

Climate assemblies: emerging trends, challenges and opportunities

A report of the Knowledge Network
on Climate Assemblies
April 2023

Lead author:
Graham Smith, Chair of KNOCA



Knowledge network on climate assemblies (KNOCA)

KNOCA is a **European-based network** funded by the European Climate Foundation that documents climate assembly practice, identifies and disseminates best practice for impact – and shapes future practice

650+ members from 39 countries (including policy officials, practitioners, academics, activists)

You can find our **guidance** and **join us** at <https://knoca.eu/>



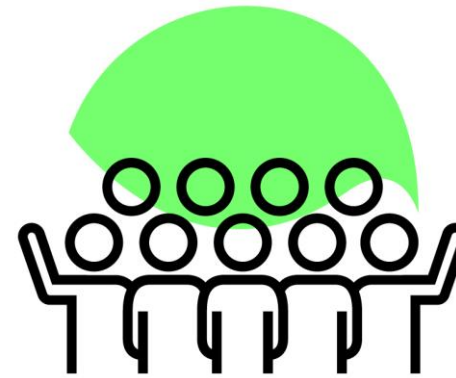
Our question

How can climate assemblies be integrated more effectively into our political system so that their impacts on climate governance are more robust and sustained?

Why participation in climate governance

- ✓ More robust and ambitious climate policy that reflects the interests, needs and attitudes of citizens
- ✓ Challenge embedded social and climate inequalities
- ✓ Break political deadlocks and increase confidence and willingness of political leaders to act on climate
- ✓ Increase legitimacy and public acceptance of action as transition impacts people more directly
- ✓ Develop more climate aware and politically confident citizenry that will take action at individual and collective level

Documenting climate assemblies

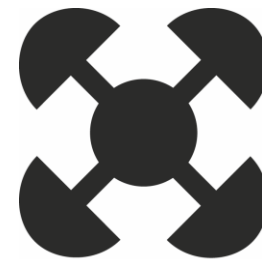


DER KLIMARAT



An **Tionól Saoránach**



The **Citizens' Assembly**



Global Assembly

-  Regional Assembly
-  National Assembly



Lesson 1. Variation in practice

Commissioners

Remits

Resources

Commitment to act

Etc...

Lesson 2. Variation in impacts

Even though practice is limited....

- ✓ Impact on policy

Irish Climate Action Bill (2020); French Climate and Resilience Bill (2021)

- ✓ Impact on institutions

UK Climate Change Committee; Irish Joint Parliamentary Committee on Climate Action; social partnership in Denmark

- ✓ Impact on public

Public debate in France; level of awareness of assembly in Austria

- ✓ Impact on participants

Evidence from UK that impact on attitudes and behaviours of members sustained and enhanced

Best practice for impact

Where to improve practice

- ✓ Definition of appropriate remit
- ✓ Transparency and communication of the process
- ✓ Scepticism of climate actors
- ✓ Integration in the political system

Key KNOCA projects

- ✓ Embedding climate assemblies
 - ✓ Institutionalising climate assemblies
 - ✓ Communicating climate assemblies
 - ✓ Playbook for climate NGOs
 - ✓ Selecting and presenting evidence
 - ✓ Engaging stakeholders
 - ✓ Supporting participants post-assembly
 - ✓ Innovations at sub-national level
 - ✓ Impact evaluation framework 2.0
- More comprehensive and accessible guidance for impact

And finally...

Thank you to the KNOCA community for helping us co-create knowledge and guidance through workshops and other activities

It's been productive – we are shaping the future together

And it's been fun 😊

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