

Exploring **Worldwide** Democratic Innovations

A Regional Case Study of Latin America

2 types of democratic innovations



8 examples from different countries



- Brazil
- Ecuador
- Uruguay
- Bolivia
- Chile
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Costa Rica

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Democratic innovations have a long history in Latin America.
This case study looks at two deliberative democratic innovations:



Multilevel policymaking

Multilevel policymaking involves participatory processes with at least **two levels of deliberation**, which can take place **simultaneously** or **subsequently**. All countries in Latin America have implemented at least one type of multilevel policymaking process. A total of **128 different institutional designs** can be identified across the region, although most concentrate in a few countries.



Participatory planning

Participatory planning is a type of democratic innovation whose modus operandi also resembles a **process**, regardless of its degree of institutionalisation. Such a process involves one or more spaces or occasions where participants **get together to deliberate on policies or policy plans**, often focusing on making entirely new policies and designing future strategies and actions.

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Characteristics of multilevel policymaking and participatory planning:

Multilevel policymaking and participatory planning are deliberative processes that work towards advancing co-governance

Both types of democratic innovation are scalable and can take place at both local and national levels

Multilevel policymaking and participatory planning can both be used to deliberate concrete policies and inform decision making through producing policy recommendations

The design of these innovations enable deliberation in multiple stages, enabling a cumulative discussion of inputs within different rounds, places, moments, and groups of participants



About the project:

'Exploring Worldwide Democratic Innovations' is a research project that brings together researchers, practitioners and policymakers to exchange best practices in democratic innovations and explore how innovations developed and implemented outside the West can be applied to a European context. This project was supported by the **Robert Bosch Stiftung**.



Sources:

European Democracy Hub (2022). Exploring Worldwide Democratic Innovations - A Regional Case Study of Latin America.