



Participating?

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Additionally, the level of direct involvement of politicians in deliberative processes is one that needs careful thought. Power already resides with politicians and as individuals they are trained to debate with impact. And while their advocacy and support is vital in the governance arrangements, where the public and politicians come together as part of a deliberative process, care must be taken with the design to ensure they are there to listen and engage – not dominate. This is best seen when it is associated with a legislature as in Brussels.

Which parts are hard? What are common obstacles?

- The speed at which governments work – commissioning an in-depth deliberative assembly takes months and requires careful design and planning as well as the time for the participants to learn and deliberate. By which time the policy position within government may have moved on.
- In many places the use of deliberative processes is over dependent on prominent actors who have power (and could therefore lose it) – political, civil servants or very active

NGOs there is a constant need to build a coalition that values hearing the views of the public.

What strategies might overcome these obstacles?

- As successes are recognised, it makes it easier to develop a long term plan to embed it in legislation or regulation, develop training and guidance packages and to promote widely.
- Making it core to governments work, means training staff to use the models in the right places to answer the right questions, understanding impact and accountability are vital. Building skilled teams able to guide commissioning, provide training and build confidence so that it is seen as a core part of the decision making process.
- Make it easy for public servants to commission, have open and transparent procurement processes that can maintain standards while speeding up the process.
- The role of civil society and practitioners are key, continually
- Good communications with the public about the process and the outcomes.