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Panel on Citizen Engagement:
The methodology of enhancing the diversity and representativity of citizens' assemblies

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REAL DEAL Summit, CEU Democracy Institute

Budapest, Hungary

20 June 2024

Recruitment and sortition for climate and environment themed CAs

Herefordshire Citizens' Climate Assembly, 2022

Birmingham Citizens' Panel on getting to net zero in the home, 2022

Northern Ireland: New electricity infrastructure route, 2022

Nature and Us Citizens' Assembly, Wales, 2023

Barnet CA on sustainable future, 2023

Germany: national conversation about nutrition and food, 2023

Ergon Energy Network / Energex Voice of the Customer Panel, Queensland,

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Inclusion / representativeness

OECD: 11 good practice principles for deliberative processes for public decision making, including:

- **“inclusiveness”** (achieved by considering how to involve under-represented groups)
- **“representativeness”**

We pursue: optimal recruitment methodology; monitoring, testing

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Traditional recruitment processes

Info » registration of interest » more demographic data » pool of respondents » selection algorithm (stratified: profiles selected reflect the overall population profile)

Letters, phone calls: Lower education levels result in a lower response rate; a disproportionately high number of highly educated people among the respondents pool. Besides socio-economic status, attitudinal distortions.

To reduce the distorting effect:

- sending a disproportionate number of invitations to more deprived areas. (80% of addresses randomly selected, 2nd step: 20% from areas with IMD score of at most 3).
- hybrid recruitment strategy including targeted door-knocking

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Democratic Odyssey

SORTITION EUROPE

You are invited

to have your say on the future of the European Union as part of the Democratic Odyssey, a project organised by a group of European organisations.

You could be one of 200 people selected by lottery to take part in the People's Assembly for Europe in Athens.

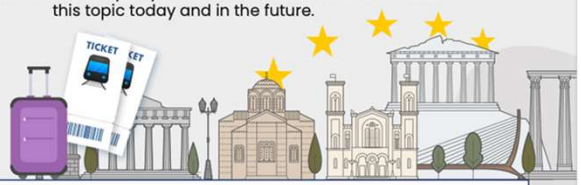
Take part and receive €150!

"Reflecting on your experience of recent crises, what needs to change for the EU to overcome future storms?"

The organizers want to hear from YOU.

Join the Democratic Odyssey to let the EU know how it can tackle this topic today and in the future.

All transport to and accommodation in Athens (and possible future venues) will be paid and organised for you.



TWO EASY WAYS TO **REGISTER TODAY**

Text
"Yes, Count Me In!"
To +43 678 907 027 3969

OR

Scan here to register online or go to **sortition.eu/XXXX**

Did you find this invitation in your letterbox?

This means we called at your house but you were not at home, so we left this in your letterbox. Everyone in your household who is 16 years old and over is welcome to register. To talk to someone before registering, text "Yes, I am interested, please call me" to +36 123 456 789 and we'll call you back.

Take part and receive 150 EUR. **Deadline to register: 7 July 2024**

Vous voulez lire ceci en français?
Vuoi leggerlo in italiano?
Szeretnéd ezt magyarul olvasni?
Want to read this in English?
sortition.eu/XXXX

How does a People's Assembly work?

Why me?

The organisers of the Democratic Odyssey want to hear people's opinions on important questions related to the EU – and let the EU know.

We selected your neighbourhood by lottery, from every neighbourhood in the EU.

We knock on your door to give you this letter and invite you to register your interest. Everyone in your household who is 16 years old and over can register – see below!

After the close of registration we will select by lottery (from all those who registered) the members of the People's Assembly for Europe, and you will be contacted if you are selected.

Weekend in Athens:
from Friday 27 to Sunday 29 September, 2024.
(You may also be selected for future meetings online and in person in Vienna and Florence in 2025.)

If you are selected by lottery, you go to Athens and talk to people from all walks of life from all over Europe on what should be done and then you make decisions.

All your transport and accommodation is paid for you and you will receive 150 EUROs (ZZZ Currency) as a thank-you for your time.

The group's recommendations are handed to EU decision-makers.

YOUR opinion is important to us.

See sortition.eu/XXXX for more information.

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Two-step Lottery: Step 2 is “solved”

Step 2: randomly select, in a “fair” way, a representative sample from your pool

- Use our open-source software!
- “Fair Algorithms for selecting citizens’ assemblies”
- Can use the same technique to find replacements

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03788-6

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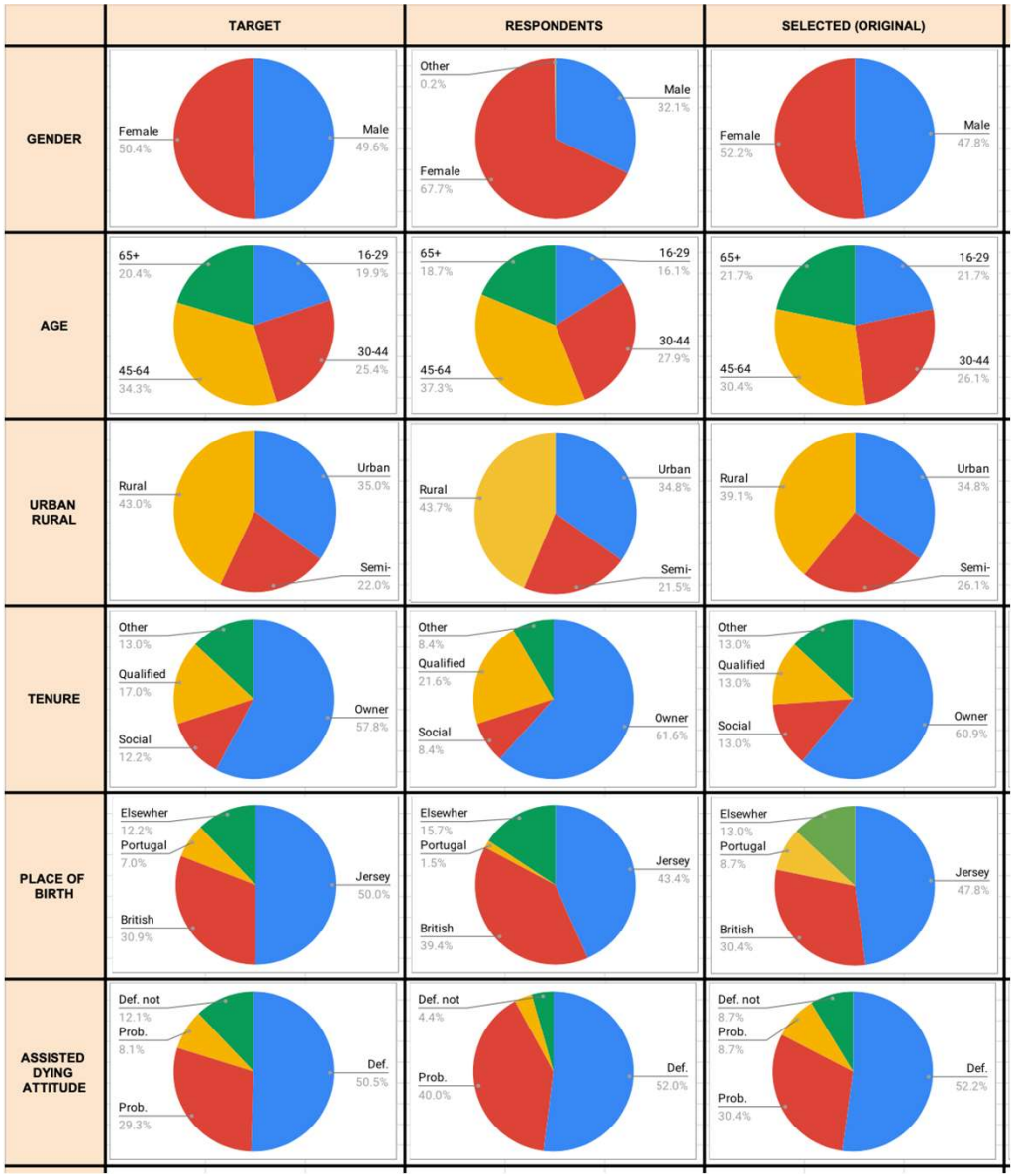

Typical Step 2 Results

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Step 1 of the Two-step Lottery:

- NOT open invitation, i.e. not Facebook etc
- Everyone **should have a equal chance** of getting an invitation
- How and which database?
  - **Mailout**, people from residents register (HU, BE, NL) or postal database (UK, Aus, can be done in DE)
  - **Random phone dialing** (FR, EU, national or higher level?)
  - **Government contact portal / email** (Denmark, etc)
  - **In-person** / door-knocking (Ireland, Scotland, Global CA, our EU-proposed method – partners' network in each member state)

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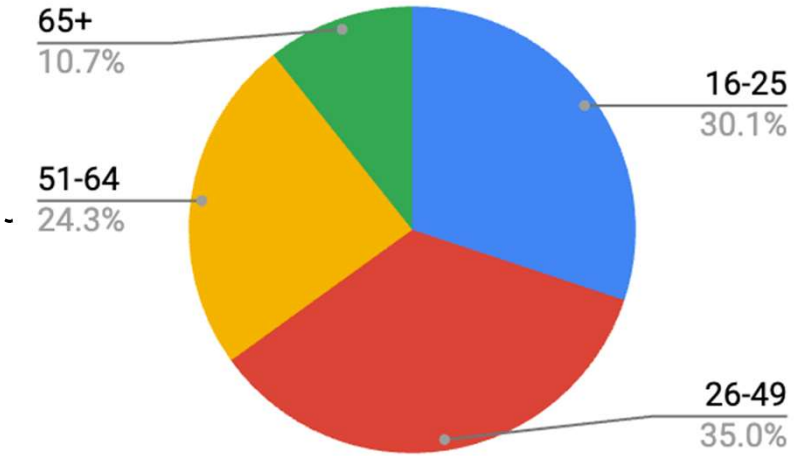
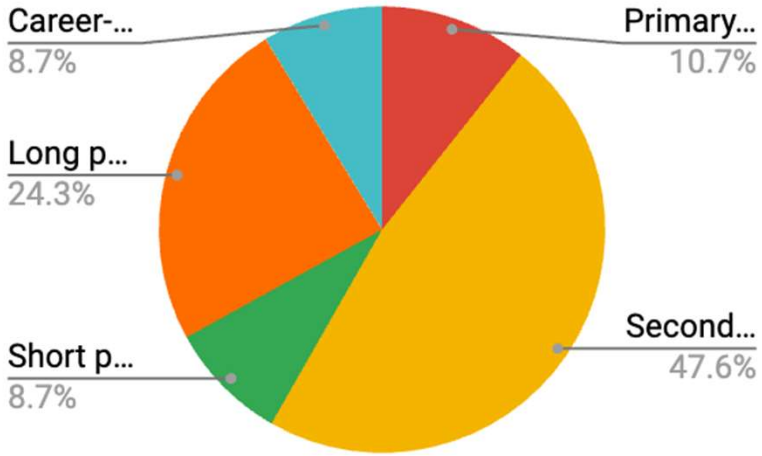
Door-knocking methodology

ECP recruitment Spring 2024, SORT-EU Network; focusing on young and lower educated people.





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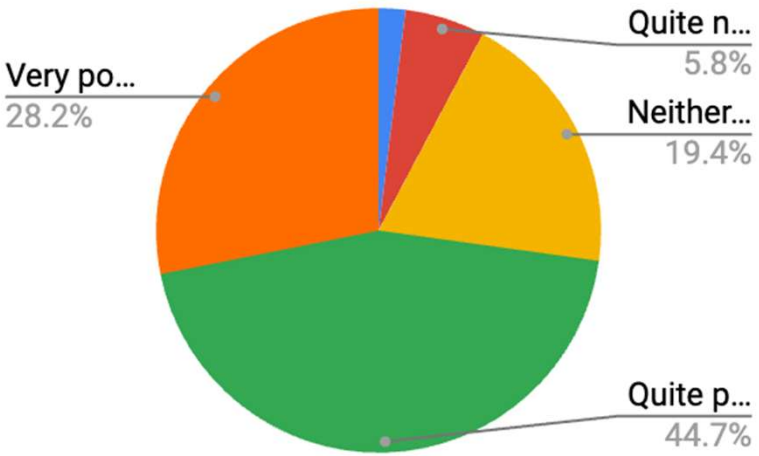
Other “extras” – more data

Attitudinal questions – to foster deliberation and include more possible viewpoints related to the theme of the CA

Why people say no (“pitch” to get more answers to this question, worthy of more research and also useful for shaping recruitment methodology)

Example: EU views



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