

Synthesizing the Outputs of Deliberative Forum

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Linking deliberation objectives to outputs

- What is the expected deliverable of the deliberation?
 - To elicit values to inform a decision-making process?
 - To provide recommendations?
 - To evaluate policy options?

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How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (1)

Two strategies:

1. Internally-driven synthesis: an explicit product of deliberation
 - synthesis is incorporated into the deliberation (e.g., following small group discussions)
 - requires adequate time and skilled facilitation
 - increases the legitimacy of the outputs

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How will deliberation outputs be synthesized? (2)

2. Externally-driven synthesis: an inferred product which follows deliberation
 - allows for specialist skills to be employed to produce a comprehensive synthesis
 - removes synthesis activities and control over outputs from participants
 - ratification of outputs with participants can improve the legitimacy of this approach