

Sortition Services

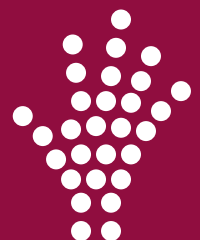
Is your public engagement as
fair and transparent as it could be?

Do you need a decision process that people can **trust**?

Our democratic lotteries select participants who
reflect the **full diversity** of your population -
credibly, transparently and **cost-effectively**.



www.sortitionfoundation.org
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SORTITION
FOUNDATION

WORKING WITH US

At **Sortition Foundation** we are here to help you deliver the best possible outcomes for public engagement and deliberative requirements. With our world-leading experience, we provide a broad range of services to our clients and partners, including best in class democratic lotteries for citizens' assemblies and related processes. We offer training and capacity building, as well as informal advice and support to organisations exploring these options.

WHAT IS A CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOR?

A citizens' assembly is a form of deliberative democracy that delivers informed and trusted decisions on complex issues. The assembly members are chosen to be broadly representative of the population. They engage in a process of collective learning and deliberation to make decisions and recommendations that have authority and integrity.

Sortition is the gold standard method for fair and representative selection of members of a citizens' assembly or other deliberative processes requiring accurate and legitimate views of the full spectrum of a given population.

At the heart of our approach is our **democratic lottery** which has been proven to give the fairest chance of selection¹. Our sortition process is the most **cost-effective, legitimate** and **easy-to-use** democratic lottery service, which is why we are frequently the **partner of choice** for deliberative processes around the world.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

Our democratic lottery service

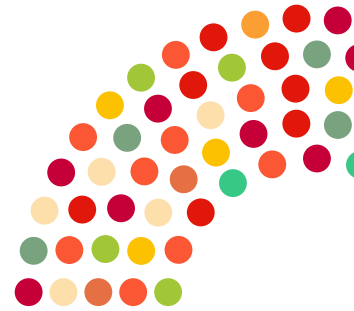
Using our democratic lottery couldn't be simpler. Here's how we will support and help you:

- 1 Together we confirm the size of your assembly and the relevant geographic region to select from, taking into account timescales and budget. A citizens' assembly typically has between 50 and 100 participants, but we frequently work with partners looking for both smaller or larger groups.
- 2 Every household in your target area has a fair chance of receiving an invitation to take part in the deliberative event. For a citizens' assembly of 50 people, we would select by lottery 15,000 households from the most comprehensive and up-to-date database - for example the Royal Mail database in the UK, the National Address Database in the US, Australia Post's database, or EuroStat's GISCO Address database for EU projects.
- 3 Our designers create a highly engaging and informative assembly invitation with your branding in a specially designed envelope, and we send it to households. Recipients can respond to the invitation online or over the phone. Through this process, we gather demographic and socio-economic data about the respondents.
- 4 We then perform the fairest possible second democratic lottery from these respondents. This ensures that the group of selected participants matches the target characteristics for the relevant population. Typically these targets include age group, gender, education (or another measure of socio-economic status), ethnicity, geographical location, and possibly other relevant targets like disability, or attitude toward the topic.
- 5 We then confirm by phone that selected participants are still available, and replace any individuals who are no longer able to attend. We deliver to you the details of the confirmed participants, together with a full statistical breakdown of the process, so you have confidence in your representative sample of the population. An example of this analysis is on the next page.

^{1,2} <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-021-03788-6>

DELIVERY

Alongside the participants selected by democratic lottery, we supply a detailed statistical analysis so you can see how closely the participants match the wider population. Here's an example:

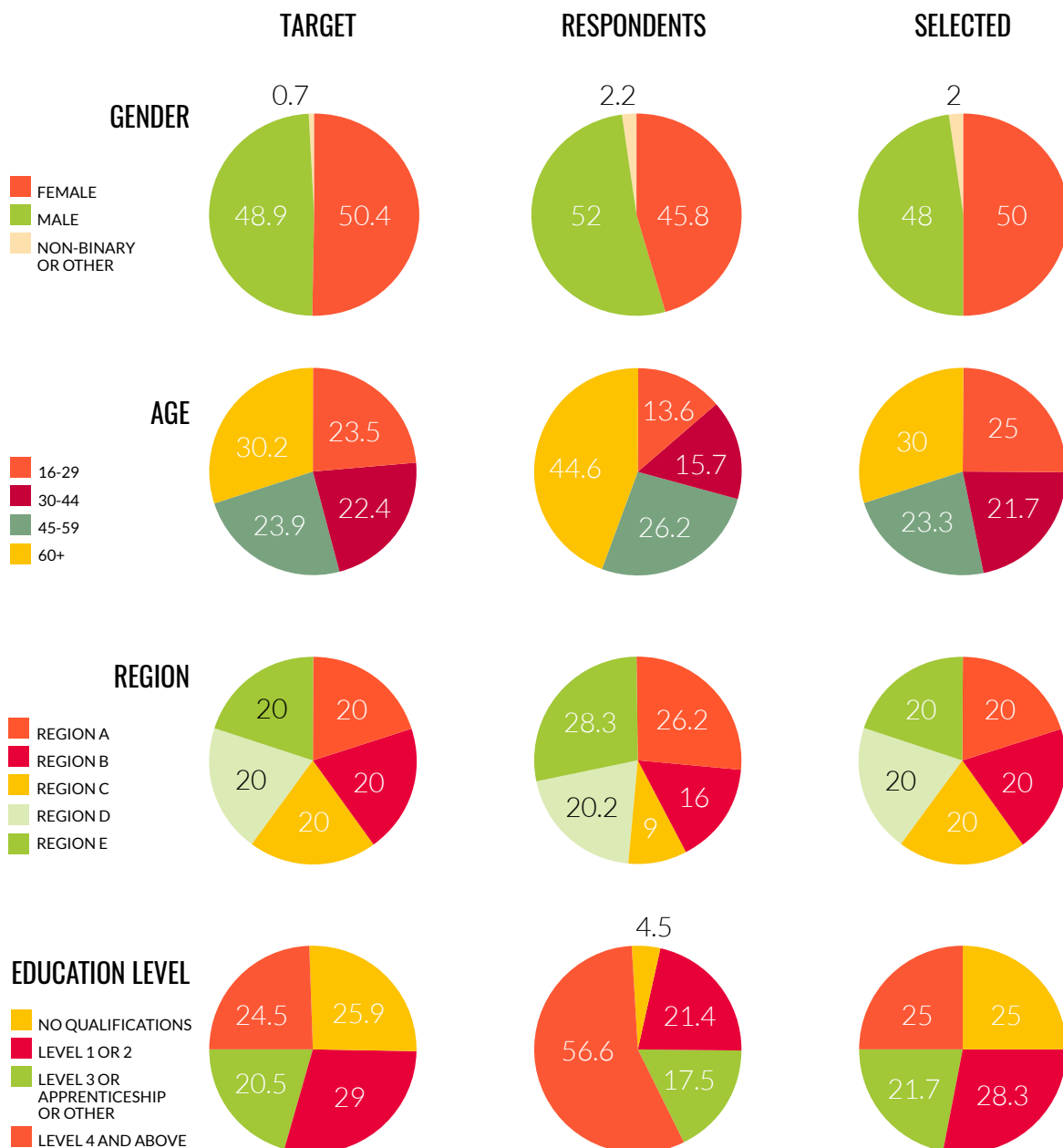


The way to understand these charts is:

Column 1 Target: These present the target population as a whole, for example from relevant census or other publicly verifiable data.

Column 2 Respondents: These pie-charts show the demographic break-down of those who responded to the invitation to participate in the upcoming deliberative event. As the example shows, these are typically skewed in one or more factors when compared to the population.

Column 3 Selected: This column shows the characteristics of the group of people selected by sortition to attend your deliberative event. Our democratic lottery has ensured that these characteristics are a very close match to those of the population as a whole (see Column 1).



SORTITION LAB

Sortition Lab is our technology development arm, creating tools and applications that enhance our work to upgrade democracy.

The first Sortition Lab project is our Open Democratic Lottery Platform (OpenDLP), an open-source digital platform, building on our experience and the steps outlined above, to make democratic lotteries more inclusive and easy to organise. Visit www.sortitionlab.org for more information and receive the latest updates about OpenDLP.



WHO WE ARE

Sortition Foundation are leaders in the delivery and promotion of democratic lotteries, working to build a global movement for permanent and powerful citizens' assemblies.

Established in 2017 as a not-for-profit organisation, Sortition Foundation specialises in selecting representative groups of people for deliberative processes and citizens' assemblies worldwide through our teams in the UK, Europe and Australia.

Since 2017 we have supported hundreds of deliberative events in partnership with local, regional and national governments, NGOs, the European Commission, and research and polling organisations around the world and are recognised globally as experts and leaders in deliberative democracy.



GET IN TOUCH

If you are planning a citizens' assembly or other deliberative process and are considering democratic lottery options, we'd love to hear from you.

Get in touch at info@sortitionfoundation.org or info@sortition.eu.

