

# The Deliberation & Technology (DelibTech) Network

*A DemocracyNext x AI & Democracy Foundation Initiative*



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You are invited to become a member of The Deliberation & Technology (DelibTech) Network. This document explains what it is, its purpose, what membership entails, and network activities for the next year.

## What is it

Coordinated by **DemocracyNext** (Claudia Chwalisz and Sammy McKinney) and the **AI & Democracy Foundation** (Aviv Ovadya and Kyle Redman), we are an international network of technologists, practitioners, and experts who are building, studying, and using technology to enhance deliberation and to create digital infrastructure for deliberative democracy.

## Purpose

We are collaborating to:

- **Guide technological innovation** around a critically informed repertoire of deliberative technologies.
- **Develop principles and protocols** for deploying emerging technologies in deliberative processes.
- **Share information and good practices** with one another to encourage mutual learning, the cross-pollination of expertise, and a thriving community of practice.
- **Disseminate research** into the media and other public channels.
- **Enable strategic collaboration and coordination** between network members.

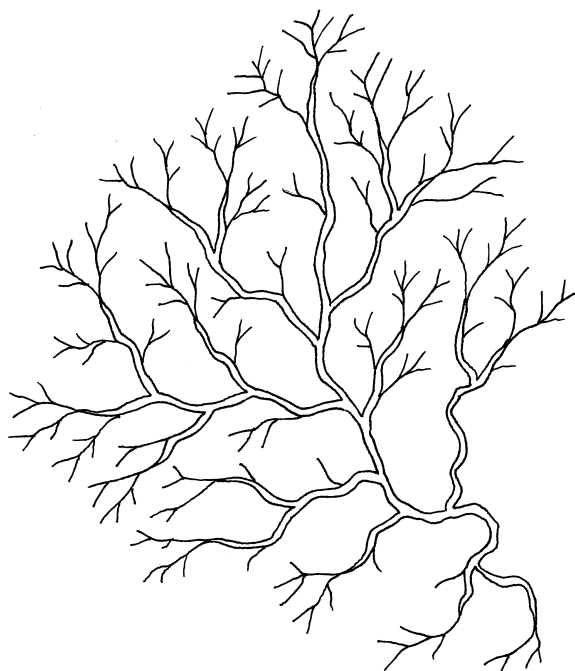
## Membership

- Membership in the network is invite-only. We would like to keep the group size such that everybody knows one another, and that we have a good mix of expertise and geographies.
- Members commit to participating in virtual and in-person convenings as often as they can, held under Chatham House rules to encourage open exchange.
- Members' profiles are publicly shared.
- Members are invited as individuals, but membership is limited to no more than two people per organisation. Members are able to suggest an alternative participant from their organisation to a convening if unable to attend.
- People can express interest to join the group, but we intend to keep the group small to begin with. We will prioritise the functioning of the group over openness and we seek to broaden the group's geographic diversity.

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## Activities

- **Convenings (in-person or online).** Network convenings/learning calls will occur three to four times per year. In general, there will be materials for convenings distributed in advance that will form the basis for group discussion and activities. A first **virtual convening** is planned for **23 September 2025** to launch the network, and a first **in-person convening** is planned for **14 October 2025** to examine ecosystem gaps and to comprehensively map applications. Beyond this, other proposed convenings in the first 12 months include a deep dive into risk mitigation and to provide a space for network members to share core learnings/ experiences/challenges from the field.
- **Developing resources for the field.** The materials prepared for the convenings will be iterated upon and published following network feedback/engagement to provide shared resources for the field.
- **Quarterly email or newsletter** for members and funders with latest research findings, news of related events and opportunities.
- **Webpage** that has information about network members. We are seeking additional resources to develop this into a standalone website that could also feature projects underway, papers, and other relevant resources that can become a coordinated point of reference.
- **Supporting/encouraging working groups** or more formalised collaborations between members - e.g., on sortition, on deliberation, on sense making, on group building, on aiding the consensus formation process, on voting methods in assemblies, on virtual deliberative space, on different philosophies and approaches to 'scaling' deliberation, on the pros and cons of AI 'facilitation', on online versus offline, etc. A working group would need a clear lead.



## Funding

We have a small amount of seed funding to support these initial meetings, but we will require dedicated funds to continue the sustainability of network activities and will be seeking this over the next months.

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# Network members

1. Ione Ardaiz, Projects Lead, Arantzazulab (Spain)
2. Philippe Beaudoin, Senior Director, Research, LawZero (Canada)
3. Jeb Bell, Head of Research and Strategic Insights, Project Liberty Institute (US)
4. Yago Bermejo, Co-Director, deliberativa (Spain)
5. Matt Botvinick, Senior Director of Research, Google DeepMind (US)
6. Matt Byrne, Senior Director of Deliberation, Unify America (US)
7. Sebastián Calderón, R&D Manager, i4policy (Latin America, Africa)
8. Claudia Chwalisz, Founder and CEO, DemocracyNext (Netherlands)
9. Dimitra Dimitrakopoulou, Principal Research Scientist, MIT Center for Constructive Communication (US)
10. Tyna Eloundou, Member of Technical Staff, OpenAI (US)
11. Joe Elborn, Director, Evens Foundation (Belgium)
12. Zakia Elvang, Partner, We Do Democracy (Denmark)
13. Daniel Fusca, Manager, Public Consultation, Parks, Forestry, and Recreation, City of Toronto (Canada)
14. Yasmin Green, CEO, Jigsaw (US)
15. Hannu-Pekka Ikäheimo, Director, Democracy Innovations Programme, Sitra (Finland)
16. Nicole Hunter, Managing Director and Co-Founder, MosaicLab (Australia)
17. Andrew Konya, Remesh (US)
18. Helene Landemore, Professor, Yale University (US)
19. Scott Lappan-Newton, Director, Gauge Consulting (Australia)
20. Miriam Levin, Director of Participatory Programmes, Demos (UK)
21. Larry Lessig, Professor, Harvard Law School (US)
22. Kelly McBride, Director of Capacity Building and Standards, Involve (UK)
23. Sammy McKinney, AI & Deliberation Fellow, DemocracyNext and PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge (UK)

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## Network members

24. Aviv Ovadya, CEO, AI & Democracy Foundation (US)
25. Lex Paulson, Director, School for Collective Intelligence, UM6P (Morocco)
26. Kyle Redman, Democracy Lead, AI & Democracy Foundation (Belgium)
27. Manon Revel, Postdoctoral AI Research Scientist, Meta (US)
28. Deb Roy, Professor and Director, MIT Center for Constructive Communication and CEO, Cortico (US)
29. Kris Rose, Director of Governance, Meta (US)
30. Lukas Salecker, CEO, DeliberAlde (Germany)
31. Lisa Schirch, Professor of the Practice of Peacebuilding and Technology, University of Notre Dame (US)
32. Alice Siu, Professor, Stanford Deliberative Democracy Lab (US)
33. Samantha Shireman, Product Manager, Applied Social Media Lab, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University (US)
34. Jane Suiter, Professor and Director of Dublin City University's Institute for Future Media, Democracy (Ireland)
35. Andrew Sorota, Editorial and Strategy Lead, Office of Eric Schmidt (US)
36. Audrey Tang, Taiwan's Cyber Ambassador, International Advisory Board Member, DemocracyNext (Taiwan)
37. Jorim Theuns, CEO, Dembrane (The Netherlands)
38. Luke Thorburn, Research Fellow, AI & Democracy Foundation (UK)
39. Eugene Yi, PhD Candidate, Oxford, and Research Fellow, DemocracyNext (UK)
40. Amy Zhang, Associate Professor, University of Washington (US)