

AUTUMN SCHOOL ON CITIZENS' ASSEMBLIES

Helsinki

12-13 October



We live in a world where rapid societal changes and complex issues require nuanced policy-making, inclusive decision-making, and participatory governance. The power and promise of deliberative democracy lie in its ability to bridge the gap between citizens and policy-making, and in creating an arena where diverse perspectives can shape the future collectively. Citizens' Assemblies, as vital components of this approach, can address an array of pressing issues, ranging from local concerns to national policy-making.

The Autumn School on Citizens' Assemblies brings together experts from the Federation for Innovation in Democracy – Europe (FIDE) and the future-oriented expertise that Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, represents in the field. The programme provides a comprehensive introduction to these powerful democratic tools, addressing the motivations behind them, the challenges involved in their implementation, and their impact on governance. We strive to offer a holistic perspective, going beyond theory and diving into real-world examples and case studies.

Whether you are a politician, civil servant, or societal actor, this event has been meticulously designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools you need to understand and implement deliberative democracy and Citizens' Assemblies in your sphere of influence. Join us as we strive to make the democratic process more inclusive, engaging, and effective. Let's shape the future of democracy together.

PLENARY SESSION FORMAT

All plenary presentations at our Autumn School are structured to foster deep understanding, personal reflection, and collective deliberation. Each presentation starts with a 10-minute introduction of the case, including its context and motivations. This is followed by a 20-25-minute detailed examination of the technical aspects, illuminated by real-world examples and guidance from our experts.

After the presentation, attendees get a 5-minute break to reflect on the content and prepare questions. This period of introspection is followed by a 10-15 minute Q&A session. The theoretical knowledge gained is then applied in a 30-minute table work session, where attendees envision the implementation of the discussed topic in their own cities or contexts. This hands-on approach brings practicality to the fore and encourages innovative thinking. Following this, a 10-15 minute reflection period provides attendees with a chance to voice challenges and ask further questions. Presenters are on hand to offer their insights, starting with the main presenter for the topic.

Informal Q&A also occurs throughout the day during breaks and lunches, allowing attendees to connect directly with presenters for any additional inquiries.

Venue & accommodation: [Hotel Rantapuisto](#)

Welcome drinks: Wednesday, October 11, at 19h.

DAY 1
Thursday, October 12

09.00 - 09.20	Welcome words – Sitra & FIDE
09.20 - 10.00	Why Deliberative Democracy
10.00 - 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 - 12.00	Framing the question
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch
13.00 - 14.30	Recruitment
14.30 - 15.00	Coffee break
15.00 - 16.30	Workshops – 1 st round
16.30 – 17.00	Closing reflections
17.00	Optional activity: Sauna or alternative activity (TBC)

Official dinner

DAY 2
Friday, October 13

9.00 – 10.00	Information provision
10.00 – 10.30	Coffee break
10.30 – 12.00	Landing with administration
12.00 – 13.15	Lunch
13.15 – 14.45	Communications
14.45 – 15.15	Coffee break
15.15 – 16.45	Workshops – 2 nd round
16.45 – 17.00	Joint reflection - Closing words

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS

- Art O Leary, Secretary General at the Irish Electoral Commission.
- Zakia Elvang, Founder, partner & democracy advisor, We Do Democracy.
- Ian Walker, Executive Director of the newDemocracy Foundation (nDF)
- Irene Alonso, Project Manager at FIDE
- Yves Dejaeghere, Executive Director, FIDE
- Arild Ohren, PhD candidate, NTNU

WORKSHOPS

- Facilitation
- Governance
- Inclusion
- Digital assemblies

The workshops will run twice, with one round per day.

Should you have any questions, contact [Miguel González](#).