

Name	21st Century Town Meeting®
Brief Description	<i>21st Century Town Meetings® are public forums that use modern communications technologies to allow a large number of participants across various locations to simultaneously deliberate on the same issue in small groups.</i>
Methodology	<p>The 21st Century Town Meeting is a trademarked process developed by the USA organization AmericaSpeak. The meeting follows a four-step process similar to other public consultations or deliberative policy forums.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & Organizer Preparation: participants should be chosen using stratified sampling to ensure demographics are representative of the population • Information & Learning: participants need to receive information and preparation material well in advance before the event (at least one week) • Town Hall Meeting (Discussion and Vote): the one-day encounter at the core of the 21st century Town Meetings. All participants come together at a set time, in-person at one or more locations. The participants are distributed on tables of 10 to 12 participants each and discuss the topics / questions prepared. Each group follows the same agenda, with a team leader taking notes on the discussion. • Reporting: the results gathered in groups are reported back to the main audience; they will be summarized in a document by the organizer and shared with all the participants. <p>One of the benefits of 21st Century Town Meetings compared to individual, small group deliberations is its ability to produce a coherent set of goals or vision among a large group of people.</p>
Estimated planning time needed:	40h
Estimated budget needed:	Large. The meetings need to be hosted in a large facility - as the town hall - and require many materials (background information; template for the discussion; audio and video support) to be shared among participants and for visualization purposes. The budget can be lowered by developing the sessions online
Objective	enable every participant to meaningfully contribute during the deliberation and decision-making process
Time estimated:	Half to one day
Target Audience:	Diverse audience is envisaged, to provide for the maximum level of heterogeneity among the target group
Number of audience:	Large
Group composition:	Heterogeneous

Level of Knowledge required and possible challenges	High. Possible challenges relate to the financing required for the meetings; political backing and the selection of the right audience to provide a balanced and unbiased result
Facilitator profile	The facilitator should have a high level of knowledge on the subject of the meeting and should be able to coordinate and steer numerous participants
Example	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.americaspeaks.org/cases/
Relevant sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.buergergesellschaft.de/mitentscheiden/methoden-verfahren/buergerbeteiligung-in-der-praxis-methoden-und-verfahren-von-a-z/?tx_smmethods_smmethods%5Bmethod%5D=27&tx_smmethods_smmethods%5Baction%5D=show&tx_smmethods_smmethods%5Bcontroller%5D=Method&cHash=5bd7c01fe9fe32b5cd04e65c61d6e536 • https://participedia.net/method/145 • https://www.civicus.org/documents/toolkits/PGX_B_21st%20CenturymeetingFinalWeb.pdf