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1. Introduction

1.1 Activity Overview

TU Berlin delivered structured guidance to KSE (Kyiv School of Economics) on the design and implementation of digital democratic innovations, with a particular focus on online citizens' assemblies, decision theatres, and complementary digital tools such as debates and interactions on social media platforms. This was done in a format of offline and online sessions (lectures), set up as a course named **"Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly"**.

The activity comprised 20 hours of online lectures exploring design variations and practical use cases of digital democratic innovations, with particular attention to how different tools can be processually aligned with representative, participatory, and deliberative models of democracy.

Under Task 1.1, TU Berlin shared both theoretical and practice-based expertise on process design. This covered goal- and rule-setting, participant selection and briefing, process flow design, and the integration of digital participatory tools into established democratic decision-making frameworks at the national level (e.g. Germany) and international level (e.g. EU Citizens' Assemblies).

The lectures also offered empirical insights into the policy goals that digital democratic innovations can advance, as well as the mechanisms through which these outcomes are achieved (D1.1).

The application of this knowledge to the pilot project (T3.6) was further developed during a dedicated workshop convened at the 1st Consortium General Meeting on May 26, 2025 in Tartu, Estonia.

2. Schedule and content of the Activity

The initial part of the course **"Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly"** was held at KSE in the format of in-person lectures over two days from 10:00-18:00, on **April 12-13, 2025**, conducted by Dr. Kerstin Lücker, co-moderated by Dr. Oleksandra Keudel and attended by 24 participants.

The participants of the course were young people with diverse experience in the civic sector, project management, research and community work, and who are practitioners of participation.

Agenda of in-person lectures of the course "Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly"		
Day 1 [April 12]		
1.	Power to the People Citizens' assemblies from history to now	Lecturer: Dr. Kerstin Lücker

2.	A cure for struggling democracies? Citizens' assemblies and deliberative participation in the constitutional framework of democracies	(TU Berlin) Co-moderator: Dr. Oleksandra Keudel (KSE)
3.	Time and Money Deciding on the size and duration of the citizens' assembly	
4.	The political context Finding partners and a topic; make sure that politicians commit	
5.	An Idea from Ancient Athens Participation Lottery	
6.	Diverse, Inclusive, Fair Invitation management	
Day 2 [April 13]		
7.	The importance of knowledge and facts Where to get it, how to set up expert's input	Lecturer: Dr. Kerstin Lücker (TU Berlin) Co-moderator: Dr. Oleksandra Keudel (KSE)
8.	It's Work! Organizing the event (e.g., location, accommodation, travel expenses, catering, technical support, childcare, translations); writing the report, organizing hand-over event	
9.	Setting the Agenda Learning, Deliberating, Making Decisions (Voting)	
10.	The Role of the Facilitators Setting rules, visualising processes, dealing with conflict (5-7 people, immer neu gemischt, moderiert, ergebnisorientiert)	
11.	Writing the Report	
12.	Public Communication Interacting with the wider public: why is it important? Legitimacy, Transparency	

The series of lectures was followed by five online trainings delivered between **May 15, 2025 - June 25, 2025**, attended by a total of 59 participants.

Agenda of online lectures of the course "Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly"			
Date, time	Topic	Lecturer	No of participants
May 15, 16:00-17:30 CET, 17:00-18:30 EET	Agenda and Schedule for a Citizens' Assembly	Nicolas Bach , Research Fellow at Nexus Institute for Cooperation Management GmbH	14

May 29, 15:00-16:30 CET, 16:00-17:30 EET	What happened? Collecting Data and Analyzing it	Nicolas Bach , Research Fellow at Nexus Institute for Cooperation Management GmbH	10
June 4, 15:00-16:30 CET, 16:00-17:30 EET	Digital Participation I: Online Citizens' Assemblies and AI	Nicolas Bach , Research Fellow at Nexus Institute for Cooperation Management GmbH	10
June 18, 16:00-17:30 CET, 17:00-18:30 EET	Digital Participation II: The EU Project RealDeal	Dr. Thomas Blanchet , Research Fellow at Nexus Institute for Cooperation Management GmbH	10
June 25, 15:00-16:30 CET, 16:00-17:30 EET	Digital Participation III: The Forum against Fakes 2024. A citizens' assembly combined with online mass participation	Dr. Stefan Roch Project Manager Demokratie und Zusammenhalt Bertelsmann Stiftung	15

The activity was concluded with an on-site facilitator training held at KSE on **July 20, 2025**, conducted by Dr. Kerstin Lückner and attended by 12 participants.

During the session participants selected "**Should Kyiv's inner city be made car-free?**" as the mock-up deliberation topic. They split into two facilitated breakout groups and shared roles for facilitation the group discussions as well as one plenary discussion.

The facilitator training discussed methods and skills like Active listening, Managing speaking turns, Probing with questions, Summarizing, Visualizing, Conflict intervention and Emergency hacks.

The participants of the "**Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly**" have been invited to join the Citizens' Assembly in Zhytomyr, Ukraine (planned for October 25-26 and November 1-2, 2025), and they have been asked to contribute to a Handbook for Public Deliberation the BRIDGE team puts together in Ukrainian (Deliverable D3.5 "A handbook on participatory processes").

3. Online Sessions Materials

Part of the course "**Spring School on Deliberation: Introductory Course into Citizen Assembly**" was held online and consisted of 5 sessions provided by the guest lecturers. Schedule and the agenda can be found above in Section 2 of this document.

1. "Agenda and Schedule for a Citizens' Assembly", Lecturer Nicolas Bach, May 29, 2025.

Nicolas, a senior researcher at the Nexus Institute, presented on agenda setting and finding appropriate topics for citizens' assemblies, emphasizing the importance of making complex issues accessible to lay citizens. He outlined two approaches for participatory agenda setting and discussed the process of breaking down broad topics into manageable subtopics, highlighting the need for neutral organizations and stakeholder involvement. The discussion covered practical aspects of organizing both in-person and online assemblies, including logistics, cultural considerations, and the importance of tailored approaches based on moderation methods, while also outlining upcoming topics for future online classes.

- [Videorecording](#)
- [Presentation](#)

2. "What happened? Collecting Data and Analyzing it", Lecturer Nicolas Bach, May 29, 2025

The meeting focused on evaluating citizens' assemblies, with Nicolas Bach from the Nexus Institute presenting on various aspects of the evaluation process, including internal and external methods, data collection, and analysis. Discussions covered key criteria for evaluation, such as inclusivity, transparency, and balanced representation, as well as the importance of diversity in participant selection and the challenges of ensuring accessibility. The session concluded with an overview of budgeting considerations and plans for future discussions on online citizens' assemblies and data processing methods.

- [Videorecording](#)
- [Presentation](#)

3. "Digital Participation I: Online Citizens' Assemblies and AI", Lecturer Nicolas Bach, June 4, 2025

The meeting covered various aspects of organizing and conducting citizens' assemblies, including both in-person and online formats. Discussions focused on participant selection methods, facilitation techniques, documentation processes, and the use of digital tools to support assembly activities. The participants also explored challenges and best practices for managing large groups, ensuring inclusivity, and analyzing results from these democratic exercises.

- [Videorecording](#)
- [Presentation](#)

4. “Digital Participation II: The EU Project RealDeal”, Lecturer Dr. Thomas Blanchet, June 18, 2025

Thomas Blanchet presented two European projects focused on online citizen participation, discussing their approaches and challenges in engaging diverse groups through both synchronous and asynchronous methods. He provided insights from the RealDeal project, which aimed to involve citizens in the “European Green Deal” through multilingual online platforms, while highlighting the importance of combining online and offline participation methods. The discussion concluded with an overview of the ITEM project, which addresses linguistic barriers in democratic participation through AI-powered language simplification tools, and insights into the practical aspects of managing online citizen participation platforms across Europe.

- [Videorecording](#)
- [Presentation](#)

5. “Digital Participation III: The Forum against Fakes 2024. A citizens’ assembly combined with online mass participation”, Lecturer Dr. Stefan Roch, June 25, 2025

The meeting covered a project addressing disinformation through a combination of online and offline participation methods, including a citizens’ assembly process in Germany. Participants discussed the challenges and outcomes of this approach, emphasizing the importance of clear communication, representative participation, and political partnerships. The group also explored the potential of AI tools, particularly “Polis”, for analyzing and visualizing group discussions in participatory processes.

- [Videorecording](#)
- [Presentation](#)

During the two days of offline training at KSE on April 12-13, 2025, materials were collected that will form part of a “Handbook on participatory processes” in Ukrainian (Deliverable 3.5, due in month 34).