

Stichting DemocracyNext

*Policy Plan*

*Beleidsplan*

December 2023, The Hague

DemocracyNext

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*“There is something going on in the world right now. There is a hunger across the globe in political systems to get citizens involved in decision making and policy development. And citizens want to be involved in this role as well.”*

Art O’Leary, Chief Executive  
Ireland Electoral Commission

## 1. Background

### Our vision

We are DemocracyNext. We believe in a more just, joyful, and collaborative future, where everyone has meaningful power to shape their societies.

### Our mission

We work for the benefit of the public to enable more people to see the potential of sortition (selecting decision makers by lottery), deliberation, and participation as transformative democratic principles that shift who has power and how decisions are taken - in government and in institutions of public life, including schools, museums, workplaces, a, and others. We want more people to have the skills and understanding to apply these principles and to create more deliberative spaces - such as Citizens’ Assemblies - in which we can be with complexity, channel our collective intelligence, and find common ground; and we want to explore how they change our understanding of leadership. Ultimately, our aim is to bring about systemic change for a more-than-human democracy that reshapes our relationships with each other, the planet, and technology.



## Our values

- **Visionary** - We don't just tinker at the margins of the status quo. We seed the change we want to see.
- **Rigorous** - We rely on evidence and expertise, and we raise the bar for high standards.
- **Curiosity** - We are inquisitive. We actively listen, iterate, pilot, evaluate, adapt.
- **Collaborative** - We work creatively together with partners, build coalitions, involve citizens.

## Our impact

First, we want to exponentially increase the number of high-quality Citizens' Assemblies and other deliberative forums with decision-making power that are embedded in a systematic way, as well as the number of organisations embedding the principles of sortition, deliberation, and participation into their ways of working. Our role as a field-builder is to equip more people and organisations to have the knowledge, skills, and infrastructure to be able to design, implement, and evaluate Citizens' Assemblies and other democratic innovations. This work is in service of bigger aims: we want more people to have agency, to trust one another and their institutions, and to overcome polarisation.

Second, we want to uphold [high standards](#) and push the field of democratic innovation to continue evolving, experimenting, and learning. We are one of only a small number of organisations in the field working internationally, and so a key element of our work is to cross-pollinate, share learning and set high standards. We draw on best practices, adapt to and learn from local contexts, tap into our extensive networks of experts and practitioners, and continually test and evaluate new approaches, technology, spaces, and institutions.

Third, we want to give people hope that another democratic future is possible and strengthen the demand for democratic systems change. We show this by doing - through our projects on the ground; through storytelling - about the impacts of Citizens' Assemblies on Assembly Members and on legislation; and through our creative collaborations with curators, artists, architects, museums, and other cultural institutions on exhibitions, installations, and public programming.



## 2. Purpose

As a Stichting, our object, and activities to serve the object are as follows:

The Foundation's objective is for the benefit of the public. The objects of the Foundation are:

- (a) Advancing a more just, joyful, and collaborative future where everyone has meaningful power to shape their societies;
- (b) Transforming political systems, institutions, and organisations through the principles of sortition, deliberation, and participation;
- (c) Enabling a society where people have greater agency and dignity, and where we leverage our collective intelligence, and find common ground;
- (d) Advancing a democracy where we are in a more harmonious relationship with each other and with the planet;
- (e) And all other acts and things which may be conducive to the aforesaid objects, all such to promote the democratic order.

The Foundation aims to achieve its objects by, inter alia:

- VI. **Advocating** for sortition, deliberation, participation as defining principles of a new democratic paradigm.
- VII. **Experimenting** with, creating, and evaluating new practices, technology, spatial infrastructure, systems, and institutions that advance the field of democratic innovation.
- VIII. **Researching** the practices and impacts of new forms of democracy, notably those that are anchored in the principles of deliberation, sortition (representation by lottery), and participation, such as Citizens' Assemblies and other deliberative and participatory forums.
- IX. **Creating** tools, resources, learning, as well as field- and capacity-building programmes and convening networks that enable more people to have the knowledge and skills to be able to advocate for, design, and implement new democratic practices and institutions.
- X. **Working** with governments, policy makers, practitioners, civil society organisations, international organisations, and other actors about how to design new democratic institutions, such as Citizens' Assemblies.
- XI. **Collaborating** with other actors to promote the ideas of a new democratic paradigm in creative ways that engage a wider public's imagination through exhibitions, public installations, programming, and other initiatives.
- XII. **Co-operating** in any way with organisations with similar objects and achievements.

And all other acts and things which may be conducive to the aforesaid objects.

All the activities to serve the objective will be performed without the aim of generating profit.



### 3. Projects and ongoing work

The most up-to-date information on projects, and further reading on DemocracyNext's work can be found at [www.demnext.org](http://www.demnext.org)

## 4. Organisation

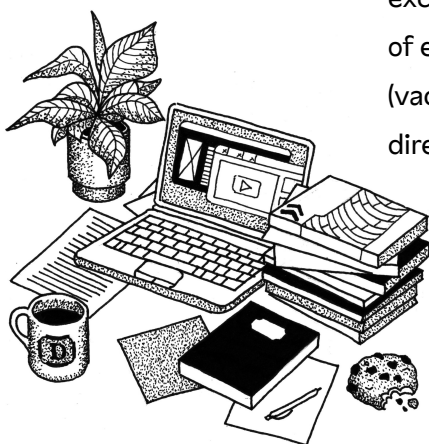
DemocracyNext was set up on 15 September 2022 - International Democracy Day - initially through a Fiscal Sponsorship with Open Collective Europe.

In December 2023, the organisation was incorporated as Stichting DemocracyNext, (known as 'DemocracyNext'), an independent non-profit organisation focused on public benefit (specifically 'the promotion of the democratic legal order'), in line with our articles of association. The Stichting is in the process of being registered with the Dutch tax authorities as an ANBI Stichting ("Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling").

The Board of directors of the DemocracyNext (the "Board") consists of Executive and non-Executive Board Members. As such, the Board is a so-called "one-tier" board that has been implemented in the articles of association. Claudia Chwalisz, Chief Executive Officer, and Lucy Reid, Chief Operating Officer are the two Executive Board Members. The executive directors shall be charged in particular with the day-to-day management of the Foundation and will have an employment agreement for these executive tasks.

Matt Abrams, Panthea Lee, and Robbie Stamp are the three non-Executive Board Members. The non-executive directors shall be charged in particular with supervising the execution of tasks by executive directors. The task of supervising the execution of tasks by executive directors cannot be taken away from non-executive directors by division of tasks.

The members of the Board shall not receive any remuneration with the exception that (i) all members of the Board may receive a reimbursement of expenses incurred and/or non-excessive attendance fees (vacatiegelden) and (ii) members of the Board with the title "executive director" may receive a remuneration for executive duties performed.



This Policy Plan will be regularly updated.

## 5. Source, management & destination of funds

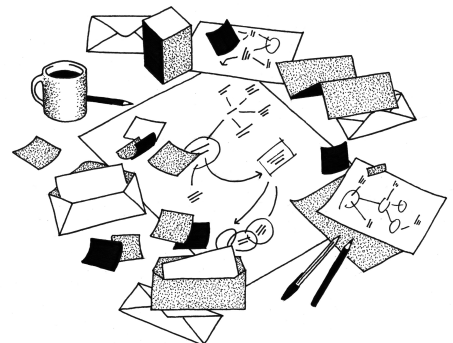
DemocracyNext received initial start-up funding of just under one million euros for the period 2022-2024 from several foundations via a fiscal sponsorship with Open Collective Europe.

As a Stichting, DemocracyNext will raise funds from a variety of sources, principally through grants from trusts, foundations, public grant-giving bodies and individual donations. Contributions may also be received from corporations, governments or other authorities, and public institutions. DemocracyNext invites and welcomes members of the public to make donations to support its objectives.

DemocracyNext aims to maintain stable and reasonable operating funds, and over time to build reasonable reserves necessary to guarantee the continuity of the organisation's work in pursuit of its objectives, in line with best practice for non-profits. All administrative costs are kept at a reasonable level in order to focus as much resource as possible in support of the cause.

In addition, DemocracyNext may fund its Object Activities by performing some limited Object Activities against a remuneration – namely speaking events, consultancy services, training, capacity building, development to set up Assemblies, and in the future, community membership and / or corporate membership models, donations in support of the newsletter and LinkedIn (or similar) learning course. Any such activities undertaken are in service of the Object, and have a non-profit motive.

DemocracyNext uses all funds received in pursuit of its objectives, and on maintaining DemocracyNext. DemocracyNext believes in the importance of transparency in terms of its finances, having worked previously through the fiscal sponsorship of Open Collective Europe, which is a fully transparent online funding platform.





## 6. Contact & registration details

### Address

The Hague Humanity Hub, Fluwelen Burgwal 58, 2511  
CJ The Hague, Netherlands

### Email

hello@demnext.org

### Website

www.demnext.org.uk

### Legal form

Stichting (Dutch Foundation / Charity)

### ANBI status

Registration pending

### CoC number (KvK)

92237444

### Tax number (RSIN)

865949347

### Bank account (IBAN)

Pending

