



# Catching the Deliberative Wave

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**Innovative Citizen  
Participation and New  
Democratic Institutions**  
CATCHING THE DELIBERATIVE WAVE



## First empirical, comparative study of representative deliberative processes for public decision making

- **289** examples from **1986 – Oct 2019**
- **18** OECD countries + international level
- **All** levels of government
- **12** models of deliberative processes
- **11** principles of good practice





# Irish Citizens' Assembly

Dr Noelle Higgins from Maynooth University - International Human Rights Law and Fatal Foetal Abnormalities speaking at the second meeting of the Citizens' Assembly in January 2017.  
Photo: Dara Mac Dónail / The Irish Times



# French Citizens' Convention on Climate



The 150 members of the Citizens' Convention. Photo: La Convention Citoyenne pour le climat

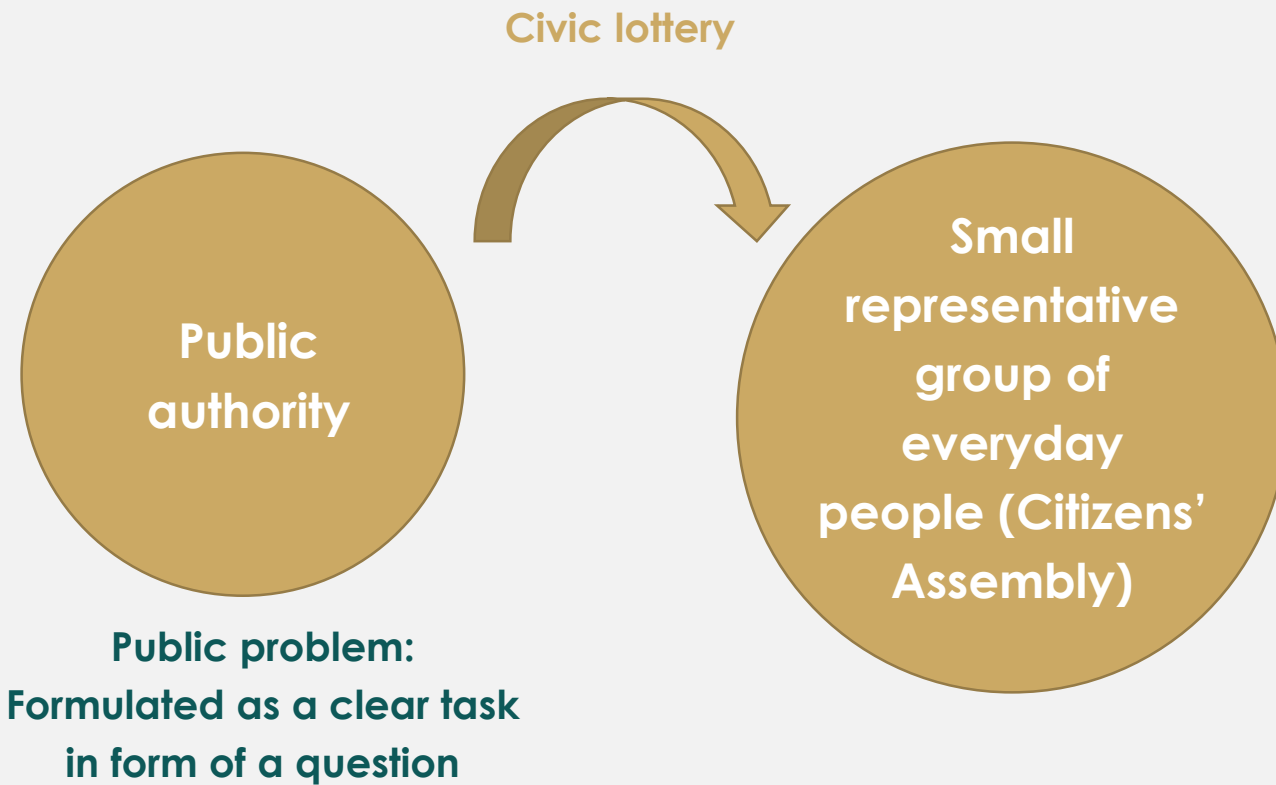
# What is a representative deliberative process?

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**Public problem:**  
Formulated as a clear task  
in form of a question

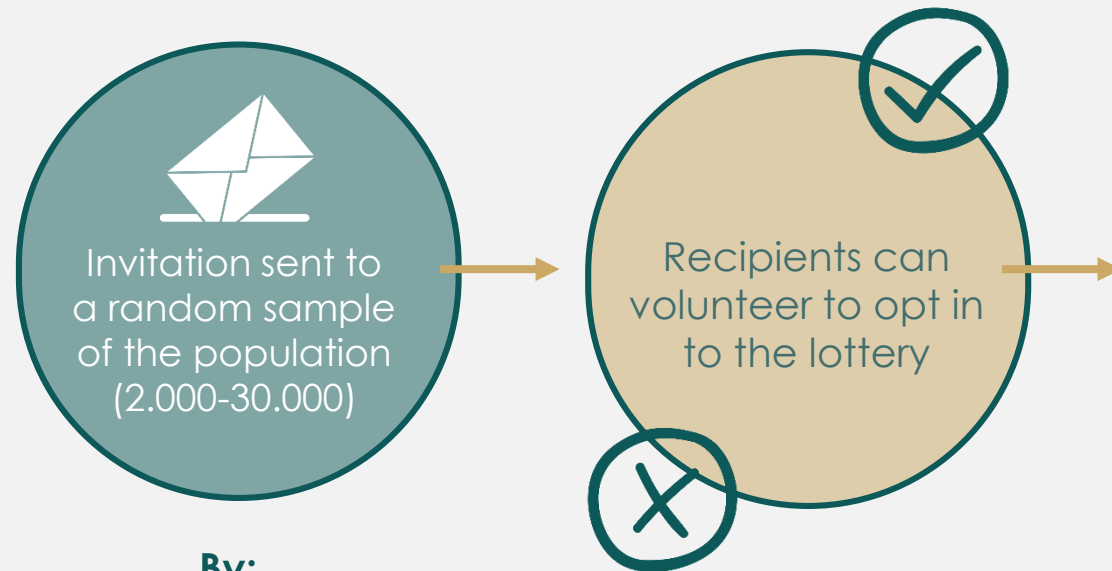
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# Civic lottery

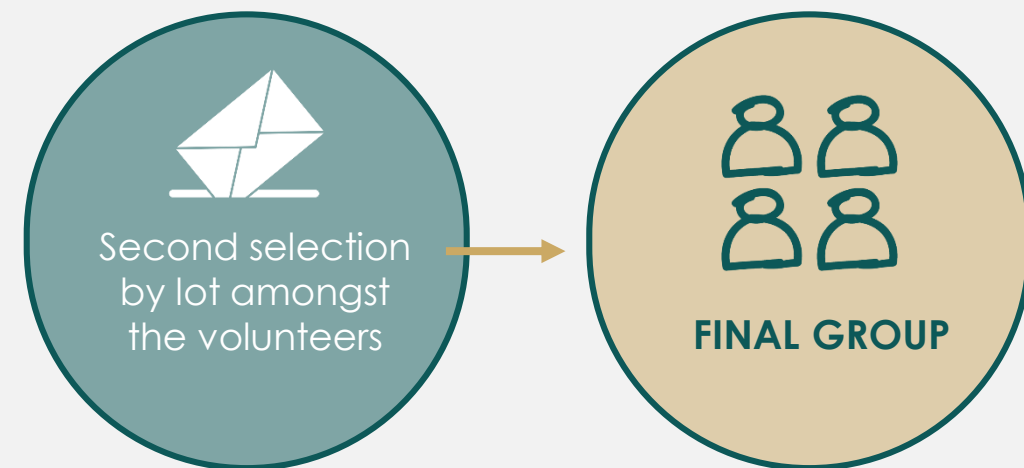
(Two-stage sortition process)

## First stage



**By:**  
Post  
Phone  
Email  
...

## Second stage

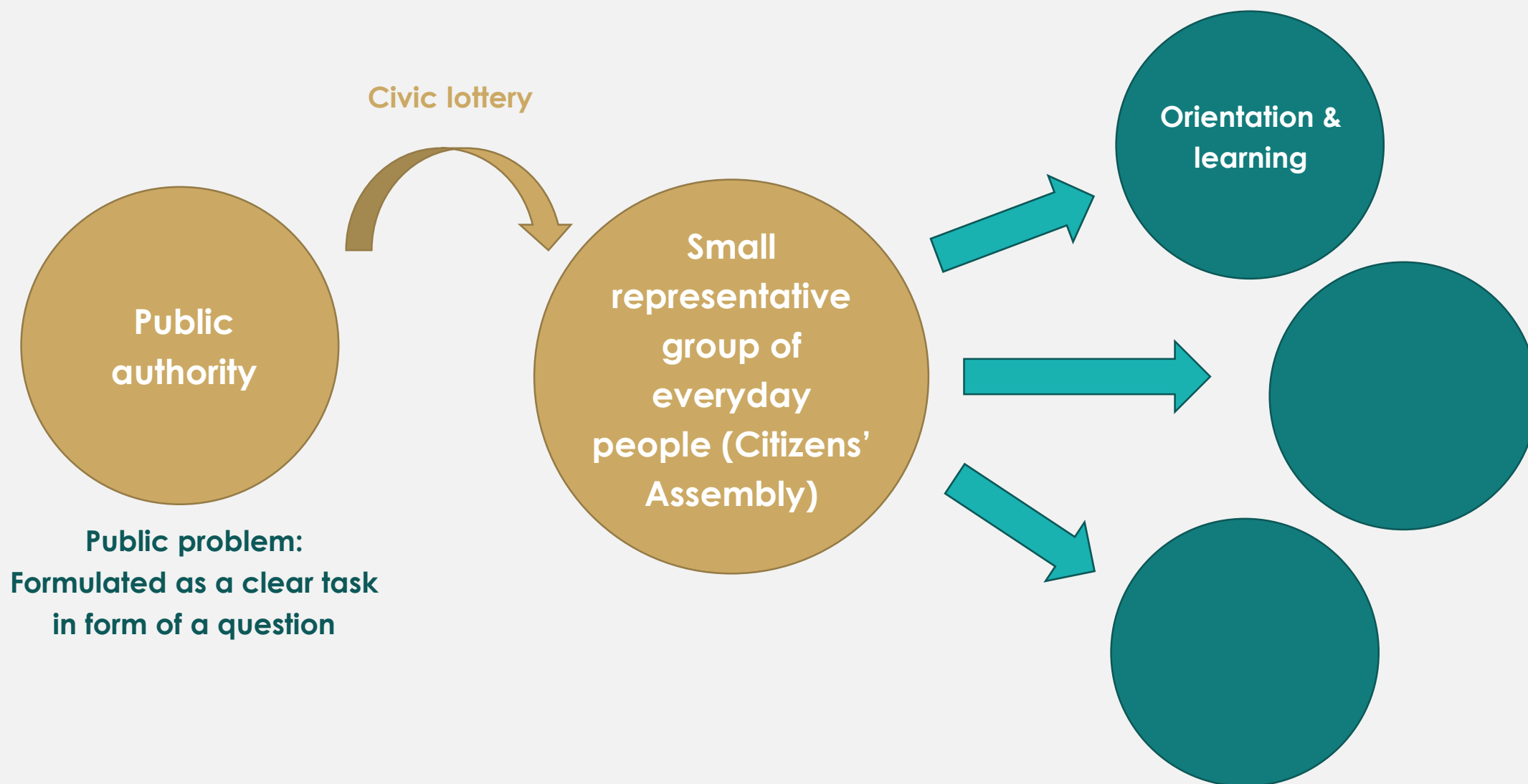


**Stratified based on :**  
Gender  
Age  
Location  
Socio-economic criteria  
...

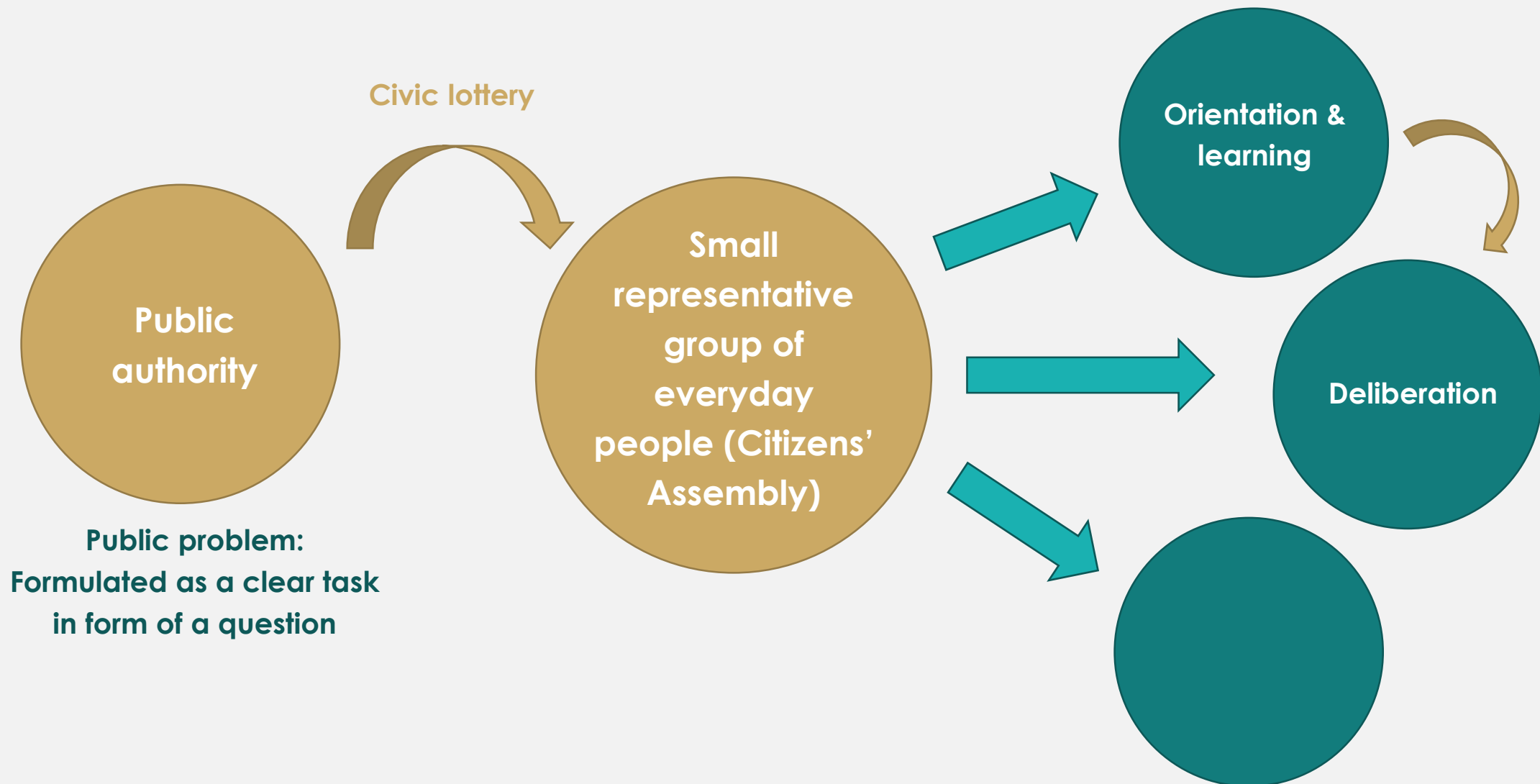
Broadly representative of the community concerned (city, state, country etc.)



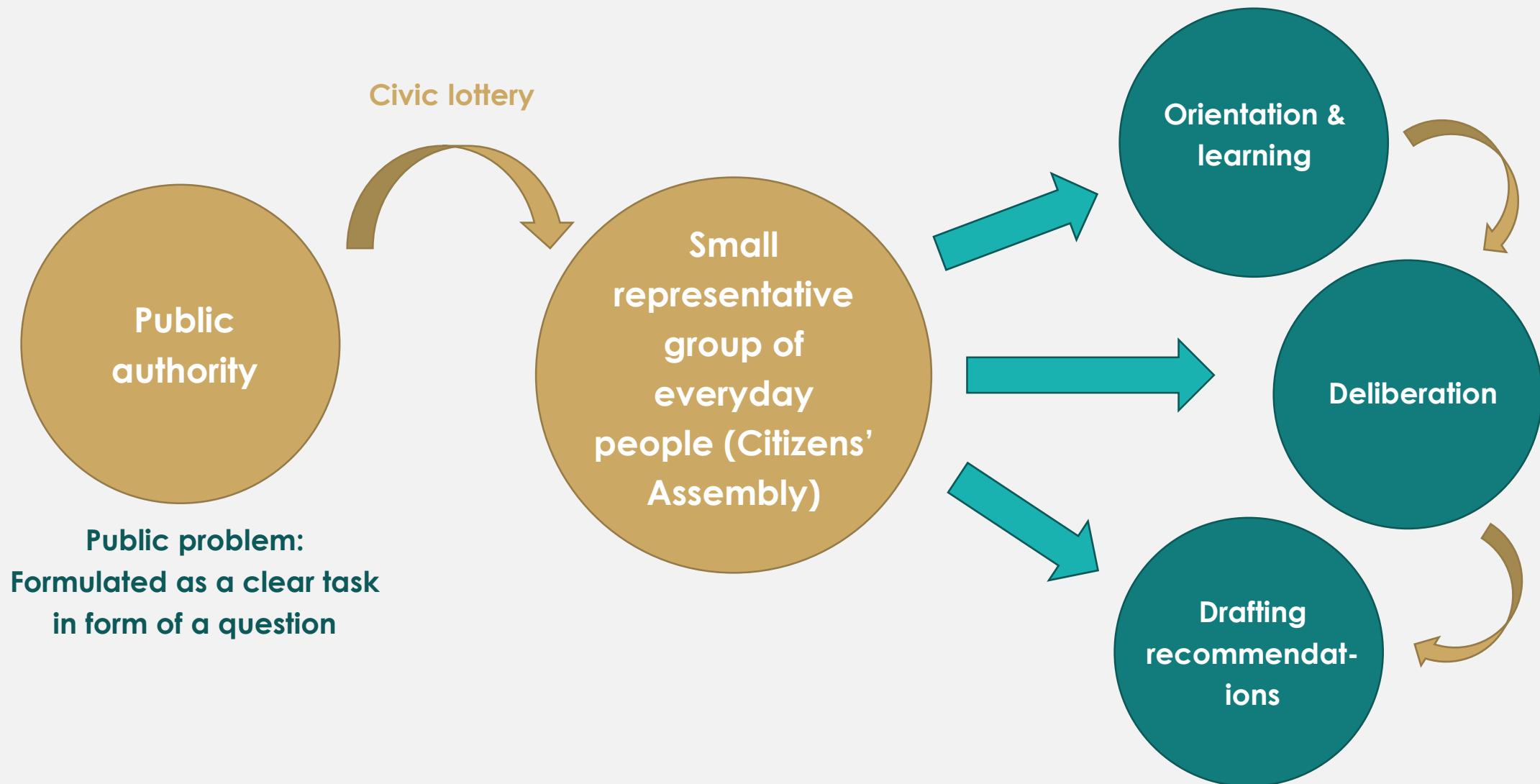
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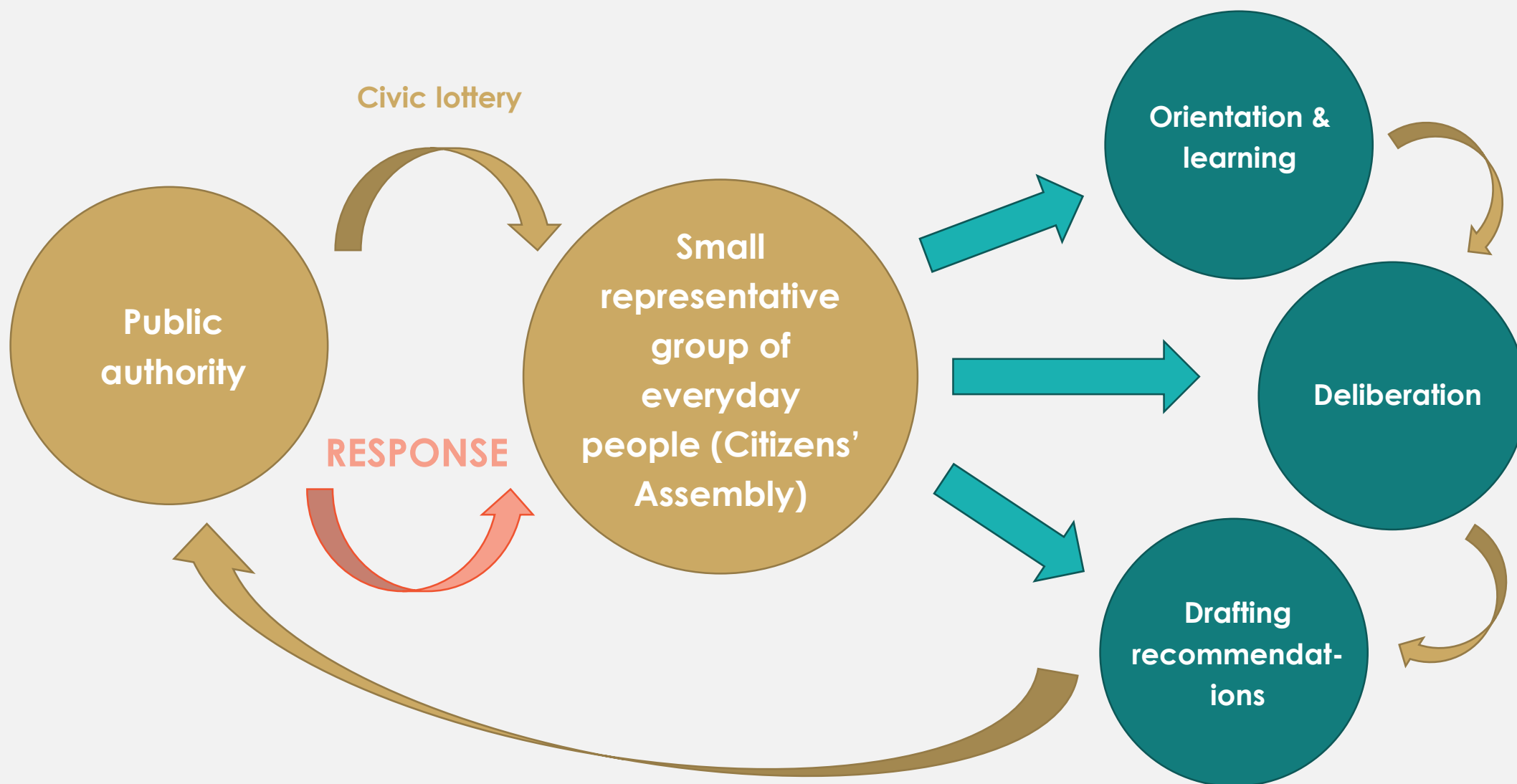


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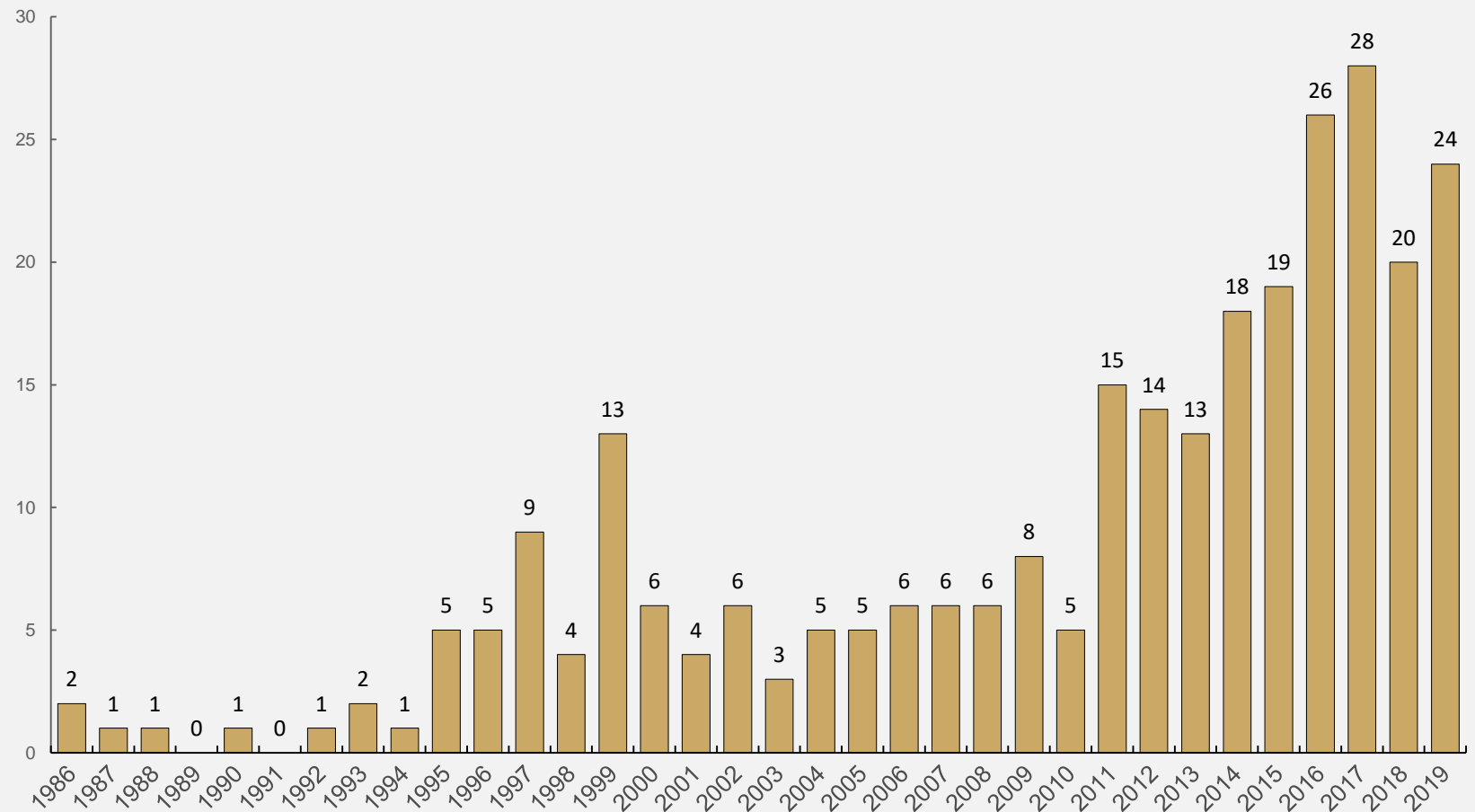


# What is a representative deliberative process?



# The “deliberative wave” has been building since the 1980s, gaining momentum since 2010

Number of representative deliberative processes per year, 1986 – October 2019



Notes: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union. Processes that spanned over multiple years are noted by the year of their completion (except for permanent ongoing processes).

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).

## The deliberative wave in Finland

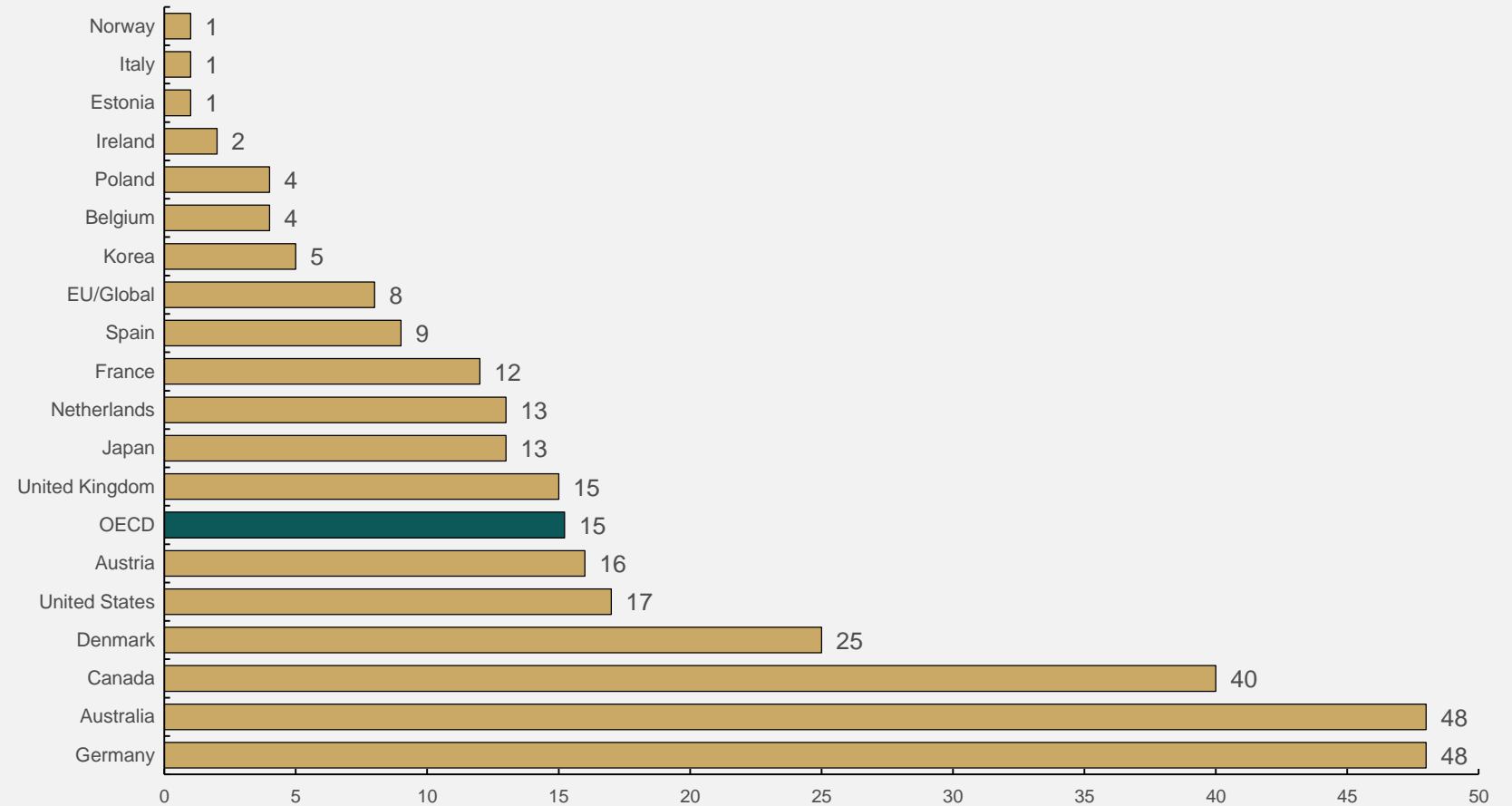
- Citizens' Jury on Finnish Democracy (2013)
- Citizens' Jury on Referendum Options in Korsholm (2019)
- Turku Deliberates Citizens' Panel on Transportation Planning (2020)
- Citizens' Panel on Freedom of Expression in Finland (2021)
- Citizens' Jury on Climate Actions in Finland (2021)



# Where cases of representative deliberative processes were found

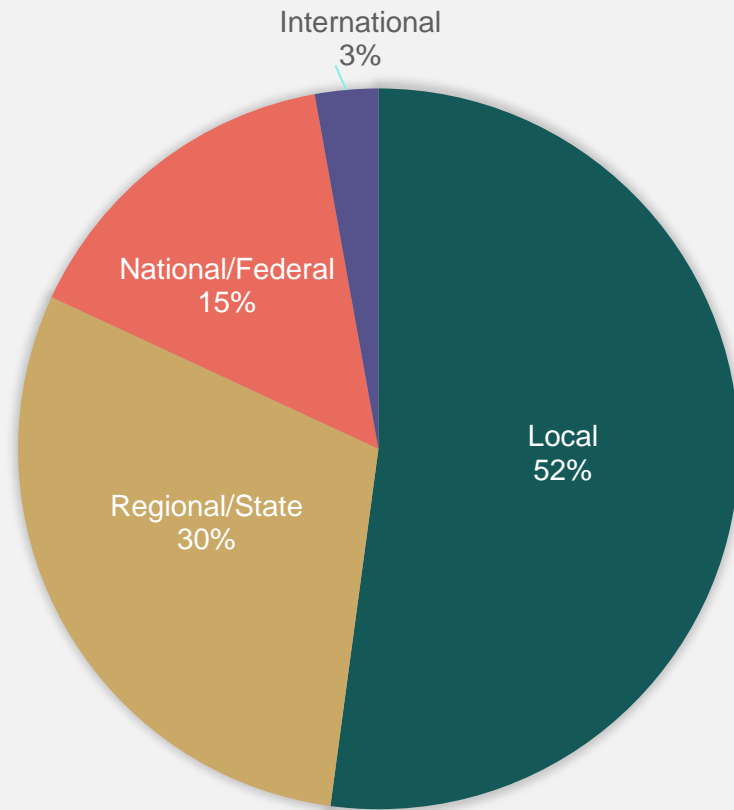
Number of representative deliberative processes per country, 1986-2019\*

\*This figure is not a ranking nor is it representative of all the cases in a country. It is a graphic representation of the number of cases that the OECD has collected.



Note: n=282. Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).



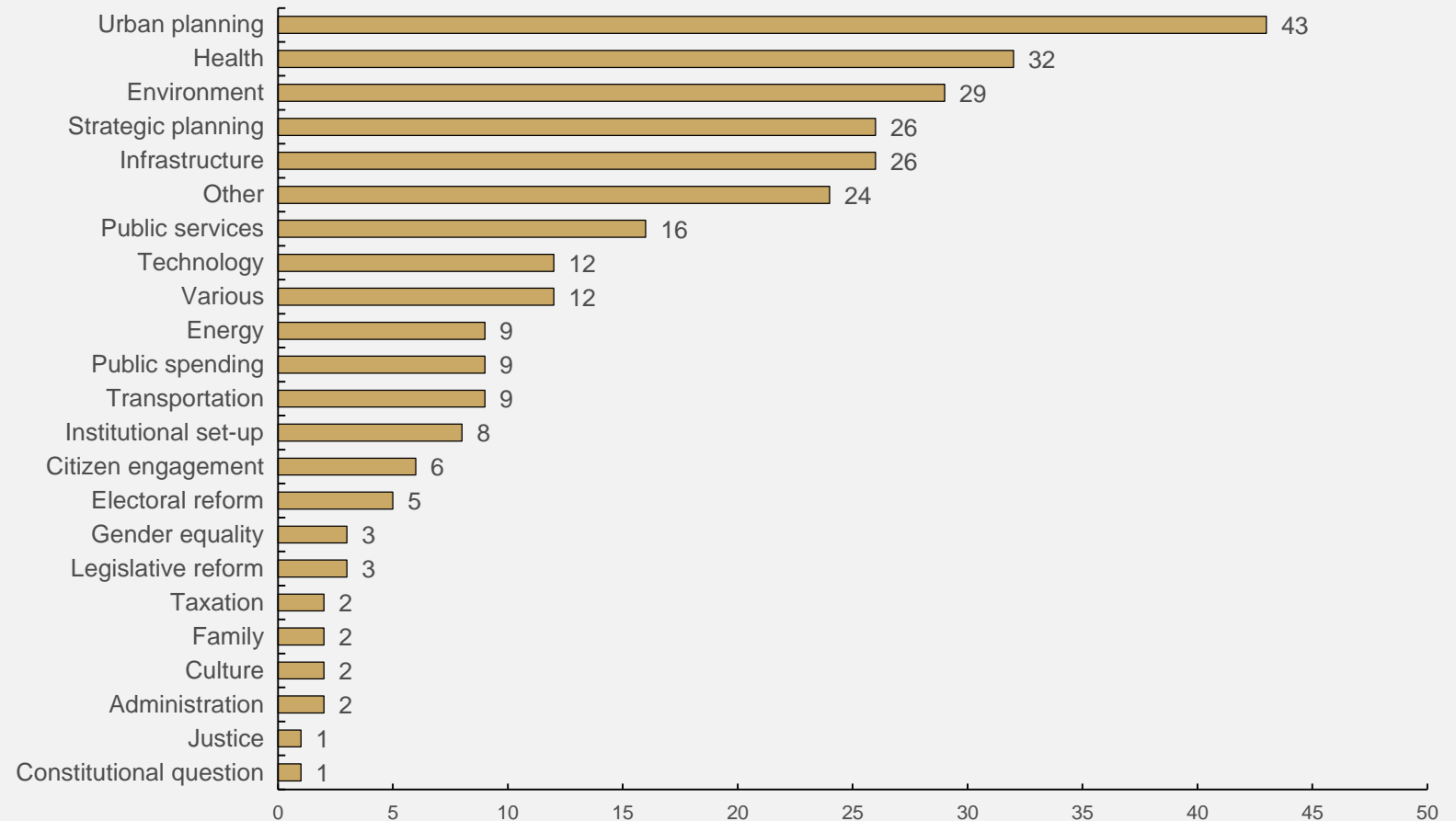
*Note: n=282; Data for OECD countries is based on 18 OECD countries that were members in 2019 plus the European Union*

*Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).*

**Representative  
deliberative  
processes have  
been used at all  
levels of  
government**

# Public authorities have commissioned representative deliberative processes for a wide range of policy issues

Number of times a policy issue has been addressed through a representative deliberative process



Notes: n=282; Other policy issues include: agriculture; constitutional questions; consumer protection; cooperative housing; culture; firework use; gambling regulations; gender equality; justice; legislative reform; migration; noise pollution; safety; socioeconomic development; science and research; sustainable development; taxation; water management; youth.

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2020).



## Types of problems that deliberative processes are well-suited to address:

- Values-based dilemmas
- Complex problems that require trade-offs
- Long-term questions

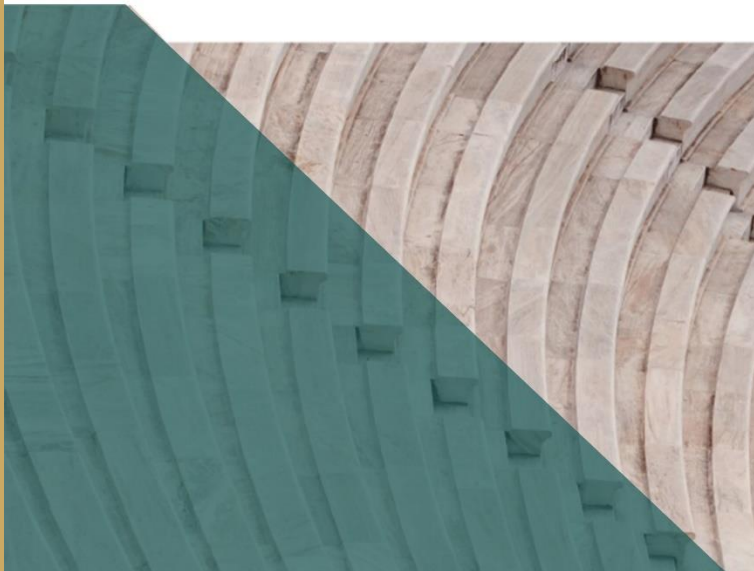
# Good Practice Principles for Deliberative Processes for Public Decision Making







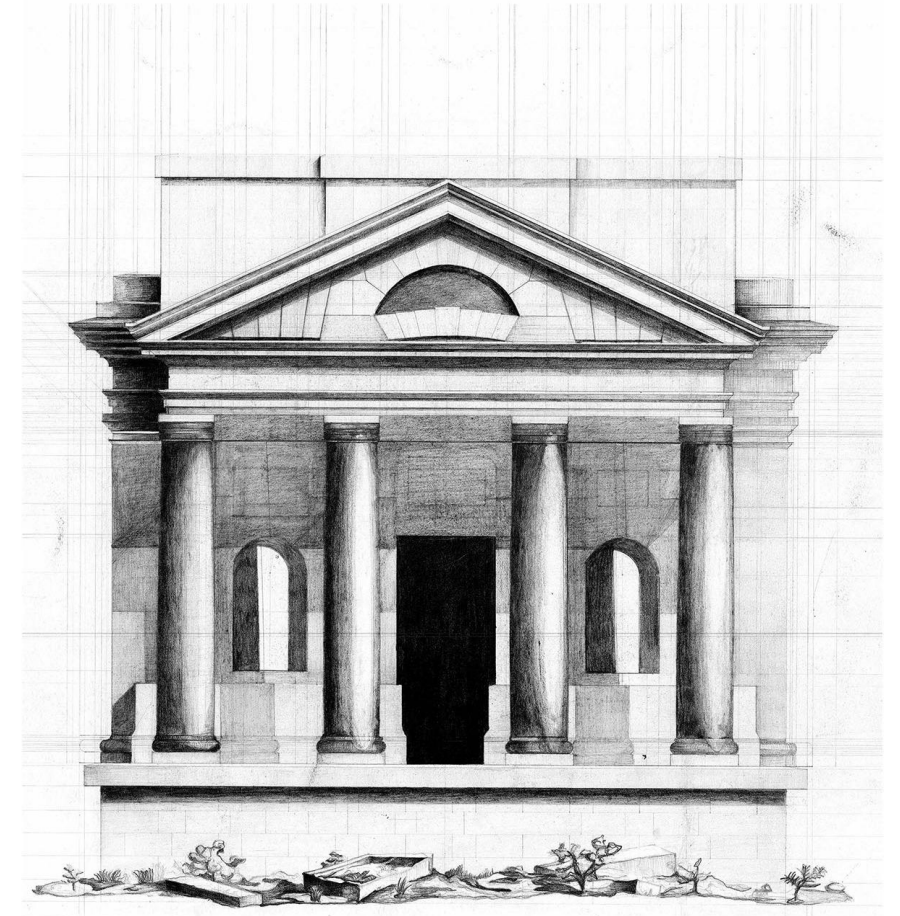
**Evaluation Guidelines  
for Representative  
Deliberative Processes**



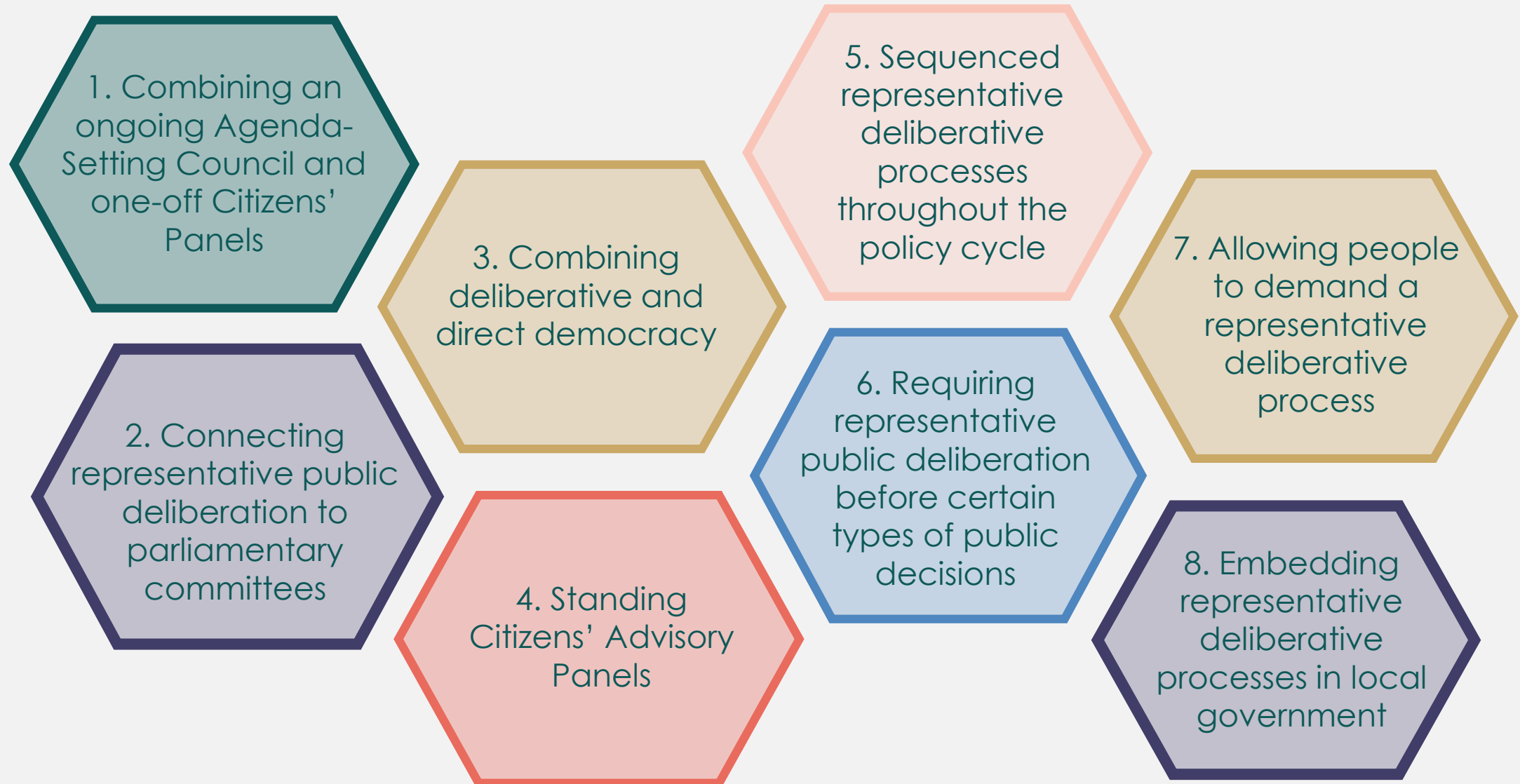
- Build on the OECD Good Practice Principles
- Minimum evaluation standards
- Comparable data
- Increased uptake of evaluation activities
- Learning



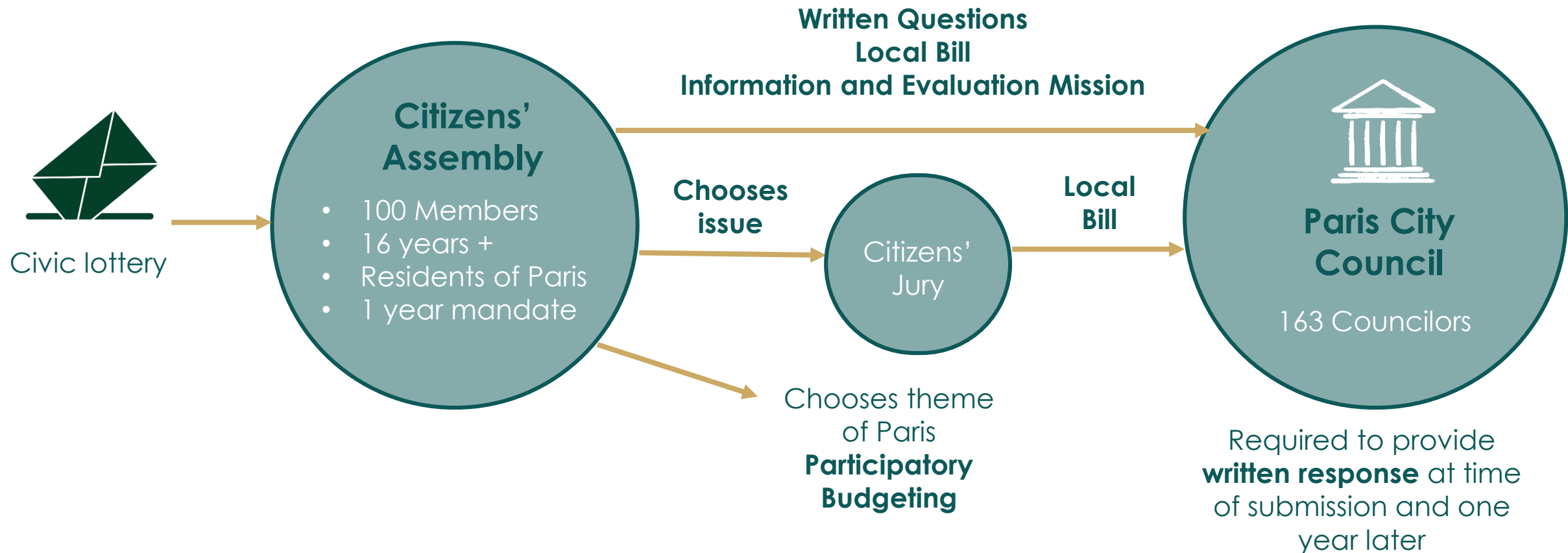
# Improving public decision-making processes and democratic institutions by adding public judgement in a structural way



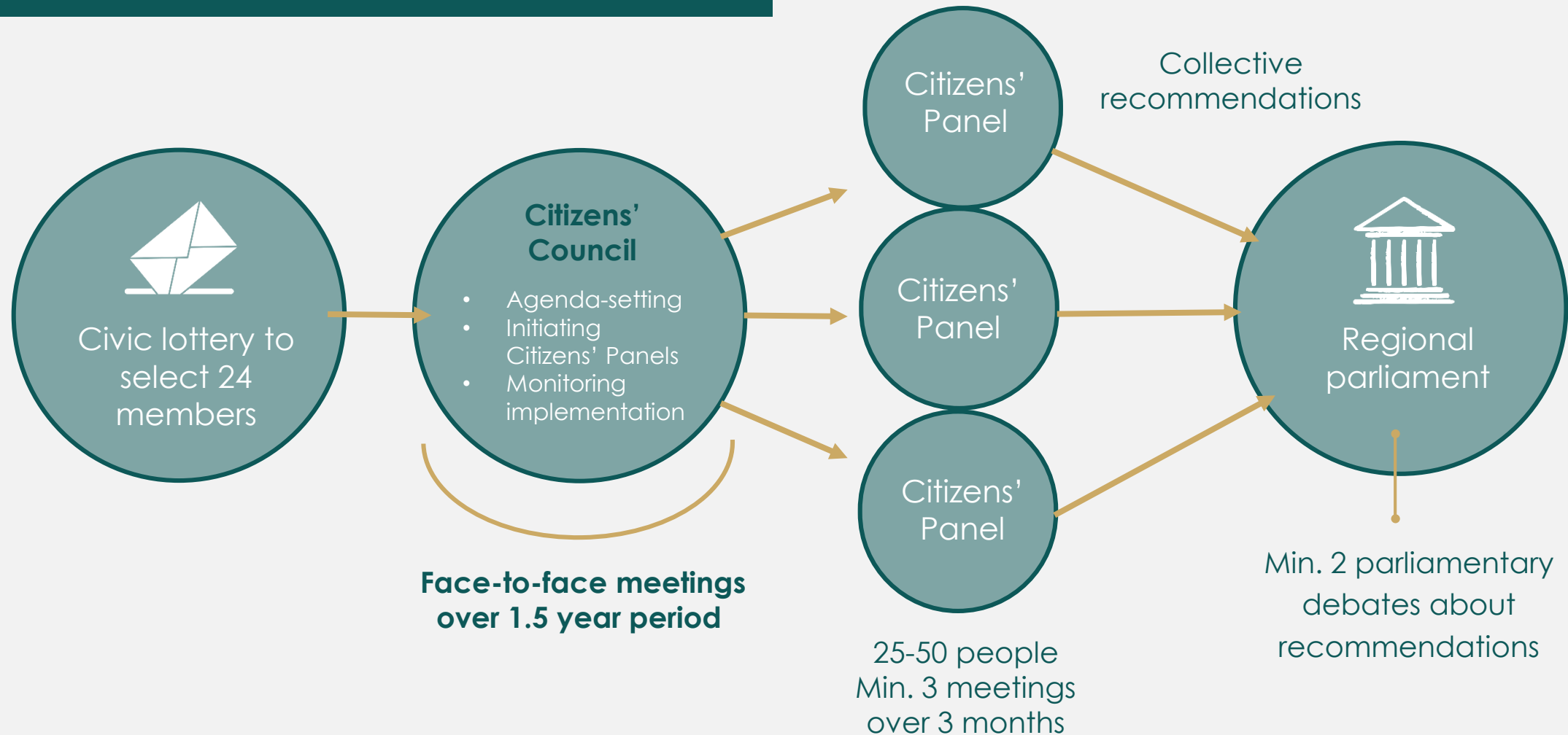
# Eight models of institutionalisation



# Paris Citizens' Assembly



# Ostbelgien Model



**Deliberative processes are not a silver bullet.  
But evidence shows that, *if designed well*, they  
can bring public judgement to democracy,  
helping solve complex public problems and  
increase public trust.**