

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)



Barcelona En Comú

Questions:

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

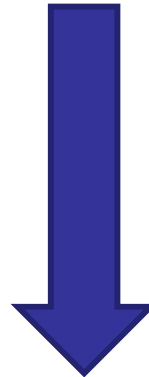
Results

Structure & Functionality

Accessibility & Transparency

Hybridity & Coordination

Outcome & Accountability



Structure & Fuctionality

	Type	Goal	Modes of Participation	Allocation of Deliberation
General Assembly	Partisan deliberative conference; problem-oriented forum	Agenda; Issue	Direct; Delegate; Consultative	Iterated Deliberation
Plenary	Partisan deliberative network	Agenda; Issue	Delegate	Decentralized
Coordination Team	Partisan deliberative network	Agenda	Consultative	Decentralized; Meta-deliberation
Commissions	problem-oriented forum	Issue	Direct	Distributed
Municipal District Group	Problem-oriented forum	Agenda; Issue	Representative	Iterated

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