Sveinung Arnesen

Bergen, 10th October 2019

**Draft of survey for the research project *Democratic innovation in practice: Investigating real-world participatory processes and their influence on democractic legitimacy (DEMOVATE)***

We will send the survey to a representative sample of citizens in the municipality of Bergen. In addition to the questions asked here, we will need background information on “voted/did not vote in the local election of 2019”, “gender”, “age”, “education”, “electoral district”, “gross income”, “preferred political party”, “stated position on political right-left scale”. We will use registry data in cases where they are available and accessible.

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<Introductory text>

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Welcome to this survey about the local democracy in Bergen, which is fielded on behalf of the municipality of Bergen, NORCE and the University of Bergen. We are interested in your opinion about the questions we ask, and ask you to answer as honestly as possible. All your answers will be treated confidentially.

It will take around xx-yy minutes to complete the survey, but you can use longer time if you want to. We remind you that participation is voluntary, and that you can quit at any time. We thank you for your participation and contribution to important research on local democracy in Bergen. Good luck!

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<R1DEMOVATE1>

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How interested are you in politics? Please select among the alternatives below where 0 means “not interested at all” and 10 means “very interested.

0 Not interested at all

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10 Very interested

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<R1DEMOVATE2>

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To what extent would you say that the political system in Bergen gives people like you influence on what the government is doing? Please select among the alternatives below where 0 means “not at all” and 10 means “completely.

0 Not at all

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10 Completely

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<R1DEMOVATE3>

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Altogether, how democratic do you perceive Bergen? Please select among the alternatives below where 0 means “not democratic at all” and 10 means “completely democratic”

0 Not democratic at all

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10 Completely democratic

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<R1DEMOVATE4>

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Can you explain you answer?

Open answer: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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<R1DEMOVATE5>

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On to some questions about local political issues. How strongly do you support or oppose the building of Bybalen [light rail system] to Åsane [part of town]?

0 I am completely opposed

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10 I am completely supportive

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<R1DEMOVATE6>

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Assuming that Bybanen [light rail system] is built to Åsane [part of town], how strongly do you support or oppose that it runs across Bryggen [world heritage site]?

0 I am completely opposed

1

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3

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5

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7

8

9

10 I am completely supportive

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<R1DEMOVATE7>

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Det har i enkelte avisinnlegg blitt tatt til orde for å bygge boliger på deler av Store Lungegårdsvann. På generelt grunnlag, hvor sterkt støtter eller motsetter du deg at dette gjøres?

Certain newspaper articles argue for building residential houses in large areas of Store Lungårsvann [lake]. Generally, how strongly do you support or oppose this?

0 I am completely opposed

1

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9

10 I am completely supportive

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<R1DEMOVATE8>

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The municipality of Bergen has decided to give political power to the districts in Bergen, divided in Arna, Bergenhus, Fana, Fyllingsdalen, Laksevåg, Årstad and Åsane. To what extent do you oppose or support that the municipality forms districts with political power?

0 I am completely opposed

1

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9

10 I am completely supportive

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<R1DEMOVATE9>

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Assuming that the districts get political power, how do you think that the politicians should be elected? Please range the alternatives according to the ones you prefer the most by writing 1 (most preferred), 2 (second most preferred), and 3 (third most preferred):

* Direct election of representatives. The representatives in the districts are elected directly by the citizens in the district.
* Party representation according to the general election results in the municipality. The distribution of representatives will be as equal as possible as the party distribution in the city council.
* Party representation according to the election results in the district. The distribution of representatives will be as equal as possible as the parties support in the district.

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<R1DEMOVATE10>

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NOTE: The variable names in bold letters will be replaced with randomized values from table xx below.  
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The municipality of Bergen has decided to carry out so-called citizen panels in time ahead. A citizen panel is an arrangement where a group of regular citizens in the municipality is invited to discuss and form an opinion regarding a predetermined case. The invitees are drawn randomly from the Population Registry, and represents a cross-section of the population in terms of political attitudes and their social background such as gender, age, education and income. Those who accept are dealt information about the case, and discuss amongst each other in smaller groups, before they cast votes regarding the case.

We are interested in knowing what it takes to get as many as possible of the invited citizens of Bergen to participate, so that those who actually participate in the citizen panel still represent a cross-section of the population. We will now present a hypothetical scenario where we ask you to decide whether you would have participated if you were drawn:

**|Form of recruitment** where they are informed where they are one of few citizens in Bergen who are invited to participate in a citizen panel.

The participants are **|Compensation** for participation.

The case to be discussed is **|Case**

The participants make their decision based on **|Basis for decision**  
The actual decision is made by voting, and **|Published**.

Would you have participated if you were invited by the municipality to such a citizen panel?

* No, I would not have participated
* Yes, I would have participated

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*Table 3: Experimental stimuli that will be placed in the vignette text*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variabel** | **Verdier** |
| |Form of recruitment | [The drawn citizens are called by an employee in the municipality / The drawn citizens receive a letter from the municipality / The drawn citizens get a text message from the municipality / The drawn citizens get an email from the municipality] |
| |Case | [whether Bybanen [light rail system] shall run over Bryggen [world heritage site] / how district politicians are elected / whether to allow building of residential houses on parts of Store Lungegårdsvann [lake] |
| |Duration | [three hours / eight hours] |
| |Compensation | [not compensated / compensated with 200 NOK per hour / 500 NOK per hour / 1000 NOK per hour] |
| |Basis for decision | [own assessment and preferences / reliable information from independent experts / deliberation between participants in smaller groups where the discussion is lead by independent moderators] |
| |Publication | [it is published along with information about who the participants are and what they voted in the case / it is published, but information about how the participants are and what they voted for is not published] |

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<R1DEMOVATE11>

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NOTE: The variable names in bold letters are replaced with randomly drawn values from table xx below.  
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So we want to know how much the politicians should emphasize the results from the citizen panel when they are making a decision. We ask you to address the following scenario:

**|Form of recruitment** where they are informed where they are one of few citizens in Bergen who are invited to participate in a citizen panel.

The citizen panel takes place in

The participants are **|Compensation** for participation.

The case to be discussed is **|Case**

The participants make their decision based on **|Basis for decision**  
The actual decision is made by voting, and **|Published**.

Hvor mye mener du resultatet fra borgerpanelet skal vektlegges når politikerne skal fatte den endelige beslutningen i saken? Vennligst velg blant alternativene under hvor 0 betyr «resultatet skal ikke vektlegges i det hele tatt» og 10 betyr «resultatet må følges uansett».

How much do you think that the result from the citizen panel should be emphasized when politicians are making a final decision regarding the case? Please select among the alternatives below where 0 means “the result should not be emphasized at all” and 10 means “the result must be abided no matter what”.

0 The result should not be emphasized at all

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10 The result must be abided no matter what

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*Table 3: Experimental stimuli that will be placed in the vignette text*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variabel** | **Verdier** |
| |Form of recruitment | [The drawn citizens are called by an employee in the municipality / The drawn citizens receive a letter from the municipality / The drawn citizens get a text message from the municipality / The drawn citizens get an email from the municipality] |
| |Case | [whether Bybanen [light rail system] shall run over Bryggen [world heritage site] / how district politicians are elected / whether to allow building of residential houses on parts of Store Lungegårdsvann [lake] |
| |Duration | [three hours / eight hours] |
| |Compensation | [not compensated / compensated with 200 NOK per hour / 500 NOK per hour / 1000 NOK per hour] |
| |Basis for decision | [own assessment and preferences / reliable information from independent experts / deliberation between participants in smaller groups where the discussion is lead by independent moderators] |
| |Publication | [it is published along with information about who the participants are and what they voted in the case / it is published, but information about how the participants are and what they voted for is not published] |

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<R1DEMOVATE12>

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NOTE: The variable names in bold letters are replaced with randomly drawn values from table xx below.  
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Imagine that there is a new debate regarding political power to districts in Bergen and that municipal politicians invited **|Invited** citizens in Bergen to participate in such a citizen panel.

**|Participation  
|Size of majority  
|Outcome**

What do you think is correct in such a case, should the politicians in the municipality follow the result of the citizen panel, even if the majority of the city council disagrees with the result?

* Yes, the result of the citizen panel should be followed
* No, the result of the citizen panel should not be followed

*Table 2: Experimental stimuli that is placed in the vignette text*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variabel** | **Verdier** |
| |Invited | [300 / 600 / 900] |
| |Participation | [blank / 35% of the invited participated / 47% of the invited participated / 53% of the invited participated / 85% of the invited participated] |
| |Size of majority | [blank / The winning side got 51% of the votes / The winning side got 55% of the votes / The winning side got 70% of the votes] |
| |Outcome | [blank / Supporters of districts won the poll / The opposition to districts won the poll] |

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<R1DEMOVATE13>

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NOTE: The variable names in bold letters are replaced with randomly drawn values from table xx below.  
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Vi er interesserte i hvordan innbyggerne vurderer folkeavstemningers rolle i politiske beslutninger. Se for deg at det kom en ny debatt om bydelene i Bergen skulle ha politisk makt, og at det ble holdt en rådgivende folkeavstemning om saken.

We are interested in how citizen assess the role of referendums in political decisions. Imagine that there is a new debate on whether the districts in Bergen should have political power and that a consultative referendum was held.

**|Participation**

**|Size of majority**

**|Outcome**

What do you think is correct in such a case, should the politicians in the municipality follow the result of the referendum, even if the majority of the city council disagrees with the result?

* Yes, the result of the referendum should be followed
* No, the result of the referendum should not be followed

*Table 1: Experimental treatment that is placed in the vignette text*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variabel** | **Verdier** |
| |Participation | [blank / 35% of the invited participated / 47% of the invited participated / 53% of the invited participated / 85% of the invited participated] |
| |Size of majority | [blank / The winning side got 51% of the votes / The winning side got 55% of the votes / The winning side got 70% of the votes] |
| |Outcome | [blank / Supporters of districts won the poll / The opposition to districts won the poll] |