| Subject: | FW: New submission from Research Form |

From: The Electoral Commission <noreply@electoralcommission.eu>
Sent: Thursday 11 January 2024 16:00
To: ELC Research <research@electoralcommission.ie>
Subject: New submission from Research Form

1. What is your view on the five proposed research strands? Are there amendments or additions you would suggest?

I think they are very good and should provide a good foundation to develop the commission from.

2. Which of the research questions under section 4 would you consider most important and why?

I think the one that interests me the most is the research into the impact different size constituencies could have.

3. Are there additional research projects that you consider important to promote and enhance Ireland's democracy and electoral events? If yes, please specify?

I have two ideas I think would be worth researching:

1. For Dail elections, we have a system that elects representatives in respect to space (land). What would be said for the Seanad having a system that elects representatives in respect to time (age)?
By this I mean instead of constituencies being decided by land borders they would be formed from age brackets. At the time of the election, candidates would declare for a specific age bracket and
voters would only be able to cast a vote for candidates who are in their age bracket at the time of the election. The number of seats assigned to each age bracket would be decided by the most recent census, with each age bracket receiving a proportional number of seats to the percentage of the population that they represent. If such a system was implemented, it would mean that the Seanad would more closely represent the age demographic of the country or at least have representatives who's mandate is to represent specific ages.
I am unaware of any elected body in the world using age as the parameter to decide its constituencies with the closest related example that comes to mind is the Citizen s Assembly where
age is used as a factor to select representatives. I think it would be any interesting research questions looking at electing representatives to represent not geographical areas but age

brackets and what would be the benefits or negatives to such a system and how would such an election be run?

2. The concept of electing people by lottery and the implications of such a system. The podcast found at this link by the journalist Malcolm Gladwell gives a good description of the concept. https://www.pushkin.fm/podcasts/revisionist-history/the-powerball-revolution
In short the concept is instead of a person looking for votes to get an elected position, everyone looking to run for the position would put their name in a hat and pull out a name and this person would be elected. It would still practice democratic principles because instead of everyone having an equal one person one vote, it is moved to everyone has equal opportunity to be picked, one person, one ticket. Such a system might be interesting in respect to how Councilor positions are filled.
This is also a website for a charity looking at the concept: https://democracyinpractice.org/

4. Are there any other comments or observations that you wish to make regarding An Coimisiún's research programme?

No, other then good luck and look forward to reading your findings.

Name

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Email

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Are you replying as an Individual or representing an Organisation?

I am responding as an Individual