



Ireland Success

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This is best illustrated by the success of the citizen assemblies run by the Irish Government. Initially linked to revisions of the Irish constitution, assemblies took on contentious subjects where the population were ahead of the politicians, such as abortion and marriage equality. The early success strengthened confidence among political leadership; assemblies are seen as a priority by the civil servants asked to deliver them. The process was given sufficient independence to be credible and have been

integrated into the existing democratic processes. The recommendations of the Assemblies were debated in the Legislature and contentious findings were put to a population-wide referenda. The result is that participants joining Irish assemblies do so now because it is seen as the way the country tackles difficult issues. So are they institutionalised within the workings of government—there is a permanent unit based in the office of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister) with its own budget, capabilities, and mandate.⁹



9. *Where could I find more information?: KNOCA, OECD, EU, Participedia (give me a ring?)*