

Name	The Vorarlberg Bürgerrat model®
Brief Description	<i>The method was pioneered in 2006 by Manfred Hellrigl, who began experimenting with the Wisdom Council model for rural and dispersed communities. The format was renamed "Bürgerrat", which translates as Civic Council or Citizens' Council and is particularly popular in Germany and Austria, where it has been evidenced to bring positive outcomes to communities</i>
Methodology	<p>The Vorarlberg Bürgerrat method generally involves the 4 steps described below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen Council: between 10 and 30 randomly selected citizens work out a joint statement; in case more participants are present, the group can be split in two. They carry out their work with the support of a moderator. • Citizen Café: the findings of the Citizen Council are presented to the public at a large gathering. After some brief introductions by the sponsoring organization, and the report by the Council itself, participants are invited to join in a deeper conversation in breakout groups before reporting out to the larger audience. • Responder Team: a team formed by the organiser gathers to review the Citizen Council's findings and to monitor their implementation. This team traditionally also includes one or more community members from the previous step. • Documentation & Next Steps: The documentation encompasses the findings of the Council and the results, providing the informational groundwork for further conversation among both community members and government.
Estimated planning time needed:	40h
Estimated budget needed:	Medium - a room or facility should be rented; participation should be free of charge
Objective	aims to address community issues in a quick and inexpensive manner through facilitated deliberation
Time estimated:	1-3 days
Target Audience:	Civil Society
Number of audience:	< 40
Group composition:	Homogeneous
Level of Knowledge required and possible challenges	Low
Facilitator profile	Experienced
Example	Hellrigl, M. (2012). "Local development and empowerment, methods and inspiration". Presentation at international conference in Göteborg.

	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lid7UuqCDQE
Relevant sources	Büro für Zukunftsfragen, (2014). Bürgerräte in Vorarlberg. Eine Zwischenbilanz. Original at https://tinyurl.com/ZwishOrig ; English translation at https://tinyurl.com/SwischEng