In recent years, Ireland has emerged as a leader in the use of Citizens' Assemblies for constitutional reform. The diagramme below charts their genesis and their development. As outlined in Article 46 (2) of Bunreacht na hEireann (The Irish Constitution 1937), constitutional reform requires a public referendum '..every proposal for an amendment of this constitution shall be initiated in Dáil Éireann as a Bill, and shall upon having been passed or deemed to have been passed by both houses of the oireachtas, be submitted by referendum to the decision of the people in accordance with the law for the time being in force relating to the referendum.'

WE THE CITIZENS SPEAK UP FOR IRELAND

Academic led 'pilot citizens' assembly'

Funded by Atlantic Philianthropies 7 regional meetings

100 randomly selected members

1 weekend of deliberation in June

Recommendation: Citizens' Assembly to look at constitutional

An Coinbhinsiún ar an mBunreacht THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSTITUTION

Government sponsored 'mixed' citizens' assembly 2012-14.

Membership: 33 political representatives, 66 randonly selected citizens & independent chair.

Agenda: Mix of constitutional reform issues, e.g. marriage equality, reduce

Outcomes: Over 40 recommendations. 3 Referendums (2 successful) and more promised. The Citizens' Assembly 2016-2018



Government sponsored citizens' assembly 2016-2018.

99 randomly selected citizens.

Agenda: Mixed topics including abortion, climate change and fixed terms parliaments.

Outcomes to date: 1 successful referendum (abortion), creation of 2 select parliamentary committees.