

INTRODUCTION

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOR THE GOOD AND THE RESPECT OF THE POPULATION

Citizen Assemblies (CA) are a form of **horizontal democracy**. It is a process by which **ordinary people** make political decisions.

In the world, this process is multiplying. It has enabled citizens from twenty to several hundred people to transform policy-making in **Australia**, **Belgium**, **Canada** (electoral reform), **Chile** (new constitution), **France** (climate), **Geneva** (urbanism), **India** (territory and agriculture), **Ireland** (same-sex marriage and abortion), **Iceland** (new Constitution), the **Netherlands** (electoral reform), **Poland** (floods) and the **United Kingdom** (climate).

Popular movements around the world also express this deep aspiration for a true democracy from the population. The most famous movements are XR Extinction Rebellion (**Mondial**), **Yellow Vests** (**France**), Greta Thunberg (**Mondial**), Los indignados (**Spain**), Nuits debout (**Paris**), Occupy (**NY-USA**), and many others.

In a **Citizens' Assembly**, a group of citizens representing the population, chosen at random, reflect on a question of public interest proposed by the government or the population. The objective is to gather a representative sample of society. (Avoiding specialists of the chosen theme among citizens.) In general, participants **hear from experts, opponents, stakeholders and ask questions. Then deliberate** (professional moderator) and **make projects or laws** (lawyers) that will shape municipal, cantonal or federal politics. These **hearings and deliberations** promote a collective reflection **oriented SOLUTIONS**. We believe that the public should have the opportunity to determine how the government is responding to priorities or emergencies identified by the public. (**CA, Initiatives and Ideas' Site.**)

Experience has shown **how competent the people are**, thanks to the **Collective Intelligence (CI)**. But it is essential that public institutions invest these assemblies with a **REAL POWER OF DECISION**. **Otherwise**, they will become meaningless devices and will further reinforce mistrust of the government and the political world.

CAs will allow politicians to deal with all kinds of issues and even the most urgent or sensitive without worrying about election deadlines. Whether for the planet or to avoid too many discontented people who, in some cases, end up causing demonstrations! In fact, by going through **CA**, the demonstrations will become much less relevant see «obsolete». Provided that policies take into account the real needs of the population, expressed through **CAs**, and that politicians stop acting in fonction of hidden factors that escape popular understanding (lobby, cronyism, corruption, etc.), then protests and absenteeism will decrease.

HOW DOES A «DECISION-MAKING» CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY WORK?

They are a form of deliberative or participatory or **horizontal democracy**. They are an essential complement to the system of representative democracy and where the draws will represent the plurality of the commune, the canton or the whole country. Popular participation balances a representative system that prioritizes short-term electoral gains over the long-term needs of current and future generations. Deliberative processes having been

well informed and supported by guarantees against external pressures (State & lobby), lead to better results than in an elected body, such as a parliament (Grand Council) or a government. Furthermore, **DCA's** citizens are not “chosen” to represent political parties or will not be influenced by lobbyists and are therefore free to make decisions solely **on the basis of new knowledge acquired**, their own views, values and group reflections. All this brings decisions for the common good. It is well known, decisions taken by a **Collective Intelligence (CI)**, always gives better results than what a decision maker can do.

WORK CRITERIA OR **ETHICS**, BASED ON THE CITIZEN CLIMATE CONVENTION IN FRANCE (2020)

- Aspire to the well-being and protection of the population.
- Ensure the development, protection and development of **Craft**, **Very Small Business (VSB)** and **Small and Medium-sized Business (SMB)**. They represent 99.84% of companies and 70-80% of jobs in France. (INSEE 2017+AI)
- Tax **Justice** and Social **Equity**.
- The protection of fauna, flora and therefore **biodiversity** must become a priority. (**Ecological and Climate Emergency**)

CAS MUST HAVE DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

As is already the case with the **Popular Initiatives** in Switzerland, we ask the government to create **Citizens' Assemblies of Decisional nature**. **Partial referendums** on items amended or rejected by Parliament or the government will be launched, at the request of the **DCA**. For each amended proposal, the people will have to choose between the proposal made by the **DCA** and that of Parliament. The optional referendum is still possible for items that have been accepted by Parliament. (For more information, see true-democracy.info in doc.)

The vote which consists in accepting or refusing all the proposals is no longer appropriate, because against productive and can even go so far as to bias the result expected by the people.

The requests made by the population, whatever the theme, or the results brought by the **CAs** must remain within the municipal, cantonal or federal jurisdiction.

CONCLUSIONS

- The **Decision-making Citizens' Assemblies** will provide the country, the cantons (districts, states, provinces) and the municipalities with the means to achieve change. **DCAs** give the government the legitimacy to act and allows the support of the majority of parties. Continuing not to act is no longer an option. It's time to organize **DCAs**.
- A government that listens and acts for the good of the people means that the people no longer need to show their discontent on the streets, in the face of inaction.

So let's support the creation of **DCA**, for the good of the people and the country.

Do not hesitate to contact us for more information

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