

Supporting participants post-assembly

KNOCA Annual Event: Innovation market session
June 21st, 2023

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Fonden Teknologirådet · Arnold Nielsens Boulevard 68E · DK - 2650 Hvidovre
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KNOCA Innovation market session:

Supporting participants post assembly

Key question: How do we design good processes for navigating the different roles for citizens during and after assemblies which ensures to build on the increased agency and motivation of participants while keeping both legitimacy and impact?

Time	What	Who
5 min.	<u>Introduction</u> Why support participants post-assembly?	Morten (DBT)
10-15 min.	<u>Case presentation and Q&A</u> A community organizing case from the Danish municipality of Hørsholm	Mads (DBT)
15-20 min.	<u>Discussion</u> What are the potentials and pitfalls of supporting participants post-assembly?	Everybody

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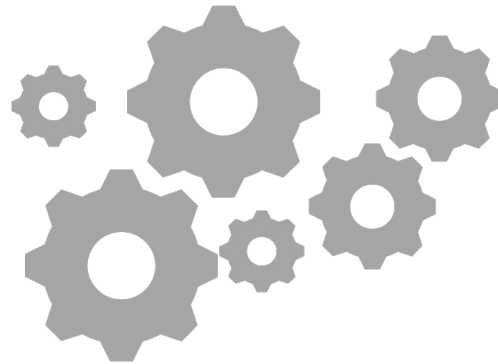
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Why support participants post-assembly?

What is the problem, we're trying to solve with assemblies?



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Why support participants post-assembly?

- The political trust and efficacy of citizens is one of the most valuable resources in a democracy. And particularly fragile these years.
- It is a treasure that we have a particular responsibility to protect.
- Participatory processes can affect the political trust of citizens in both directions.
- The more we see the process from the perspective of the participants, the better we are able to protect and build their political trust and efficacy.
- This includes not stopping at the last assembly meeting, just because this was what the political system wanted. We must ask: **what do the citizens need?**

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For **what** purpose?

1. To spread the idea of deliberative and participatory processes and decision-making in other areas such as workplaces, financial institutions etc.
 - Ambassadors of deliberative democracy
2. To speak up in public (increasing awareness and embedding the recommendations in the broader public and into the political system closing the circle)
 - Opinion leading through public narrative (storytelling)
3. To organize their local community or peers around collective climate action
 - Agents of sustainable behaviour change

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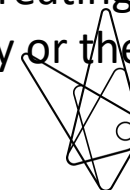
How can participants be supported post-assembly?

If we zoom out and see climate assemblies as part of a democratic eco-system, we can see that there are (at least) three interconnected and important corner stones to be in place for achieving the strong systemic benefits of supporting participants post-assembly:

- 1. Collective action:** Developing informal leadership and coaching participants to build a base/constituency around shared action and outreach
- 2. Opinion leadership:** Training participants in public narrative – finding their voice and breaking through media
- 3. Building ecosystems and structures** for gathering, broadening dialogue, taking action and celebrating successes - Creating low barrier entry points by offering an occasion for collective action (Such as NHS Action Day or the Danish National Climate Action Day)

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A case from the Danish municipality of Hørsholm



A case from the Danish municipality of Hørsholm

The Climate Citizens Panel in Hørsholm (November 2022)

- Remit: "We need your help with prioritizing how Hørsholm Municipality becomes a climate neutral and climate robust municipality."
- Open invitation to all citizens of the municipality over 16 years using Digital Post and stratified sortition. Representative on age, gender, education and area of living.
- 24 citizens met four times within one month and handed over their recommendations on November 28 in 2022.
- The municipal council was committed to receive, listen to and respond to the recommendations.

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A case from the Danish municipality of Hørsholm

Post-assembly training program (January-February 2023)

- **Purpose:** To transform the newly gained climate knowledge and motivation of the participants to build leadership around collective climate action in their local communities
- **Method:** Public action learning in community organizing five core leadership practices
- **Focus:** Building public relationships and training public narratives

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A case from the Danish municipality of Hørsholm

Post-assembly training program (January-February 2023)

- “Masterclass in Climate Action” (framing by the municipality officials)
- Commissioned by the municipality
- All members of the Citizens’ Panel where invited to participate
- 12 out of the 24 panel members participated in the training program
- 13 other citizens participated as well recruited through an open invitation for all citizens of the municipality.
- In April 2023 the participants arranged a “Green dinner” for their fellow citizens at the local library as part of the National Climate Action Day – making a pledge to reducing their environmental footprint together

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Post-assembly training program (content)

Day 1: What recommendations from the Citizens Panel do YOU care about and who can you organize to act on it?

- Translating the recommendations through their personal values (story telling) and finding out who their **constituency** can be
- The difference between community and constituency lies in the commitment to take action to realise common goals.

Day 2: Relationship building: How to build strong public relationships through one-on-ones

- Building public relationships through 1:1 (combining interests and resources) is an effective way to 1) build up democratic competencies, 2) politicize personal experiences and thus transform the feeling of sharing a common political fight.

Day 3: Strategic and effective collective action: The sustainable balance between mobilizing and using resources

- Setting meaningful goals and creating a campaign arrow
- The difference between strategy and tactics
- A celebration ritual marking the end of the training program with a an external and internal symbol to motivate the participants to go out and find even more organizers

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Facilitating an evolution of leadership

From our experiences with training marginal voices in Denmark there is an evolution of informal leadership that can be summarized, but not restricted to, the following four steps:

1. “What is it you are asking me to do? I know nothing. I am nobody” (low political efficacy)
2. Finding a personal “why” through public storytelling building up a stronger voice e.g. through success experience with publishing an opinion piece or the like
3. Finding the 15-20% strongest and coaching them to become public voices for their community and influencing the agenda.
4. Participating in leadership development training where they can find and define their community and learn the five leadership practices.

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Q&A and discussion

- What are the potentials and pitfalls of supporting participants post-assembly?
- How do we design good processes for navigating the different roles for citizens during and after assemblies which ensures to build on the increased agency and motivation of participants while keeping both legitimacy and impact?

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