust?

- Many repond that it might be fake, so why bother?

The simple first steps:

- Look formal
- Avoid looking like junk mail
- Use governmental branding (official logos)
- Info overload can also scare some people off

Return address  
Sortition Foundation,  
32 Gilbert Close,  
Cambridge, CB4 3HR



“ How can mental health be improved for everyone in our area? ”

Your household has been randomly selected to receive this invitation to the Voice Matters People's Panel.

TAKE PART AND RECEIVE £120



Scotland's Climate  
Assembly  
Seanadh Gnàth-shìde  
na h-Alba

We especially  
welcome and will  
support people  
with less digital  
experience.



You are invited to register your interest in  
**Scotland's Climate Assembly**

How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency  
in an effective and fair way?

to be held online over six weekends  
between November 2020 and March 2021

Deadline for registering your interest  
in this event is **Monday 28 September**

Register at [www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp](http://www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp)  
or by phone on Freephone **0800 009 6486** (9am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday)

TAKE PART  
AND  
RECEIVE £1200

Dear Resident,

You could be one of 100 people selected to take part in **Scotland's Climate Assembly**, answering the important question that will impact Scotland and its future, and future generations:

**How should Scotland change to tackle the climate emergency in an effective and fair way?**

Scotland's Climate Assembly will be held over six weekends between November 2020 and March 2021. The meetings will begin online, although if and when it is safe to do so, they may move to face-to-face meetings. Each weekend will consist of around four two-hour meetings. We will also ask you to spend a little of your own time between meetings on things such as watching videos we send you. You need to be able to attend all the meetings, and **if you take part you will receive £1200** to thank you for your time.

Scotland's Climate Assembly is an independent event that has been tasked by the Scottish Parliament to bring together a diverse range of people, from all across Scotland, to hear evidence and discuss the issues. It will produce a report that **the Scottish Government must respond to**, and will inform the future climate-related work of the Government.

The assembly will be representative of people living in Scotland and will include people with a variety of backgrounds and digital-skill levels. If you are worried that you may struggle with the technology we will give you individual help and support.

Everyone aged 16 and over, who lives at this address or is staying at this address at any point within the registration period, can register their interest in taking part by visiting [www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp](http://www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp) or by calling **Freephone 0800 009 6486** (9am-5.30pm, Monday-Saturday) by **Monday 28th September 2020**.

**This is a fantastic opportunity for you to help shape how Scotland tackles climate change** and we hope that you will be interested in joining us.

Yours faithfully,

**Patrick Harvey MSP**  
Co-Leader of the Scottish  
Green Party

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
Leader of the Scottish Labour  
Party

**Willie Rennie MSP**  
Leader of the Scottish Liberal  
Democrats

**Douglas Ross MP**  
Leader of the Scottish  
Conservative & Unionist Party

**Lorna Slater**  
Co-Leader of the Scottish  
Green Party

**Nicola Sturgeon MSP**  
Leader of the Scottish National  
Party

# Fit for purpose

- Be clear in your communication to potential participants. If the purpose and process is not clear, your recruitment will be difficult. In your communication about the participation activity, you should clearly communicate the following points:
  - What is the purpose of the participatory process?
  - Who is going to use the results?
  - How are they going to use the results?
  - What is in it for the participant?





# The decision-making process

1. The population you are ultimately working to represent through the civic lottery
2. The number of individuals to be selected
3. The basic demographic criteria that will be used to ensure the selected group broadly represents the population at large
4. The method for inviting a set number of randomly chosen individuals from within that population to volunteer

# Final advice



Choose selection criteria for which you have reliable data on the root (maxi) population, so you know if you're reaching representativity or "just" neutral balance

Select for 20% dropouts and invite everyone to join from day one

Make the extra effort, if you have marginalized groups in your demographic

# Exercise III

Time to work on your own cases:

- What is the topic?
- What should be the outcome?
- Who needs to be in the room?



# Reflections and Q&A

# Climate assemblies: emerging trends, challenges and opportunities

A report of the Knowledge Network  
on Climate Assemblies  
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Lead author:  
Graham Smith, Chair of KNOCA

