

Training Camp for Coordinators of Citizens' Assemblies

18-22nd May 2022

*Pražské kreativní centrum, Staroměstské nám. 4/1., Prague,
Czech Republic*



Registrace

What is it

The Training Camp is a comprehensive course for present and future coordinators of citizens' assemblies worldwide, featuring both in-person and virtual components. Our experience in supporting and running deliberative processes has taught us many lessons and led us to

develop our own, quality-driven, values-based methodology that we would now love to bring to the broader community of practitioners. We envision a world where citizens' assemblies are well designed, held to high quality standards, and executed with confidence, ease, and joy. Capacity building is an essential ingredient of making that happen.

Who is it for

The Training Camp is intended for members of organizations and groups interested in designing and running citizens' assemblies – with or without prior experience. We will also happily welcome unaffiliated individuals with a passion for democratic innovation and systemic reform.

Why join

At the Training Camp, you will have a chance to get to know **the step-by-step process of organizing a citizens' assembly** according to our latest design thinking. For some of you, it may be a brand new learning experience, for others – it may inform and expand your existing practice. It will also serve as an opportunity to **meet fellow practitioners** and be inspired by the joint wisdom and experience of the group. Beyond the most practical aspects of an assembly process, as well as the values and principles that inspire it, we will include **a training component focused on personal growth**, soft skills, and self-care. We envision a fun, friendly, and informal atmosphere, where learning is supported through open discussions, movement, visuals, group exercises, thought experiments, and more.

The format

The full program of the Training Camp is composed of two modules: an in-person training camp in Prague, and a virtual follow-up consisting of three online workshops. During the course, we will dive into the what's, why's, and how's of the entire assembly design and coordination process. Our intention is to equip the participants with the maximum amount of knowledge, skills, and attitudes required to run a successful citizens' assembly, according to our methodology. Together, we will cover the following topics (among the others):

1. **Democratic thinking**

What is the value and importance of deliberation and civic empowerment? Quantity vs. quality in democratic processes. Political buy-in in an assembly process. The relationship between democracy and “good governance”. And the key question behind the whole process – what is democracy, anyway?

2. **Assembly standards and guiding principles**

What should be the standards and principles of designing and running citizens' assemblies? How are they integrated into the assembly process at various stages? What role do they play from the standpoint of credibility of the process?

3. **Governance structure of the assembly process**

Design Team, Coordinating Team, Facilitation Team, and Monitoring Teams – their tasks and relationships between them.

4. **Roles within the assembly process**

Assembly members, observers, experts, witnesses, stakeholders – their recruitment, rights, and responsibilities.

5. Overview of the assembly process - its stages and timeline

Invitations and random selection, skills training for assembly members, learning phase, deliberative phase, review phase. Creation of the rulebook.

6. Selection of assembly topic

Relationship between Assembly topic and timeline, criteria for selecting an assembly topic, selection process.

7. Sortition

Size of a citizens' assembly, methods of random selection, transparency of the process, stratification criteria.

8. Skills training how-to

Preparing assembly members for the assembly process, designing mock assembly as an introductory exercise.

9. Learning phase how-to

Identifying experts, communicating with experts, identifying stakeholders, communicating with stakeholders, creating the learning program.

10. Deliberative phase how-to

Principles of deliberation, background information about group processes, background information on facilitating group processes; bringing the best out of the group - empowerment, responsibility and wisdom; reviewing, discussing, and amending proposed recommendations; decision-making and presentation of the outcomes.

11. Promotion and communication

Promotion of the Assembly in traditional and social media, notes on language and means of communication.

12. Follow-up

Implementation of results and oversight.

Additionally: Introduction to flow

Principles of effortless action, discovering the emotional GPS, decluttering, the ways to use intuition.

Language: The entire training program is conducted in English

Your trainers

Marcin Gerwin, PhD – he is a specialist in deliberative democracy and sustainability. A political science graduate, the topic of his doctoral dissertation focused on sustainable development in the context of global challenges. He designs democratic processes. He is an

author of “Citizens’ Assemblies: Guide to democracy that works”, “A Constitution Created by the Citizens”, a co-author of “Rivendell Model”, and an author of the forthcoming “Deliberative Democracy: Waldenia Model” and “Citizens’ Chamber: A Blueprint for New Democracy”. Apart from democracy-related issues, he gives self-care and flow workshops.

Zuzanna Nowak – graduated from International Relations with a specialty in diplomacy and consular relations. She’s a trained facilitator with over six years of experience in designing and leading educational/deliberative processes using non-formal methodology. She supports citizens’ assemblies in and outside of Poland in various capacities: as an expert advisor, co-designer, facilitator, and more. Her greatest professional joy is to help people feel empowered and meaningful (and to make pretty flipcharts). Privately, she’s an artist, a yoga student, and a passionate home cook.

Location

Prague, Czech Republic, Pražské kreativní centrum, Staroměstské nám. 4/1.

Costs

Participation in the Training Camp is free of charge. Participants are expected to cover their costs of travel and accommodation. There will be vegan catering provided during the workshop days.

Registration

[Register here](#)

Contact

Email zofihob@gmail.com

Schedule: