



# Locating government and public institutions in institutionalisation

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We define institutionalisation as embedding the principles and practices of participatory and deliberative democracy into existing governance structures in such a way that they become a normal part of how a government or institutions work.

The OECD in its paper “Eight Ways to Institutionalise Deliberative Democracy,” lists options and provides a helpful analysis of what is required to deliver them, with examples of where they are working.<sup>6</sup> These need not be mutually exclusive and could be seen as cumulative ways to embed deliberative processes, starting small and building both capacity and impact. I would also add two other categories. Firstly, transnational assemblies attached to international organisations, such as the Conference on the Future of

Europe, which led to advice on institutionalising the use of assemblies in the European Union’s institutions.<sup>7</sup> Secondly, there is a flourishing of permanent assemblies established to address a specific topic, such as the climate emergency. As an example, the Basque region has recently passed legislation to establish a permanent climate assembly supported by all three levels of public authorities in the region.



6. *Eight ways to institutionalise deliberative democracy* (oecd-ilibrary.org)

7. [Next Level Citizens Participation in the EU.pdf](#) (europa.eu) and more recently the advice from the European Commission above at footnote 3



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4. [Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy: Preparing the Ground for Government Action | en | OECD C\\_2023\\_8627\\_1\\_EN\\_ACT\\_part1\\_v7.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#) European Commission recommendation on promoting the engagement and effective participation of citizens and civil society in public policy making, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023
  5. *Exceptions to this pattern include countries like Ireland, Scotland, and Singapore where capabilities around deliberative engagement have been primarily developed inside the public service.*











## References

- Civicus Monitor. n.d. *Monitor Tracking Civic Space* in [this link](#)
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- Scottish Government. 2022. *Report of the Institutionalising Participatory and Deliberative Democracy Working Group* in [this link](#)
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