Designing follow-up to climate assemblies: towards KNOCA guidance
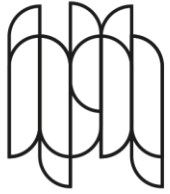
Graham Smith

Chair of KNOCA

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

KNOCA

Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies

KNOCA BRIEFING NO.8

DESIGNING THE FOLLOW-UP TO CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES: EMBEDDING RECOMMENDATIONS WITHIN THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Frederik Langkjær and Graham Smith

September 2023

This a draft Briefing that will be finalised after the KNOCA workshop Designing Follow-up to Climate Assemblies on 27 September 2023

KNOCA is a European-based network that aims to improve the commissioning, design, implementation, impact and evaluation of climate assemblies, using evidence, knowledge exchange and dialogue. KNOCA documents climate assembly practice, identifies and disseminates best practice for impact and shapes future trends. You can find us and join KNOCA at https://knoca.eu/

https://knoca.eu/designing-the-follow-up-to-climate-assemblies/

Draft briefing to be finalised after the Workshop

More specific KNOCA Guidance to follow

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

The challenge

Plenty of evidence that everyday people willing and able to learn, deliberate and come to robust recommendations on climate policy

But often poorly integrated into decision making by commissioning (or receiving) public authority and relevant stakeholders

Why?

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Why failure to "land"?

Timing and fit with policy cycle

Political will

Preparation of public administration (and relevant stakeholders)

Why failure to "land"?

Timing and fit with policy cycle

Political will

Preparation of public administration (and relevant stakeholders)

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Tensions between different logics

Logic of public governance

Logic of electoral politics

Logic of deliberative democracy

Question to consider

What needs to be in place to better embed recommendations from assemblies into decision making?

- What structures/processes need to be in place *within* administration to better integrate recommendations?

- What structures/processes need to be in place to *monitor/oversee* administrative action?

- Which actors need to be activated – e.g., assembly members, politicians, civil servants, stakeholders

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Scotland's Climate Assembly

Climate Change Act

Governance bodies remained in place

- Secretariat (seconded civil servants), Stewarding Group (multi-stakeholder body) and Expert Group

Sponsorship Team

Ministerial support

Parliament plenary debate

Assembly members

Government response

Assembly reconvened

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Learning from other assemblies

Ireland

Joint Parliamentary Committee considers Assembly recommendations
Committee and Assembly reports sent to government

Luxembourg

Cross-departmental team led by Prime Minister's Chief of Staff
Internal reporting tool (Excel sheet!) publicly accessible

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Key take aways

Carefully consider how to integrate key actors into assembly process – before, during and after

> Politicians
>
> Public officials
>
> Stakeholders
>
> Members of assembly, etc.

Spend as much time and energy on preparing administration (and other stakeholders) to receive recommendations as on preparing the assembly ☺

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Towards KNOCA guidance

Time assembly with policy cycle

Political support and dedicated time and resources

Clarify responsibilities, structures, processes and timelines before assembly begins

    Dedicated follow-up team
    Internal reporting tool
    Governance bodies remain in place
    Awareness raising of assembly across authority
    Integration of parliament/full council into process
    Public reporting in short (3-6 months) and long (1-2 years) term

Capacity building for assembly members

Additional assembly weekend after 6-12 months

Independent accountability board

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies

Open questions

Is this the right sort of guidance? What's missing?

What can be reasonably expected of politicians, public officials, contractors delivering assemblies, assembly members, stakeholders, etc.?

What can the KNOCA community do to ensure prioritisation of follow-up in climate assembly projects?

KNOCA
Knowledge Network On Climate Assemblies