

Key learnings

KNOCA Learning Call on Denmark's Climate Assembly (Borgertinget på klimaområdet), 2 March 2022.

Participants

Panel: Lars Klüver, Danish Board of Technology (facilitator); Britta Gernaey (citizen); Ingrid Helene Brandt Jensen, University of Copenhagen (observer).

Task of the assembly

To contribute and provide recommendations to the political process of climate transition, with particular focus on topics relevant to the citizens (as chosen by participants).

Learnings

- While the assembly shares similarities with other assemblies – civic lottery, honorarium, facilitated learning and deliberation, collective writing of recommendations – it has important differences:
 1. The assembly was established in a political agreement leading up to the Danish Climate Act to feed into the yearly policy cycle for climate policy.
 2. It ran in two phases – October 2020 to April 2021 and then October 2021 to December 2021 – to feed into two policy cycles. One third of members participated across both phases.
 3. The assembly members had a large degree of control over the framing of the themes discussed in the assembly. In the first phase, participants brainstormed on themes following expert inputs (a more top-down approach). In the second phase, members spent the first weekend settling on the themes of the assembly without having heard from experts (a more bottom-up approach).
 4. The assembly was delivered with a significantly low budget.
- Panel members agreed that a mix of top-down and bottom-up approaches to framing themes is desirable in the future. This would combine requests from commissioners for members to consider politically pertinent issues, but the process should also be open for members to consider themes they believe to be important.
- The recommendations are structured following a template including (1) observations and (2) assessments of the current context, and (3) recommendations to provide clear motivations and justifications, thereby lowering the risk of public officials misinterpreting the recommendations.
- The recommendations of the assembly are being treated equally to those from climate partnerships established with major social interests.
- Civil servants are generally enthusiastic about the assembly although the variety of inputs to the policy process makes it difficult to trace the impact of the recommendations.
- The level of broader public knowledge of the assembly is limited.
- The wording of the political agreement establishing the assembly means that it could continue its activities if there is political will.

[KNOCA summary of the assembly process](#)

[Final report from the first phase \(in English\)](#)

KNOCA Learning Call video [link to be added]