Sortition Foundation Democratic Lottery Services

Bespoke Recruitment for Citizens' Assemblies and other Deliberative Processes

DELIVERING LEGITIMACY



www.sortitionfoundation.org

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The **Sortition Foundation** is a not-for-profit company dedicated to promoting **fair**, **transparent**, **inclusive and effective** deliberative assemblies. We want citizens' assemblies and policy juries to have the **highest level of legitimacy** with representative groups of participants **selected by democratic lottery**. Our lottery algorithm has been proven to give the fairest chance of selection to everyone who registers.¹

—You —ask us to perform
your democratic
lottery

OUR DEMOCRATIC LOTTERY SERVICE

The recruitment and selection process for a 50-person² citizens' assembly normally takes seven weeks, and we recommend a further three weeks for the facilitators to onboard the participants.

Ideally, every resident in your area should have an equal probability of receiving an invitation to your assembly. To approach this ideal we select by lottery 10,000 households from the relevant section of the most complete and up-to-date postal address database in your country, for example, the Royal Mail Database in the UK or the National Address Database in the US.

We design and deliver our **highly attractive and informative invitations** (with your letterhead and branding, in a specially designed envelope) to the selected households. This also helps advertise your citizens' assembly widely and is an opportunity for more media publicity about your event.

Potential participants are given **two easy and accessible ways to register their interest**: online or over the phone³ and at this point we gather socio-economic and demographic data.

From the respondents we then perform a second lottery so the final participants will match the target demographics for your area, taken from the latest census or government data. Typically the targets include age, location, gender, and occupation (or another proxy for socioeconomic status) but you can also add others, e.g. ethnicity, disability, or attitude toward the topic.

We then confirm attendance by phone, replace anyone no longer able to attend, and finally deliver the details of the 50 confirmed participants to you, with a table and pie-charts (see below) comparing target, respondent, and participant data.⁴ We are confident that we are the most **cost-effective**, **legitimate**, **and easy-to-use** democratic lottery service in the world.

—We —

select 10,000 households by lottery and send impressive invitations

-We --

provide an online and free phone response service

—We —

perform a second lottery to select a representative sample

—We—

contact those selected to confirm participation

- 1 Fair algorithms for selecting citizens' assemblies, Nature **596**, 548–552 (2021)
- 2 The size of the assembly is flexible. We have worked with successful events of between 20 and 110 participants.
- 3 The phone number is toll-free and also functions as a participant help and query line.
- 4 Those not selected can be invited to stay in touch with you and can provide a pool of interested volunteers for later inclusion in surveys and other events.

—You—

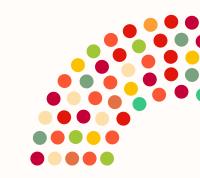
get the details of a representative group of people from your community

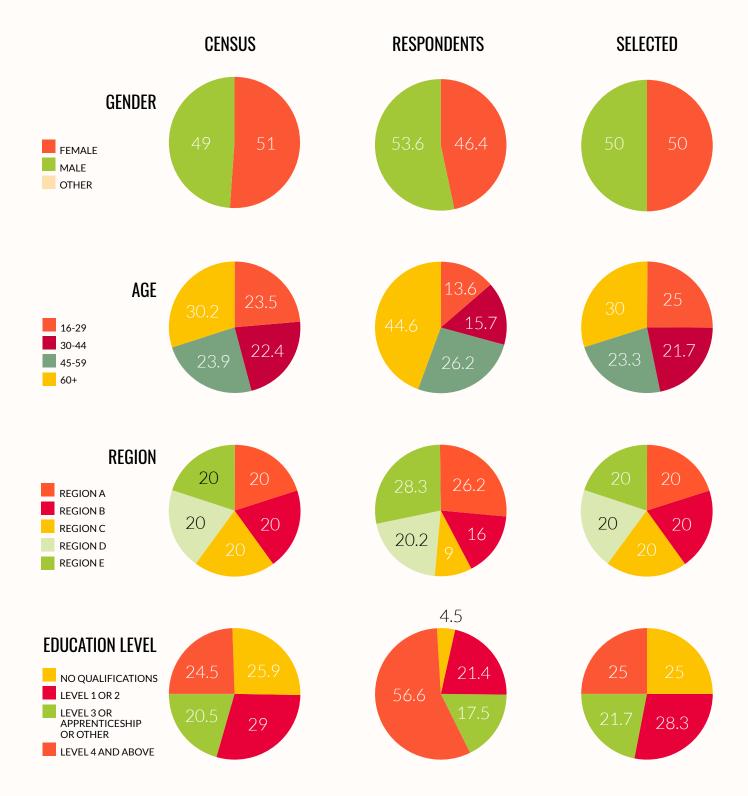




THE RESULTS

We supply you with charts showing how our process has produced a representative group of participants that matches your targets and corrects the typical skewing and biases in the group of respondents. The first column below shows your target demographics, the second shows the demographics of the registrants, and the third column shows the demographics of the selected group of participants.







THE SORTITION FOUNDATION IS:



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GETTING IN TOUCH

We promote and support the inclusion of representative groups of people selected by lottery in democratic decision-making and are always happy to hear about any planned deliberative events and processes anywhere in the world.

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OUR NETWORK

We are an active member of Democracy R&D, an international network of participatory and deliberative democracy practitioners and experts.