

## Democratic Innovations: Uses and Perceptions

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The last two decades have marked a rapid development in the use of democratic innovations throughout the world. While their origins and functions have been analyzed in detail, we know relatively little about how democratic innovations are perceived by those who initiate them, participate or have the responsibility to implement their outcomes.

The 2021 ECPR General Conference Section on Democratic Innovations aims to bridge the gap between various perspectives on democratic innovations and welcomes papers and panels that focus on various democratic innovations but also on how those involved in democratic innovations understand, perceive and influence their functioning. The section invites paper and panel submissions that speak to any of the following themes and general questions:

1. **Perceptions of democratic innovations:** How do citizens, practitioners and decision-makers relate to democratic innovations? How are they perceived by those who get involved in it and by external actors? What is the potential of DIs to increase participation?
2. **Democratic innovations in theory and in practice:** How and why political or non-political actors engage in democratic innovations? How do democratic innovations address policy problems through citizens' involvement? How can we relate theories of democratic innovations with the way they function in practice?
3. **The Challenges of Outcomes:** What are the challenges faced by institutions and decision-makers in implementing the outcomes of democratic innovations? How does citizens' involvement in democratic innovations alter the quality of democracy? What are the consequences of democratic innovations on the political process as a whole?

Please send all panel proposals to [camille.bedock@gmail.com](mailto:camille.bedock@gmail.com) (Camille) and [sergiulor@yahoo.com](mailto:sergiulor@yahoo.com) (Sergiu) until 18 November 2020.

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