Structural Conditions for Citizen Deliberation

A Conceptual Scheme for the Assessment of “New” Parties

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“New Politics?”

- Recent social movements (15M, Occupy Wallstreet)
- Technopolitics (Lebkowsky, 1997)

“New Parties?”

- Transforming institutions from the inside
- Online deliberation platforms
- Official Party

Effective citizen deliberation as instrument
Deliberative Democracy

form of communication based on normative values (equality, inclusion, fairness) to come to consensus-based decision that serve the public good (Dahl, 1989; Habermas, 1989; Cohen, 1996; etc.)

“discursive and participatory process that manifests itself in the codetermination or shared decision-making among equals” (Gould, 1988: 85)
Questions:

• How are the deliberative spaces within Bcomú designed?
• What opportunities have the citizens to participate?
• What are the challenges these spaces are facing?
Results

Structure & Functionality

Accessibility & Transparency

Hybridity & Coordination

Outcome & Accountability
## Structure & Functionality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Modes of Participation</th>
<th>Allocation of Deliberation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Assembly</td>
<td>Partisan deliberative conference; problem-oriented forum</td>
<td>Agenda; Issue</td>
<td>Direct; Delegate; Consultative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plenary</td>
<td>Partisan deliberative network</td>
<td>Agenda; Issue</td>
<td>Delegate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination Team</td>
<td>Partisan deliberative network</td>
<td>Agenda</td>
<td>Consultative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions</td>
<td>problem-oriented forum</td>
<td>Issue</td>
<td>Direct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal District Group</td>
<td>Problem-oriented forum</td>
<td>Agenda; Issue</td>
<td>Representative</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Accessibility & Transparency

- Inclusion in assemblies?
- Blurring concepts: party member & citizen
- Dissemination of sensitive information
- Privacy versus transparency
Hybridity & Coordination

• Coordination of online & offline channels

• Synchronization of online tools

• Offline spaces: Topic vs. Territory?
Outcome & Accountability

• Assembly as highest decision-making body?

• Consensus versus Majority?

• Accountability: Transparency about decisions made?
Conclusion

Experiment of a “new party” in “new politics”:

• Bridging technopolitical movements and traditional hierarchical institutions
• Stable and punctual spaces for citizen deliberation
• Tensions in:
  – Structure & Functionality
  – Accessibility & Transparency
  – Coordination & Hybridity
  – Outcome & Accountability
Further Research

- Comparison between other parties
- Scalability
- Criteria for Success and Failure