



## SMARTER CROWDSOURCING

Solving public problems using Artificial Intelligence and Collective Intelligence.

[www.smartercrowdsourcing.org](http://www.smartercrowdsourcing.org)

 THEGOVLAB

 The Burnes Center  
for Social Change  
Northeastern University

**Smarter Crowdsourcing** uses artificial intelligence to enable participatory problem-solving that is more legitimate, more effective and more efficient.

The usual methods of obtaining expertise are too slow, especially when we need to respond quickly to the crisis at hand with innovative and diverse ideas. **Smarter Crowdsourcing** engages those with practical expertise and lived experience to solve problems in a format designed to produce effective outcomes. Using an open source AI toolkit called **Policy Synth**, developed in collaboration with **Citizens Foundation**, we combine human intelligence with the power of AI agents and genetic algorithms to turn insight into action.

## HOW IT WORKS

1

**Identifying partner institutions** who define the problem. The partner commits to “listen” actively and act on outcomes.

2

**Problem Identification** narrows a broader issue (e.g., Covid-19) into more concrete and specific problems. (e.g., how to expand testing capacity). Using public engagement and/or AI agents we define the root causes of the problem and produce a Problem Catalog.

3

**Curation:** We use AI to identify those with research and practical experience who have demonstrated success solving the problem.

4

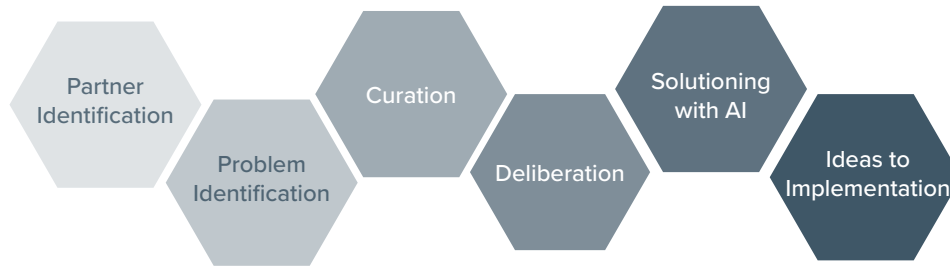
**Deliberation:** We convene a series of online deliberative conversations among participants Each session focuses on identifying concrete solutions to a specific problem. We use AI-driven, real-time translation and transcription to enable global dialogues.

5

**Solutioning with AI:** We use AI agents to search thousands of online sources for solutions, and then to rank and prioritize among solutions. We use a genetic algorithm to “evolve” the best solutions into evidence-based policy proposals.

6

**From Ideas to Implementation:** We take insights for each dialog and from AI-enabled research to develop implementation memos that lay out next steps, timeline, costs and action plan.



	SAMPLE PROJECT	PARTNER(S)	IMPACT
	<b>Preparing New Jersey for the Jobs of the Future</b> – Using AI and public engagement to identify evidence-based solutions to AI-driven disruptions to NJ’s economy and workforce.	<b><u>State of New Jersey AI Task Force</u></b>	Summer 2024
	<b><u>Countering Election Subversion</u></b> – sourcing solutions to address sabotage and denial targeting US elections.	<b><u>Democracy Fund Voice</u></b>	98 experts engaged 3 online deliberations
	<b><u>Smarter Crowdsourcing in the Age of Coronavirus</u></b> - mobilizing global expertise to respond to COVID-19 and its aftermath.	<b><u>Inter-American Development Bank</u></b> and Governments of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Peru.	139 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	<b><u>Zika</u></b> - expert sourcing solutions to critical challenges with the Zika epidemic in 2016.	<b><u>Inter-American Development Bank</u></b> , Governments of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, and Panama	98 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	<b><u>Anti-Corruption</u></b> - working with the government of Mexico to fight corruption.	Government of Mexico, <b><u>Inter-American Development Bank</u></b>	99 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	<b><u>Education: New Measures Of Non-academic Learning</u></b> - equitably identifying and measuring non-academic skills.	<b><u>Walton Family Foundation</u></b>	94 experts engaged 6 online deliberations
	<b><u>Innovations In Experiential Learning In Higher Education</u></b> - reimagining experiential learning in higher education.	<b><u>Northeastern University</u></b>	95 experts engaged 2 online deliberations
	<b><u>Innovations in AI and Assessment</u></b> - Expert sourcing the future of machine learning and assessment	<b><u>Schmidt Futures</u></b>	30 experts engaged 2 online deliberations
	<b><u>Innovations in Disaster Management</u></b> - disaster response to prepare for the imminent eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano.	<b><u>City of Quito</u></b>	65 experts engaged 4 online deliberations