

North American Edition

TIME FOR

DEMOCRACY

**Featured
Research:**

**Eight Ways to Institutionalize Deliberative
Democracy**

From: OECD



OVERVIEW

Existing democratic governance systems do not adequately deal with some of the most important and complex challenges in communities. To address these shortcomings, the OECD has developed a public governance policy paper that focuses on an alternative approach to governance – representative public deliberation. The following graphic summarizes the concept, why it works, and its benefits:

What is representative public deliberation?

“A process in which a broadly representative body of people weighs evidence, deliberates to find common ground, and develops detailed recommendations on policy issues for public authorities.”

Why representative public deliberation works?

Due to these features:

- Independence
- Cognitive diversity
- Favorable conditions for quality deliberation (information, time, skilled facilitation)
- A focus on the common good
- High levels of trust

Why institutionalize deliberative democracy?

It can result in significant benefits, including:

- Allowing public decision-makers to take *more* hard decisions *better*
- Enhancing public trust
- Making representative deliberative processes easier and less expensive
- Strengthening society's democratic fitness

MODELS OF INSTITUTIONALIZING DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

The OECD outlines the following eight (8) models of representative public deliberation being structurally integrated into public decision-making processes and democratic institutions at the local, regional/state, and national levels:

1. Combining a **permanent** citizens' assembly with **one-off** citizens' panels.
2. Connecting representative public deliberation to **parliamentary committees**.
3. Combining **deliberative** and **direct** democracy.
4. **Standing** citizens' advisory panels.
5. **Sequenced** representative deliberative processes **throughout the policy cycle**.
6. **Requiring** representative public deliberation **before certain types of public decisions**.
7. **Giving people the right to demand** a representative deliberative process.
8. Embedding representative deliberative processes in **local strategic planning**.

The OECD also provides examples from a variety of countries in Europe and North America to demonstrate *how* each of the models have been implemented in practice. The models and examples can be adapted to develop institutionalized deliberative democracy models for citizen participation in your destination. When applied, they can create opportunities for residents to provide a sustainable contribution to addressing complex tourism issues, such as workforce development and housing issues, by formalizing structures for engaging with communities at the local, regional/state, and national levels.

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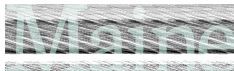
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