

# Deliberative democracy and the “so what?” question: the effects of the Belgian G1000

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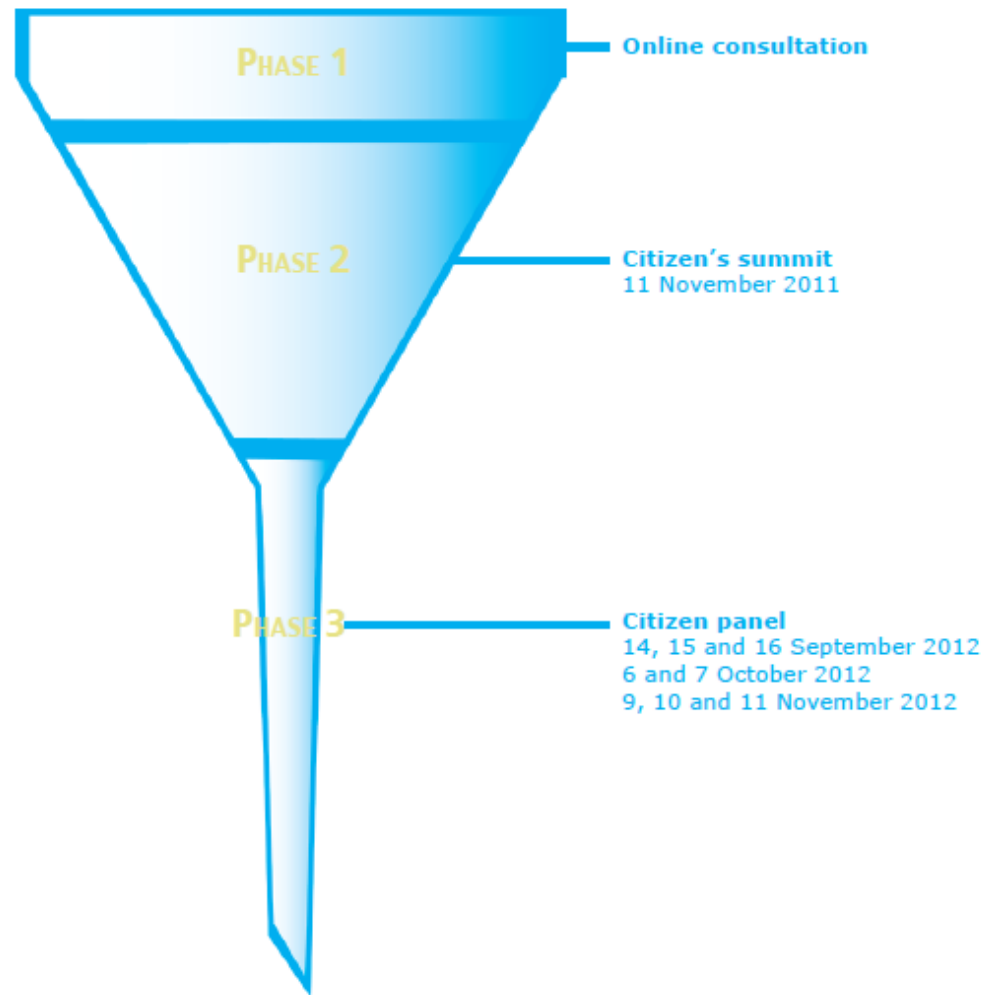
# Research question

- Many experiments with deliberative democracy in recent years
- What is the impact these events? What is their contribution to politics and policy?

# The G1000 in Belgium: context

- Institutional crisis in Belgium
- Organizers (artists, businessmen and political scientists)
- Crowd-funded
- Open agenda
- Random recruitment

# Three phases of the G1000



# Impact of deliberative mini-publics

- Micro impact (on participants)
- Macro impact (political uptake)
  - Policy impact
  - Media impact
  - Maxi-public impact
  - Party political impact
  - Social impact

# Policy impact

- Limited effect of G1000 on policy
  - Some parliamentary questions
  - Some proposals of law refer to G1000
  - Some deliberative projects in parliaments
  - Overall little uptake
    - Reason: policy makers did not feel compelled to listen to a grass-roots initiative

# Media impact

- Little attention to substantive outcomes
- Much more attention to the process and idea of the G1000
- Polarization between conservative and liberal media

# Maxi-public impact

Have you heard of G1000?	Not at all	A little	Quite a lot	A great deal
Total	47.7	39.8	10.1	2.4
<b>Region (p=0.000)</b>				
Flanders	38	45.9	12.6	3.5
Wallonia	65	30.9	31.4	0.6
Brussels	52.3	31.4	15.1	1.2
<b>Gender (p=0.010)</b>				
Male	42.2	43.1	11.7	3
Female	52.4	37.3	8.5	1.9
<b>Education (p=0.005)</b>				
Low	53.4	38.8	6.8	1.1
Middle	49.5	42.5	9.2	2.5
High	40	42.5	14	3.5
<b>Age (p=0.909)</b>				
>= 34	47.9	39.1	10.5	2.5
34-54	46.3	41.0	9.6	3.0
55+	48.8	39.5	10.1	1.6

# Party political impact

- Party manifestos
  - More parties refer to democratic innovations and random selection in their manifestos than before
  - The green party directly refers to the G1000
- Several speeches in favor of democratic innovations
- Several mini-publics organized by political parties

# Social impact

- G1000 as the most famous democratic innovations in the Low Countries
  - Several initiatives inspired by the G1000
    - G100 and K35 at the local level
    - Dozens of G1000's in the Netherlands

# Conclusion

- Overall, low direct and substantive impact on policies...
- but high impact on the public debate about the state of democracy.