**Online Supplementary File**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Table A1.** The overview of the minipublics in Belgium between 2001 and 2021[[1]](#footnote-1) | | | | | | |
| **minipublics** | **date** | **level** | **Type of commissioner** | **Participants** | **length** | **Items coded** |
| Quel brabant wallon pour demain ? | 2001 | Provincial | Executive | 62 | 3 | 20 |
| Burgerpanel on GMOs | 2003 | Regional | Parliament | 15 | 9 | 15 |
| Lire dans mes gênes ? | 2003 | Federal | Civil Society | 30 | 7 | 4 |
| Panels citoyens sur les OGM | 2003 | Federal | Executive | 17 | 2 | 24 |
| Panel citoyen sur la consommation | 2004 | Federal | Executive | 30 | 2 | 5 |
| Panel citoyen sur la sécurité alimentaire | 2004 | Federal | Public Administration | 30 | 2 | 10 |
| Meeting of Minds | 2005 | European | Executive | 21 | 6 | 33 |
| Panel citoyen sur la qualité de l’air | 2006 | Regional | Executive | 21 | 10 | 12 |
| Nos Campagnes demain en Europe | 2006 | Regional | Executive | 35 | 6 | 36 |
| Panel Citoyen Plan IRIS | 2006 | Regional | Executive | 30 | 4 | 4 |
| Burgerconventie - Auto & smog | 2007 | Regional | Parliament | 224 | 1 | 6 |
| Citizens' perspective on the future of Europe | 2007 | European | Executive | 132 | 3 | 17 |
| Burgerconventie COP 15 | 2009 | Global | Civil Society | 100 | 1 | 36 |
| Civisti | 2009 | European | Executive | 21 | 2 | 30 |
| European Citizens' Consultation in Belgium | 2009 | European | Executive | 49 | 2 | 12 |
| Radioactive Waste Management Plan | 2010 | Federal | Public Administration | 32 | 6 | 5 |
| G1000 | 2011 | Federal | Civil Society | 704 | 9 | 50 |
| Notre Futur | 2013 | Federal | Civil Society | 24 | 6 | 24 |
| BurgerLabo | 2014 | Federal | Public Administration | 32 | 9 | 28 |
| G100 Grez-Doiceau | 2014 | Local | Civil Society | 50 | 1 | 10 |
| Climacteurs | 2015 | Regional | Executive | 55 | 1 | 7 |
| ouderpanel | 2015 | Regional | Executive | 22 | 6 | 4 |
| Parlement Citoyen climat | 2015 | Provincial | Parliament | 33 | 6 | 8 |
| Canal Citoyen ! | 2016 | Local | Civil Society | 30 | 1 | 8 |
| Pacte d'Excellence - Conférence citoyenne sur le redoublement | 2016 | Regional | Executive | 116 | 1 | 6 |
| Pacte d'excellence - Panel citoyen | 2016 | Regional | Executive | 24 | 6 | 7 |
| Gents Burgerkabinet | 2017 | Local | Executive | 50 | 3 | 9 |
| Louvain-La-Neuve - Panel citoyen pour l'Esplanade | 2017 | Local | Civil Society | 98 | 1 | 33 |
| Brussels - Make Your Mobility | 2017 | Regional | Parliament | 38 | 4 | 12 |
| Panel citoyen sur la petite enfance | 2017 | Regional | Parliament | 22 | 3 | 14 |
| Panel citoyen sur les enjeux du vieillissement | 2017 | Regional | Parliament | 27 | 3 | 10 |
| Parlement Citoyen - Quelle Europe pour demain | 2017 | Regional | Parliament | 83 | 2 | 31 |
| Verviers - Fabrique de liens citoyens | 2017 | Local | Executive | 1 | 5 | 10 |
| We Are Molenbeek | 2017 | Local | Executive | 112 | 1 | 4 |
| Make My Administration | 2018 | Federal | Public Administration | 46 | 2 | 7 |
| Mon ADN, tous concernés | 2018 | Federal | Executive | 29 | 6 | 10 |
| Pacte d'excellence - Conférence du Consensus | 2018 | Regional | Executive | 116 | 1 | 4 |
| Panel citoyen sur la propreté à Enghien | 2018 | Local | Executive | 15 | 3 | 10 |
| Panel citoyen sur les jeunes en Wallonie | 2018 | Regional | Parliament | 27 | 4 | 17 |
| Agora Citoyenne sur la forêt | 2019 | provincial | Public Administration | 34 | 6 | 20 |
| Louvain-La-Neuve - SOL panel ciotyen | 2019 | Local | Executive | 25 | 5 | 6 |
| Ostbelgien - Burgerdialog | 2019 | Regional | Parliament | 28 | \*4 | 7 |
| Agora - Assemblée citoyenne | 2020 | Regional | Civil Society | 89 | \*6 | 25 |
| Auderghem - Assemblées citoyennes | 2020 | Local | Executive | 100 | \* | 14 |
| Brussels City—Conseils de quartier | 2020 | Local | Executive | 33 | \* | 31 |
| Burgerpanel—Mechelen | 2021 | Local | Executive | 27 | \*3 | 9 |
| Etterbeek—Conseils de quartier | 2021 | Local | Executive | 30 | 8 | 6 |
| G100 Oud Heverlee—Zoet Water | 2021 | Local | Executive | 50 | 3 | 27 |
| Overijse tax shift | 2021 | Local | Executive | 40 | 2 | 5 |
| RBC & COCOM— Commissions Délibératives | 2021 | Regional | Parliament | 45 | \*4 | 17 |
| Saint Gilles - Conseil Citoyen | 2021 | Local | Executive | 35 | \*4 | 13 |

**Table A2**. An overview of the data used for the thematic analysis.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **minipublics** | **date** | **Documents consulted** | **Authors** | **Items coded** | **Total** |
| Quel brabant wallon pour demain ? | 2001 | Official report | The organizors (Fondation pour les Générations Futures) | 20 | 20 |
| Burgerpanel on GMOs | 2003 | Official report | The organizers (het Vlaams Instituut voor Wetenschappelijk en Technologisch Aspecten Onderzoek (viWTA)) | 15 | 15 |
| Lire dans mes gênes ? | 2003 | Official report | The organizers (Fondation Roi Baudouin (FRB) | 4 | 4 |
| Panels citoyens sur les OGM | 2003 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 24 | 24 |
| Panel citoyen sur la consommation | 2004 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 5 | 5 |
| Panel citoyen sur la sécurité alimentaire | 2004 | Official report | The organizers (FRB, Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen, Federale Overheidsdienst Volksgezondheid) | 7 | 10 |
| Official meeting report for the follow-up | The organizer (Federaal Agentschap voor de Veiligheid van de Voedselketen) | 3 |
| Meeting of Minds | 2005 | Official report describing the methodology of the minipublic | The organizers (FRB) | 19 | 33 |
| Official report of the Belgian minipublic | The organizers (FRB) | 7 |
| Information flyer distributed to participants | The organizers (FRB) | 6 |
| Official Report | The organizers (viWTA) | 1 |
| Panel citoyen sur la qualité de l’air | 2006 | Official news report | The organizers (l'Administration de l'Environnement et de l'Energie de la Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 6 | 12 |
| Official report | The organizers (Service Education permanente Question Santé asbl, DG Culture - Ministère de la communauté Française) | 6 |
| Nos Campagnes demain en Europe | 2006 | Official Report of the European process | The organizors (Fondation pour les Générations Futures) | 35 | 42 |
| Official report of the Belgian minipublic | The organizors (Fondation pour les Générations Futures) | 7 |
| Panel Citoyen Plan IRIS | 2006 | Public parliamentary question | The initiating minister (Ministre chargé de la Mobilité et des Travaux publics de la Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 3 | 4 |
| Public report of the parliamentary commission | The initiating minister (Ministre chargé de la Mobilité et des Travaux publics de la Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 1 |
| Burgerconventie - Auto & smog | 2007 | Parliamentary meeting report after the minipublic | The organizers (viWTA) | 4 | 6 |
| Official report | The organizers (viWTA) | 1 |
| Executive summary of the official report | The organizers (viWTA) | 1 |
| Citizens' perspective on the future of Europe | 2007 | Press report | The initiators (European Commission) | 8 | 17 |
| Official report for the Belgian minipublic | The organizers (FRB, Athanor Médiations, Momentum, Cyrnao) | 5 |
| Official Report of the European process | The organizers (FRB and other European partners) | 4 |
| Burgerconventie COP 15 | 2009 | Official report of the global process | Organizers (Danish Board of Technology and other partners) | 15 | 35 |
| Press report | The initiating minister (Ministre chargé de la Mobilité et des Travaux publics de la Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 9 |
| Official report | The organizers (viWTA) | 8 |
| Information flyer distributed to participants | The organizers (viWTA) | 3 |
| Civisti | 2009 | Official Report of the European process | The organizers (viWTA, Danish Board of Technology and other partners) | 15 | 27 |
| Official report of the Belgian minipublic | The organizers (viWTA) | 10 |
| Magazine reporting the minipublic | Organizers (Danish Board of Technology) | 2 |
| European Citizens' Consultation in Belgium | 2009 | Offificial evaluation report | The organizers (FRB) | 10 | 12 |
| Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 2 |
| Radioactive Waste Management Plan | 2010 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 5 | 5 |
| G1000 | 2011 | Official report | The organizers (the G1000) | 45 | 45 |
| Notre Futur | 2013 | Official report | The organizors (Fondation pour les Générations Futures) | 20 | 24 |
| Official report | The organizors (Fondation pour les Générations Futures) | 4 |
| BurgerLabo | 2014 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 13 | 28 |
| Information flyer distributed to participants | The organizers (FRB) | 11 |
| Executive summary of the official report | The organizers (FRB) | 2 |
| Final official report of the whole consultation process | The organizers (FRB) | 2 |
| G100 Grez-Doiceau | 2014 | News article | Quote of the head organizer (a citizen) in the newspaper Le Soir | 5 | 10 |
| News article | Quote of the head organizer (a citizen) in the newspaper La Dernière Heure les Sports | 3 |
| Official website | The organizers | 2 |
| Climacteurs | 2015 | Official press report on the website | The initiators (Bruxelles Environnement) | 4 | 7 |
| Public Speech (found on the website of the then Minister) | The initiator (Ministre régionale bruxelloise de l'Environnement, de l'Energie et du logement de la Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 3 |
| Ouderpanel | 2015 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 2 | 4 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (minister in charge of the education for the Flemish Regional Authority) in Belga | 2 |
| Parlement Citoyen climat | 2015 | News article | Quote of the initiator (deputy in charge of sustainable development) in the newspaper L'Avenir | 3 | 8 |
| News article | Quotes of the initiator (deputy in charge of sustainable development) and a scientist accompanying the process, in the newspaper La Meuse | 3 |
| News article | Quote of the scientist accompanying the process, in the newspaper L'Avenir | 2 |
| Canal Citoyen ! | 2016 | Official report of the process | The initiators and organizers (Particitiz) | 7 | 8 |
| Official report with recommendations | The initiators and organizers (Particitiz) | 1 |
| Pacte d'Excellence - Conférence citoyenne sur le redoublement | 2016 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 6 | 6 |
| Pacte d'excellence - Panel citoyen | 2016 | Official report | The organizers (FRB) | 7 | 7 |
| Gents Burgerkabinet | 2017 | Evaluation report | The municipality | 6 | 9 |
| Council meeting report | The initiator (the mayor) | 3 |
| Louvain-La-Neuve - Panel citoyen pour l'Esplanade | 2017 | Final report | The organizers (l'Assemblée Générale des étudiant.e.s) | 30 | 30 |
| Brussels - Make Your Mobility | 2017 | Parliamentary meeting report after the minipublic | The Parliament of the Region of Bruxelles-Capitale | 5 | 12 |
| Parliamentary report of the minipublic | The Parliament of the Region of Bruxelles-Capitale | 2 |
| Final policy document | The public administration in charge of the follow-up (Bruxelles-Mobilité) | 3 |
| Final report | The organizers (Particitiz) | 2 |
| Panel citoyen sur la petite enfance | 2017 | Final report | The initiator (the president of the parliament of the German-speaking Community) | 6 | 14 |
| Public bid | The initiator (the Parliament of the German-speaking Community) | 8 |
| Panel citoyen sur les enjeux du vieillissement | 2017 | Official meeting report to launch the minipublic | The initiator (the President of the Parliament of Wallonia) | 4 | 10 |
| Official website | The initiator (the Parliament of Wallonia) | 4 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (President of the Parliament of Wallonia) in Le Soir | 2 |
| Parlement Citoyen - Quelle Europe pour demain | 2017 | Official report | Newspapers (La Dernère Heure-Les Sports & La Libre Belgique) in partership with the supporting scientific committee (Université Libre de Bruxelles) and the initators (the Bureau of the Parliament of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) | 23 | 30 |
| Official news report | The initiators (Parliament of the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles) | 5 |
| Final report | The organizers (public officials from the Pariament and the scientific committee from the Université Libre de Bruxelles) | 2 |
| Verviers - Fabrique de liens citoyens | 2017 | Official press report to launch the minipublic | The municipality | 7 | 10 |
| Official press report for the second meeting | The municipality | 2 |
| News article | Quote of the organizer (Periferia) in the newspaper Le Soir | 1 |
| We Are Molenbeek | 2017 | Evaluation report | The organizers (Particitiz) | 4 | 4 |
| Make My Administration | 2018 | Final report | The organizer (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) |  | 7 |
| Mon ADN, tous concernés | 2018 | Final report | The organizers (FRB) | 5 | 9 |
| Press report | The initiator (federaal Minister voor Volksgezondeheid and Scoial Zaken) | 2 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (federaal Minister voor Volksgezondeheid and Scoial Zaken), Radio 1 website | 2 |
| Pacte d'excellence - Conférence du Consensus | 2018 | Final report | The organizers (Atanor) | 2 | 4 |
| Launching report | The initiators (the minister of education of the French-speaking community) | 2 |
|
| Panel citoyen sur la propreté à Enghien | 2018 | News article | Quote of the initiator (the mayor of the municipality) in Nord Eclair | 5 | 8 |
| Magazine of the municipality | The initiator (the municipality) | 2 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (the mayor of the municipality) in Nord Eclair | 1 |
| Panel citoyen sur les jeunes en Wallonie | 2018 | Official website | The organizers (Parlement de Wallonie) | 10 | 14 |
| Official meeting report to launch the minipublic | The initiators (the president of the Parlement de Wallonie) | 4 |
| Agora Citoyenne sur la forêt | 2019 | Report | The organizers (Uliège, SEED) in the magazine Forêt.Nature | 18 | 20 |
| Official report | The organizers (Uliège, SEED) | 2 |
| Louvain-La-Neuve - SOL panel citoyen | 2019 | PowerPoint Presentation of the first meeting,accessible on website of the minipublic | The organizers (Impact) | 6 | 6 |
| Ostbelgien - Burgerdialog | 2019 | Official website | The organizers (the Parliement of the German-speaking Community) | 4 | 7 |
| The law which institutionalizes the minipublics | The initiators (elected representatives of the Parliament of the German-speaking Community) | 3 |
| Agora - Assemblée citoyenne | 2020 | Manifest of the political party | The organizers (the political party Agora) | 18 | 23 |
| Website of the citizens' assembly | The organizers (the political party Agora) | 5 |
| Auderghem - Assemblées citoyennes | 2020 | The rule book | The organizers (the municipality) | 14 | 14 |
| Brussels City – Conseils de quartier | 2020 | The charter of participation | The initiators (the municipality) | 19 | 29 |
| The rule book | The initiators (the municipality) | 5 |
| Official website | The initiators (the municipality) | 5 |
| Burgerpanel - Mechelen - | 2021 | Official website | The initiators (the municipality) | 7 | 9 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (Alderman of citizen participation) in Belga | 2 |
| Etterbeek – Conseils de quartier | 2021 | Rule book | The initiators (municipality) | 3 | 6 |
| News article | Quote from the initiator (the alderman of citizen participation) in La Capitale | 2 |
| News article | Quote from the initiator (the alderman of citizen participation) in Le Soir | 1 |
| G100 Oud Heverlee - Zoet Water | 2021 | Official website | The organizers (the municipality) | 26 | 27 |
| Official website | The funder (The Flemish Regional Authority) | 1 |
| Overijse tax shift | 2021 | Official website | The organizers (the municipality) | 2 | 5 |
| Official website | The funder (The Flemish Regional Authority) | 3 |
| RBC & COCOM - Commissions Délibératives | 2021 | Bill | The initiator (the President of the The initiator (the Parlement Francophone Bruxellois) | 9 | 17 |
| Rule book | The initiator (the Parlement Francophone Bruxellois) | 7 |
| Report of the first deliberative committee | The initiator (the President of the Parliament of the Région Bruxelles-Capitale) | 1 |
| Saint Gilles - Conseil Citoyen | 2021 | Rule book | The initator (the municipality) | 9 | 13 |
| Official website | The initiator (the municipality) | 1 |
| Final report of the first procecess | The organizers (Particitiz) | 1 |
| News article | Quote of the initiator (the mayor) in Bruzz | 2 |

**Table A3.** Illustration of the coding.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Endemic | Structural |
| Problem-oriented | Initiators explicitly connect the use of a minipublic to a specific problem relating to the lack of inclusion.   1. LLN – Citizens’ panel for the extension of the Esplanade (final report, p. 8): Only inhabitants of the municipality will be consulted in a referendum to allow or not the extension of the Esplanade. That is why the citizens’ panel also includes the workers and students who do not have a voice. 2. Citizens’ Panel on the GMO, 2003 (final report, p. 4): The technological and scientific evolution attracted the society’s attention. It is therefore essential for the Foundation pour les Générations Futures to give a voice to citizens on a question that is traditionally dealt with by experts. 3. WWViews, 2009 (policy report, p. 5): Also, there was a clear need to involve ordinary people in a debate otherwise heavily dominated by scientists, politicians and powerful interest groups. | Initiators expressly associate the use of minipublic to address the structural lack of inclusion in society.   1. Commissions Délibératives, 2020 (vade-mecum, p. 4): De facto, venues for direct and formal dialogue between representatives and constituents are missing. 2. Panel citoyen sur la propreté à Enghien, 2018 (interview in Nord Éclair): Philosophically and politically, it is about answering a demand. The citizen does not want anymore to wait six years before giving his/her opinion on the policy in the municipality. We realize that there is a real misunderstanding of the democratic procedures. The population has the impression that we do not move forward, also because they do not understand the constraints. 3. Quelle Europe pour demain?, 2017 (final report, p. 4): bringing democracy to life by involving the citizenry in the public debate is a challenge nowadays. |
| Goal-Oriented | Initiators want to give an opportunity to citizens to participate in the elaboration of a public decision/policy. Initiators here do not acknowledge that there is a problem with or a lack of inclusion.   1. G100 Zoute Waters, 2000 (website of the project): With this project we want in the municipality to learn how we can implement a true co-creation process to the definition of a public question 2. Ouderpanel, 2016 (Einderapport p. 30): The minister wants to learn and integrate in her policy the worries, considerations, ideas and recommendations of informed parents about the future of high school 3. Citizens’ panel on the future of rural areas, 2006-2007 (final report, p. 4): its aim: to encourage a contribution from European citizens to the discussions on the public policies which affect rural areas | Initiators do not couple a minipublic’s contribution to a problem. The contribution is associated with the broader system and macro-effect on the whole population, or the minipublic is conflated with the whole citizenry.   1. Brussels City’s neighborhood councils, 2020 (règlement, p.1): The neighborhood councils seek to encourage and ease the access to democratic participation of all inhabitants or users from a neighborhood and to stimulate an active and direct citizenship in connection to daily life. 2. Agora Citizens’ Assembly, 2019-2020 (webpage describing the citizens’ assembly): The citizens’ assembly is an opportunity for citizens to make their voices heard and have a place in the decision-making of their own region 3. The European Citizens’ consultation, 2009 (evaluation report, p. 15): The European citizens’ consultation is citizen participation as a policy instrument of the future: mainstreaming trend-setting and long-term oriented citizens’ consultation at the European level. |

**Table A4.** The distribution of themes for inclusion

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Approach** | **Scope** | **General theme** | **Sub-theme** |
| Problem of inclusion 27 | Endemic 19 | Citizen inclusion 16 | Not only experts 10 |
| Citizens are affected 9 |
| Need to include citizens 6 |
| Citizens are voiceless 1 |
| Policymaking 7 | Closed policymaking 5 |
| Unknown citizens’ preferences 4 |
| Structural 14 | Citizen inclusion 14 | Need to include citizens 9 |
| Citizens feel disempowered 6 |
| Elections are ineffective and insufficient 5 |
| Not only experts 4 |
| A citizens’ right 2 |
| Deficient descriptive representation 1 |
| Distrust in citizens’ capacity 1 | |
| Contribution to inclusion 47 | Endemic 40 | Citizen consultation 25 | To consult the citizenry 12 |
| To learn their preferences 9 |
| Citizen inclusion 21 | To give them a voice 10 |
| To involve them in a policy debate 5 |
| To co-create 4 |
| Because of citizens’ expertise 2 |
| Participatory experimentation 19 | To implement a democratic innovation 9 |
| To learn and experiment with citizen participation 7 |
| To learn and experiment with minipublics 7 |
| To start with a pilot project 5 |
| Institutional opening 13 | To open a policymaking sector 7 |
| To open an institution 6 |
| Systemic 32 | Citizen inclusion 22 | To include the citizenry 7 |
| To make citizen participation sustainable 7 |
| To involve citizens better 6 |
| To give citizens a voice 6 |
| To bring in citizens’ expertise 4 |
| Not only experts 3 |
| Realize a democratic model 11 | To realize a deliberative democracy 7 |
| To realize a participatory democracy 7 |
| To stimulate the participation of the broader public 9 | To stimulate public participation 7 |
| To facilitate public participation 4 |
| Citizen consultation 6 | To consult the citizenry 5 |
| To identify citizens’ preferences 2 |
| Institutional opening 4 | To open decision-making 4 |
| Participatory experimentation 4 | To test citizen participation at new authority levels 4 |
| Citizenship 4 | To create new citizens 2 |
| To demonstrate citizens’ capacity 2 |

*Colour-scale (corresponding to the number of minipublics)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0–5 | 6–10 | 11–15 | 16–20 | 21–25 | 26–30 | 31–35 | 36–40 | 41–45 | 46–50 |

**Table A5.** The distribution of themes for the collective agenda and will formation

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Approach** | **Scope** | **General theme** | | **Sub-theme** |
| Problems of collective will formation 17 | Endemic 2 | Controversial debate 2 | | |
| Systemic 15 | Gap between citizens and politics 13 | Relation between citizens and decision-makers 7 | |
| Relation between citizens and ‘politics’ 7 | |
| Misunderstanding of the political system 2 | |
| Public debate 3 | No translational debate 2 | |
| No citizen deliberation 1 | |
| Need to learn how to debate 1 | |
| Social cohesion 3 | | |
| Contribution to collective will formation 50 | Endemic 46 | To improve policymaking 45 | To influence policy formulation 29 | |
| To transmit recommendations 17 | |
| To form a collective will 14 | |
| To influence policymakers’ reflection 10 | |
| To bring in new ideas 10 | |
| To contribute to a policy debate 8 | |
| To provide stakeholders with citizen input 8 | |
| Need to have an impact on a public policy 7 | |
| To improve the responsiveness of a public decision/policy 6 | |
| To increase the knowledge base of policymaking 4 | |
| Public debate 12 | To stimulate a debate on a policy issue 10 | |
| To feed the public debate 3 | |
| To educate participants 12 | To learn about a public issue 9 | |
| To learn the difficulties of policymaking 6 | |
| To inform the maxi-public 7 | To inform the maxi-public 6 | |
| To popularize deliberative citizen participation 3 | |
| To create a network of citizen participation 2 | | |
| Structural 29 | Gap between citizens and politics 20 | To stimulate interactions between citizens and elected representatives 12 | |
| To improve relation between citizens and policymaking actors (stakeholders, policymakers…) 6 | |
| To improve relation between citizens and the state 4 | |
| To reduce the gap between citizens and elected officials 3 | |
| To improve policymaking 12 | To improve public decisions 6 | |
| To improve policymaking 5 | |
| To bring in new ideas in policymaking 3 | |
| To improve representativeness of public policy 2 | |
| To give elected officials a reality check 1 | |
| To improve the transparency of policymaking 1 | |
| Public debate 9 | To generate public debate 4 | |
| To stimulate the participation of the broader population in public debate 3 | |
| To stimulate a debate culture in the population 3 | |
| Social cohesion 7 | To improve social cohesion 5 | |
| To improve the relation among citizens 4 | |

*Colour-scale (corresponding to the number of minipublics)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0–5 | 6–10 | 11–15 | 16–20 | 21–25 | 26–30 | 31–35 | 36–40 | 41–45 | 46–50 |

**Table A6.** The distribution of themes for collective decision-making capacity

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Approach** | **Scope** | **General theme** | **Sub-theme** |
| Problems 14 | Endemic 9 | Decision-making incapacity 9 | Political deadlock 7 |
| Scale of the policy problem 2 |
| Structural 6 | Crisis of representative democracy 6 | Crisis of legitimacy 4 |
| Disillusionment with representative democracy 1 |
| Incapacity of representative democracy 1 |
| Increasing difficulty of elected officials’ job 1 |
| Contributions 22 | Endemic 8 | To generate legitimacy 8 | for a public decision 8 |
| Structural 18 | To improve democracy 12 | To reinforce democracy 6 |
| To renew democracy 4 |
| To create a new governance 3 |
| To build sustainable community 1 |
| To generate legitimacy 10 | for the political system 5 |
| for public decisions 5 |

*Colour-scale (corresponding to the number of minipublics)*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 0–5 | 6–10 | 11–15 | 16–20 | 21–25 |

**Table A7.** The distribution of minipublics based on the type of initiators and the level of authority

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Executive | Parliament | Public administration | Civil society | **Total** |
| Supranational | 4 |  |  | 1 | **5** |
| Federal | 3 |  | 4 | 3 | **10** |
| Regional | 9 | 10 | 1 | 1 | **21** |
| Local | 12 |  |  | 3 | **15** |
| **Total** | **28** | **10** | **5** | **8** | **51** |

**Table A8.** Comparison between theory and organizers’ discourses

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Main theoretical functions** | **Organizers’ discourse** |
| **Inclusion** | |
| (1) Include ordinary citizens to give them a voice | **Prevalent—**41 (80%)  Citizen inclusion; Citizen consultation |
| (2) Diversify inputs | **Occasional—**19 (37%)  Not only experts; citizens’ expertise |
| (3) Improve descriptive representation with random selection | **Rare—**1 (2%)  deficient descriptive representation  *Variant = ineffective elections (4, 8%)* |
| (4) Redistribute power | **Absent**  *Variants: citizens’ feelings of disempowerment, citizens are voiceless (7, 14%)* |
| ***Absent or marginally theorized*** | Experimentation—22 (43%) |
| Institutional opening—19 (37%) |
| Realize a democratic model—11 (22%) |
| Improve systemic participation—9 (18%) |
|  | Citizenship—4 (8%) |
| **Will formation** | |
| (5) Improve policy-making | **Omnipresent—**46 (90%)  Improve policy-making |
| (6) Educative forum for participants | **Occasional**—12 (23%)  To educate participants |
| (7) Proof of citizens’ deliberative skills | **Absent**  *Variant: Demonstrate citizens’ capacity to participate (2, 4%)* |
| (8) Improve public deliberation | **Occasional—**17 (33%)  Public debate; inform maxi-public; controversial debate |
| (9) Improve political deliberation | **Rare**—8 (16%)  Contribute to a policy debate |
| ***Absent or marginally theorized*** | Gap between citizens and politics—27 (53%) |
| Cohesion among citizens—8 (16%) |
| Create a network of citizen participation—2 (4%) |
| **Decision-making** | |
| (10) Generate legitimacy for public decisions | **Occasional—**12 (23%)  *Variant: generate legitimacy for the political system—7 (14%)* |
| (11) Escape political deadlock | **Occasional**—7 (14%)  Political deadlock |
| (12) Deal with complex & global policy problems | **Rare**—3 (6%)  Scale of the problem |
| ***Absent or marginally theorized*** | To improve democracy—12 (24%) |
| Crisis of representative democracy—6 (12%) |

**Figure A1.** An overview of the thematic analysis’ results

**Figure A2.** An overview of the minipublics and their function based on the organizers.

**Figure A3.** An overview of the minipublics and their function based on the level of authority.

1. The length featuring 99. indicate that the minipublic is permanent. The number after the comma is the number of days that each process cycle takes. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)