CALL FOR LEAD AUTHOR FOR A CASE STUDY COMPILATION ON GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES OF DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY

1. Introduction

In recent years, European democracies have been threatened by a wide range of factors that have proved that democracy cannot be taken for granted. On the contrary, our democracies need to be regenerated and strengthened at all levels of government: local, regional, national, and European.

Expectations of citizens regarding transparency and accountability of policy makers are very high, especially in times of economic instability and with growing concerns towards the climate threat. All citizens, including the most vulnerable groups, need to be at the centre stage of decision making, to feel closer to policymakers at all levels, and in particular to have the chance to be heard by EU institutions.

Providing an alternative to traditional representative participatory routes, new representative deliberative processes have been established for the better engagement and involvement of citizens in policy- making in Europe, and to support governments through discussing and developing recommendations on needed steps to safeguard a healthy and stable world. Examples of new democratic ways of engagement include citizens' dialogues, deliberative polls, and citizens' assemblies. Those try to help governments through discussing and developing recommendations on needed steps to safeguard a healthy and stable democracy.

Over the past 10 years, citizens assemblies, in particular, have gained a lot of momentum at all levels of governance- local, regional, national and European. The Conference on the Future of Europe has offered the opportunity to enhance deliberative democracy at the European level by bringing the EU closer to its citizens and building a more citizen-focused Europe.

The <u>COFOE's recommendations of European Citizens' Panel 2 on "European democracy / Values and rights, rule of law, security"</u>**:**

"**We recommend that the European Union holds Citizen's Assemblies**. We strongly recommend that they are developed through a legally binding and compulsory law or regulation. The citizens' assemblies should be held every 12-18 months. Participation of the citizens should not be mandatory but incentivised, while organised on the basis of limited mandates. Participants must be selected randomly, with representativity criteria, also not representing any organisation of any kind, nor being called to participate because of their professional role when being assembly members. If needed, there will be support of experts so that assembly members have enough information for deliberation. Decision-making will be in the hands of citizens. The EU must ensure the commitment of politicians to citizens' decisions taken in Citizens' Assemblies. In case citizens' proposals are ignored or explicitly rejected, EU institutions must be accountable for it, justifying the reasons why this decision was made".

Citizens' assemblies bring together citizens over a number of days or weeks and sometimes years to discuss a particular policy challenge, deliberate together and give recommendations to elected governments. Citizens are randomly selected to reflect the demographic diversity of the population. The process is typically facilitated by an independent and apolitical organisation, which brings in experts across a wide range of disciplines, as well as competing interest groups and the voices of those personally affected by the issue in question.

The European Network of Political Foundations (ENoP) and the Association of European Regions (AER) are initiating a project that would capitalise on successful examples and good practices, while at the same time discussing the full potential and future of such direct involvement of citizens in democratic processes. Therefore, ENoP and AER are looking for a lead author that will develop a publication – a compilation on good practice examples of deliberative democracy on three different levels of government in six different countries.

The lead author will have the following tasks:
- Attending the ENoP – AER Forum on deliberative democracy, 1-2 June, in Brussels
- During the above-mentioned Forum, the cases for the study will be presented, so the author is to listen and take notes
- Reaching out to representatives of organisations and government officials involved in the selected cases
- Doing research on the success, challenges and future of deliberative democracy, based on the experience of the selected cases
- Developing the publication – a compilation of good practice examples of deliberative democracy based on the guiding principles and questions found in the Terms of Reference.

2. Background

A new form of politics is gaining steam. Providing an alternative to traditional representative routes, citizen assemblies and other forms of deliberative democracy try to help governments through discussing and developing recommendations on needed steps to safeguard a healthy and stable world.

Practical examples on direct involvement of citizens in democratic processes enable an open discussion on particular policy challenges and giving recommendations to elected governments. Involved citizens are randomly selected to reflect the demographic diversity of the population. The process is typically facilitated by an independent and apolitical organisation, which brings in experts across a wide range of disciplines, as well as competing interest groups and the voices of those personally affected by the issue in question.

In terms of cooperation of the two network organisations, it is fair to say that ENoP and the AER share common and complementary strengths and European policies are at the core of their activities. They have strong experience with transnational projects and have experience in leading communication projects aimed at raising the awareness of European policies towards regions and citizens in order to turn them into the real protagonists of the future of Europe. ENoP and the AER also share common values. Both organisations are committed to bringing Europe closer to its citizens. They are devoted to raising the voice of the youths in order to turn them into active players in shaping the new European strategies. Topics such as democracy, sustainable development, and the future of Europe are an essential part of the vision of both partner organisations.

3. Overall objective of the assignment

The purpose of the study is to describe and compare the different good practice examples of deliberative democracy, on three different levels of government. The study should also examine both results and challenges of deliberative democracy. In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, the author shall provide an expertise on different deliberative democracy examples and an in-depth analysis of the selected cases. Ultimately, the study shall include a clear set of concrete policy recommendations for improving outcomes of deliberative democracies, as well as making citizens' involvement in deliberation and policymaking processes more effective.

The assignment's key objectives are:

- An overview of all six cases represented in the case study compilation – including the motivation, process, challenges, successes and final outcome
- The organisation and structuring of the study through the analysis and merging of the chapters with individual cases into a coherent publication
- A set of concrete policy recommendations for the EU, including recommendations for how to reform deliberation and citizens' involvement in democratic and policymaking processes and making them more efficient
- These recommendations shall serve as a guide for both policy- and lawmakers, as well as practitioners

For details, see Point 5 and Point 6 of the Terms of Reference.

4. Scope of work

The author holds mere responsibility to draft the introduction and conclusion, with overall responsibility for the content, format and the timely submission of the chapters (three levels of government) and subchapters (two cases per each level). The length of the publication and its introduction, recommendations, as well as individual chapters and subchapters is to be determined together with representatives from both networks. The author's scope of work, although by no means comprehensively, shall also consist of looking into other cases for finding good examples of participatory processes, e.g., citizens' assemblies, digital consultations, and deliberative councils.

The study will cover the following levels of government:

- National level
- Regional level
- Local level

5. Specific duties and guiding questions

The lead author shall draft the study based on the contact with representatives of organisations and government officials from the six cases' countries. This contact shall be guided by the questions outlined below. While the guiding questions provide overall direction and have to be considered implicit by the author, not all questions need to be addressed individually and explicitly. The cases covered by the study, as well as other examples mentioned are selected based on the following criteria:

- The good practice model has innovative elements
- The good practice model has achieved and recorded concrete results
- The achieved results are relevant to the people living in the region, municipality, commune
- The good practice model is sustainable and replicable to other regions, municipalities, communes and other levels of government

Guiding questions for preparing the presentation of the Experiences/Cases

A. Description of the best practice model

- What is the content of the best practice model? What are the innovative elements?
- Why has the model been developed, which problems or shortcomings was it supposed to address, what are the objectives of the model?
- Which results have been achieved? How relevant are they for the living situation of the people in the region, municipality, commune? What is the status of the model? Has it been finalised? Will it be repeated?
- Description of the municipality/local government unit: population, size, location, legal position in the respective state structure, human and financial resources, specific political, social, cultural and economic character/framework.
- Which costs had to be covered for the implementation of the project? Who paid for it?
- Which specific technical expertise was necessary to design and implement the model? Who supplied it?

6. Methodology

The methodology in the design and implementation of the best practice model shall consist of:

- Brief description of the design process of the model (who drafted the first paper, who was involved?)
- Who initiated the model? Who were the driving forces and main actors?
- What has been the role and attitude of national authorities with regard to the model?
- Brief description of the implementation process of the model: creation of legal and/or administrative conditions, qualification processes, stakeholders involved in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- How have civil society and population been involved?
- Did the media play a role in the design and implementation of the model?
- Input from international, national and local experts, forms of communication and cooperation between them.
- Types of activities in the implementation of the model.
- Steering body and coordination mechanisms in the model.
- Sequence of activities, vertical and horizontal logic and synergies.
- Documentation of activities, monitoring, reporting, updating of implementation plans.

The evaluation of the best practice model shall consist of:

- Will the model be sustainable?
- What have been the major success factors for the model?
- What have been the major obstacles and challenges for the design and implementation of the model?
- Why do you judge the model as best practice?
- Why do you believe that the model could be replicable in adapted forms in other municipalities and local government units (even in other countries)?

Other methodology and evaluation aspects to be taken into account:

- A brief review of relevant literature

7. Deliverables

Taking into consideration that the overall project would consist of three segments: a project-launch forum; a publication – a practice compilation of selected case studies; and a publication-launch conference. The following deliverables are expected:

A. <u>A project-launch forum report with the main conclusions from discussions;</u>
The project will kick off with a Forum in which different examples and experiences of deliberative democracies from different levels of governance will be presented (European, national, regional, and local).
On this occasion, high-level debates among relevant European representatives will be held in order to discuss the state of deliberative democracy and the new ways of citizens' engagement. The panel discussions will be followed by the presentation of a total of 6 case studies from different contexts and levels of governance. Afterwards, participants will be invited to exchange in breakout sessions and to brainstorm on main conclusions regarding the challenges & opportunities of European deliberative democracy, and the recommendations to better improve the citizens' engagement.

The report of the Forum will aim at compiling the main conclusions of the discussions, mainly focusing on those that:
- Help the EU to formulate/design its deliberative policies/approaches in Europe and for its international cooperation programmes;
- Highlight the opportunities and challenges of citizen assemblies as well to allow for an exchange of lessons learned from different forms of deliberative processes;
- Discuss the options of relationship between those assemblies and representative bodies/governments and elaborate - based on the experiences from the case studies - recommendations for different options of structured engagement of citizens in policy making.

B. <u>A comprehensive publication composed of the compilation of practices from selected case studies;</u>
Following the forum, the 6 case studies will be compiled, based on the following criteria:
- The good practice model has innovative elements;
- The good practice model has achieved and recorded concrete results;
- The achieved results are relevant to the people living in the region, municipality, commune;
- The good practice model is sustainable and replicable to other regions, municipalities, communes.

The compilation of the case studies can also include references to other practices from other countries, regions, local communities or levels of government, in addition to previously identified best practice examples, displayed in the event.

Further details will be provided in regards to the structure of the presentation of best practice models of deliberative democracy (max. 4 pages for presenting at the Forum to be elaborated to 20-page documentation/Case after the forum for a comprehensive publication)

C. <u>A publication-launch conference report with the main impact and conclusions of the overall project.</u>

The first draft of the study shall be delivered by **<u>14 September 2022.</u>** After the author has provided a first draft, ENoP and AER shall review and assess the contribution. ENoP and AER retain the right to request changes to the first draft, with clear instructions how and where to revise the first draft, if necessary. The author shall deliver the **final version of the study by** <u>14 October 2022</u>. The final version shall include recommendations and references to the main impact and general conclusions of the overall project.

8. Key competencies and experience of author

The author will be selected on the basis of the following set of key competencies and experiences:

- Senior expert on deliberative democracy, with at least 7 years of relevant professional or academic experience on the topic of deliberative democracy and citizens' assemblies;
- Experience with developing publications, papers and/or articles on topics related to democracy-related topics;
- Previous engagement and/or cooperation with civil society and other organisations organisations that have experience with deliberative democracies;
- Participation in international, regional or national events related to forms of deliberative democracy, such as forums, working groups, high-level political meetings, workshops, etc. is considered an asset;
- Understanding of the EU's development and democracy support policies, with a strong focus on cooperation with civil society and political parties in partner countries is an asset;
- Fluent in English (both, spoken and written).

9. Draft timeline and estimated duration of the assignment

- Start of the assignment: 01 June 2022
- First draft delivery: 14 September 2022
- Study delivery deadline: 14 October 2022
- Presentation of Study on Launch Event: October – November 2022

Study Components	Number of Days
Participation at the ENoP – AER Forum	2 days
Research, interviews and writing (including draft, revisions and final version)	42 days
Publication launch event	1 day
Mission's Total Days	**45 days**

10. Application procedure

- Candidates should address their applications to ENoP acting Policy & Liaison Officer Jasmina Mršo by email to: jasmina.mrso@enop.eu
- Deadline: **26 May 2022**
- Applications should include:
- CV
- Cover letter
- Links to published articles and studies
- 3 recent relevant publications in PDF format or as a URL link
- PDFs or URL links of additional publication would be considered an asset
- Detailed service price quote for the assignment