

Democratic Odyssey: Sortition Europe Democratic Lottery Report

Introduction

The Democratic Odyssey is a project organised by a group of [30 organisations](#) led by the [European University Institute's Florence School of Transnational Governance](#) (EUI-STG) that will include citizens' assembly style meetings. This report outlines the details of our recruitment, by lottery, of a diverse group of 40 people from more than 15 European countries for the first Democratic Odyssey assembly to be held in Athens from September 27-29. A key element of the project was to document inventive ways of communicating the idea of democratic lotteries ("the pedagogy of sortition").

More details about the Democratic Odyssey can be [found in this document](#) (and see, in particular, their [Modular Framework](#) linked therein).

Sortition Europe Process

Sortition Europe used several steps to find a diverse sample, with the aim of recruiting 2 people from 20 European countries. Both steps mobilised our [SORT-EU network](#) of partner organisations from all over the EU and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

We firstly drew on a small existing reserve pool of people who had not been selected to participate in an earlier transnational deliberative event, but had expressed their interest in joining similar future events. These people had been originally contacted by randomly selecting locations in EU countries and knocking on doors at or near those locations.

To increase the diversity of those participating, our partner organisations supplemented this group in 6 European countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Lithuania, Malta, Spain and Bosnia-Herzegovina), inventing new ways of selecting addresses by lottery such as dice rolls, lottery draws, or dart throwing at a map!

Visiting and knocking on people's doors at those addresses, they talked to people about citizens' assemblies, the topic of the assembly in Athens, and how they can register online (or get help to register) if they would like to participate.

13 August, 2024
www.sortition.eu
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From these two techniques we then selected a diverse pool of 40 international participants from 20 different European countries, from a total pool of 99 people. The 40 people selected approximately reflect the diversity of the citizens living in Europe considering multiple demographic factors: their gender, age, education level and views on the EU. We overrepresented youth, but with such a small pool to draw from (due to financial constraints) it was impossible to meet some of the targets perfectly.

We then engaged in a phone confirmation and initial onboarding process to help the transition and handover of participants to the Democratic Odyssey team.

With this transnational group, as well as other participants from different groups, the Democratic Odyssey is embarking on a journey with a pilot assembly organised in Athens in September 2024.

Sortition Europe Invitation Letter

The invitation below (front and back shown) was translated into 6 languages and used by our partners in the second part of the recruitment. It was also translated into Greek by use of the Greek recruitment partner, QED, in their sortition process.

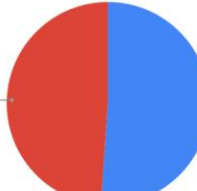
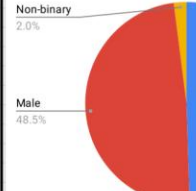
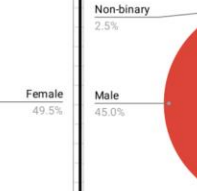
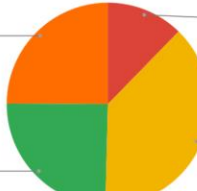
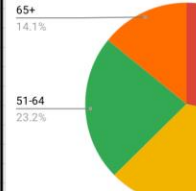
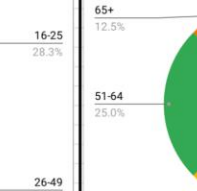
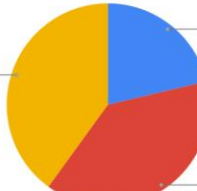
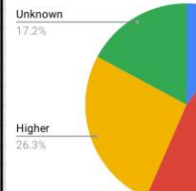
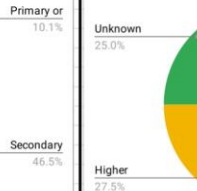
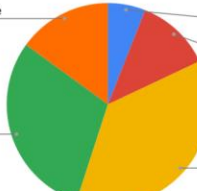
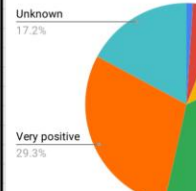
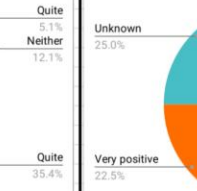
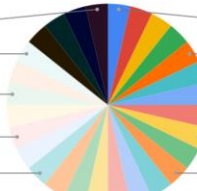
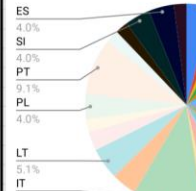
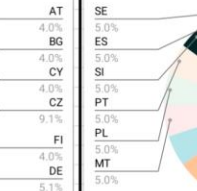


The image displays the front and back of an invitation letter for the Democratic Odyssey project. The front side (left) features the logos of the European Union, Democratic Odyssey, and SORTITION EUROPE. The main heading is "You are invited" with the subtext "to have your say on the future of the European Union as part of the Democratic Odyssey, a project organised by a group of European organisations." It states that 200 people will be selected by lottery to take part in the People's Assembly for Europe in Athens, with a €150 stipend. A quote asks, "Reflecting on your experience of recent crises, what needs to change for the EU to overcome future storms?" It encourages participation, stating "The organizers want to hear from YOU." and "Join the Democratic Odyssey to let the EU know how it can tackle this topic today and in the future." It mentions that transport and accommodation in Athens will be paid for. Two registration methods are provided: text to +43 678 907 027 3969 or scanning a QR code to sortition.eu/XXXX. A note asks if the invitation was found in a letterbox and provides a call-back number: +36 123 456 789. The deadline to register is 7 July 2024.

The back side (right) is titled "How does a People's Assembly work? Why me?" and includes a flowchart: 1. Organizers want to hear people's opinions on important questions related to the EU. 2. A neighborhood is selected by lottery. 3. After registration closes, members are selected by lottery. 4. Selected members meet in Athens (29-30 Sept 2024) to discuss future meetings. 5. Recommendations are handed to EU decision-makers. It also includes a note about the group's recommendations being handed to EU decision-makers. Two registration methods are repeated: text to +36 123 456 789 or scanning the QR code. A note asks if the invitation was found in a letterbox and provides the call-back number: +36 123 456 789. The deadline to register is 7 July 2024.

Sortition Europe Group Demographics

The targets and demographics of the small pool of interested participants and those selected to participate are given below. *Note that some data is missing and we are working to fill these gaps.*

ALL	TARGET	RESPONDENTS	SELECTED
GENDER	 <p>Male 48.9% Female 51.1%</p>	 <p>Male 48.5% Female 49.5% Non-binary 2.0%</p>	 <p>Male 45.0% Female 52.5% Non-binary 2.5%</p>
AGE	 <p>16-25 12.3% 26-49 38.1% 51-64 24.7% 65+ 24.9%</p>	 <p>16-25 28.3% 26-49 34.3% 51-64 23.2% 65+ 14.1%</p>	 <p>16-25 30.0% 26-49 32.5% 51-64 25.0% 65+ 12.5%</p>
EDUCATION	 <p>Higher 40.0% Secondary 38.7% Primary or 21.3%</p>	 <p>Higher 26.3% Secondary 46.5% Primary or 10.1% Unknown 17.2%</p>	 <p>Higher 27.5% Secondary 35.0% Primary or 12.5% Unknown 25.0%</p>
EU views	 <p>Very positive 15.0% Quite 30.0% Neither 37.0% Very 6.0% Quite 12.0%</p>	 <p>Very positive 29.3% Quite 35.4% Neither 12.1% Quite 5.1% Unknown 17.2%</p>	 <p>Very positive 22.5% Quite 40.0% Neither 7.5% Very 2.5% Unknown 25.0%</p>
Country (RESIDENCE)	 <p>SE 3.6%, RO 3.6%, PL 3.6%, MT 3.6%, LT 3.6% AT 3.6%, HR 3.6%, CZ 3.6%, EE 3.6%, FR 3.6%</p>	 <p>ES 4.0%, SI 4.0%, PT 9.1%, PL 4.0%, LT 5.1%, IT 11.1% AT 4.0%, BG 4.0%, CY 4.0%, CZ 9.1%, FI 4.0%, DE 5.1%</p>	 <p>SE 5.0%, ES 5.0%, SI 5.0%, PT 5.0%, PL 5.0%, MT 5.0% AT 5.0%, BA 5.0%, BE 5.0%, BG 5.0%, HR 5.0%, CY 5.0%</p>



SORTITION EUROPE - DEMOCRATIC ODYSSEY RECRUITMENT DASHBOARD																				
Country Display: ALL																				
Country Target: 40																				
Gender	Target %	All respondents		Selected		Age	Target %	All respondents		Selected		Education	Target %	All respondents		Selected				
		#	%	#	Orig %	Orig #		#	%	#	Orig %	Orig #		#	%	#	Orig %	Orig #		
TOTALS	100.0	40.0	100.0	99	100.0	40		100.0	40.0	100	99	100.0	40		100.0	40.0	100.0	99	100.0	40
Female	51.1	20.4	49.5	49	32.5	21	0-15	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	21.3	8.5	10.1	10	12.5	5	
Male	48.9	19.6	48.5	48	45.0	18	16-25	12.3	4.9	29.3	28	30.0	12	38.7	15.5	46.5	46	35.0	14	
Non-binary or c	0.0	0.0	2.0	2	2.5	1	26-49	38.1	15.2	34.3	34	32.5	13	40.0	16.0	26.3	26	27.5	11	
							51-64	24.7	9.9	23.2	23	25.0	10							
							65+	24.9	10.0	14.1	14	12.5	5			17.2	17	25.0	10	
							100+	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0.0	0							

EU views	Target %	All respondents		Selected		Country (RESIDENCE)	Target %	All respondents		Selected			
		#	%	#	Orig %	Orig #		#	%	#	Orig %	Orig #	
	100.0	40	100.0	99	100.0	40		100.0	56	100.0	99	100.0	40
Very negative	6.0	2.4	1.0	1	2.5	1	AT	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
Quite negative	12.0	4.8	5.1	5	2.5	1	BA	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	5.0	2
Neither positive	37.0	14.8	12.1	12	7.5	3	BE	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	5.0	2
Quite positive	30.0	12	35.4	35	40.0	16	BG	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
Very positive	15.0	6	29.3	29	22.5	9	HR	3.6	2.0	3.0	3	5.0	2
Unknown			17.2	17	25.0	10	CY	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							CZ	3.6	2.0	9.1	9	5.0	2
							DK	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	0.0	0
							EE	3.6	2.0	0.0	0	0.0	0
							FI	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							FR	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	5.0	2
							DE	3.6	2.0	5.1	5	5.0	2
							EL	3.6	2.0	1.0	1	0.0	0
							HU	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							IE	3.6	2.0	1.0	1	0.0	0
							IT	3.6	2.0	11.1	11	5.0	2
							LV	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							LT	3.6	2.0	5.1	5	5.0	2
							LU	3.6	2.0	0.0	0	0.0	0
							MT	3.6	2.0	3.0	3	5.0	2
							NL	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	0.0	0
							PL	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							PT	3.6	2.0	9.1	9	5.0	2
							RO	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	0.0	0
							SK	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	0.0	0
							SI	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							ES	3.6	2.0	4.0	4	5.0	2
							SE	3.6	2.0	2.0	2	5.0	2

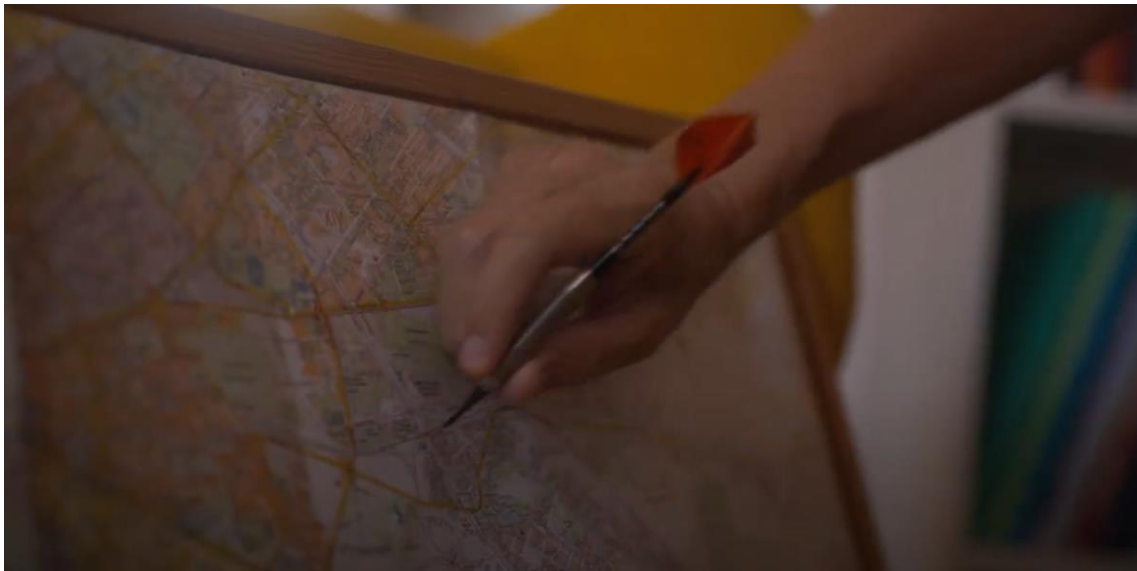
The Pedagogy of Sortition

As the Democratic Odyssey is a campaign to institutionalise sortition and deliberation at the EU level it is very important to convey the ideas of the assembly (including how the sortition process was conducted) to the wider public.

To this end we created several videos with our partners of various elements of an inventive sortition process. Some of these videos were created by a video professional in Hungary, to communicate the idea of sortition (lottery):

- A short video of using paper slips outlining districts, and throwing darts at a map: <https://youtu.be/iJsQs3Q3als>
- Using coloured rods and cards part: <https://youtu.be/pYo3GsRtzQI>
- Door-knocking and leaflet handover: <https://youtu.be/IGW8fs9eG5g>
- A longer video of all the ideas above <https://youtu.be/GsK0Rogq0jk>

Our other partners in Malta, Lithuania, Germany, Bulgaria and Austria also made a series of recruitment videos that have been given to the Democratic Odyssey videographer.



Selecting a location on a map by throwing darts



Door-knocking and explaining the Democratic Odyssey