

Climate and parliaments: Towards a research agenda on parliamentary ecosystems

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Overview

1. Representative democracy and climate change
2. Climate change, parliaments and institutional innovations: A framework
 - Epistocratic perspective: Independent advisory bodies
 - Deliberative perspective: Climate Citizens Assemblies
 - Futurocratic perspective: Guardians of the Future
3. Towards a parliamentary ecosystem

Representative democracy and climate change

Multiple crises of representative democracy

- The erosion of traditional party systems (Berman 2018, Mudge 2018)
- The rise of xenophobic, racist, or authoritarian populist parties challenging liberal democracy (Mudde 2017)
- Depoliticization and polarization (McCoy et al. 2018)
- Declining support for democracy, increasing levels of political disenchantment, feelings of “non-ownership” (Lafont et al. 2021)
- Poor political representation of the poor (Schäfer and Elsässer 2018)

Problems of representative democracy in face of climate change

- Lack of specialized knowledge
- Oligarchization and responsiveness to particular non-climate-friendly interest
- Myopia and presentism (Smith 2021)

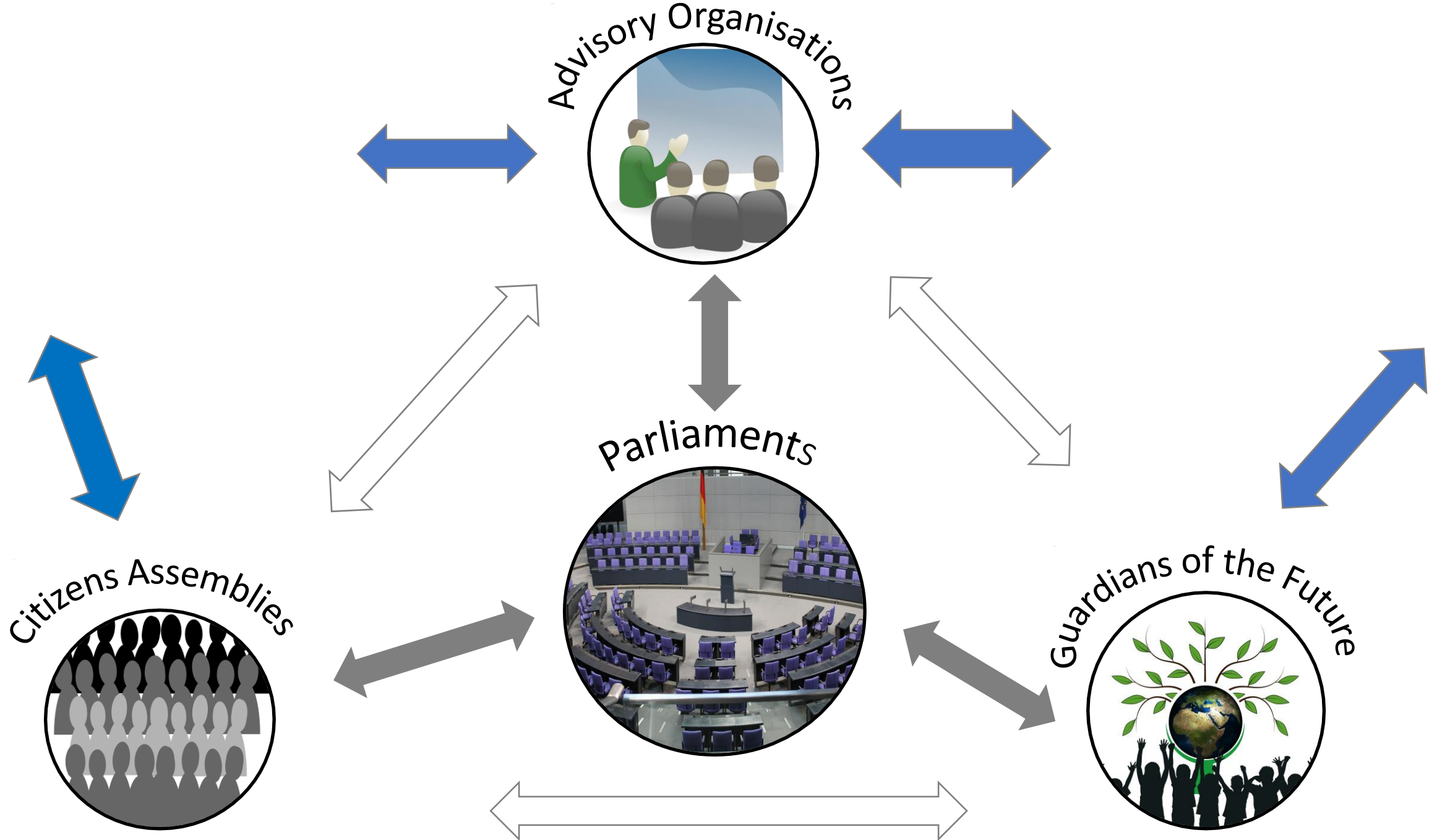
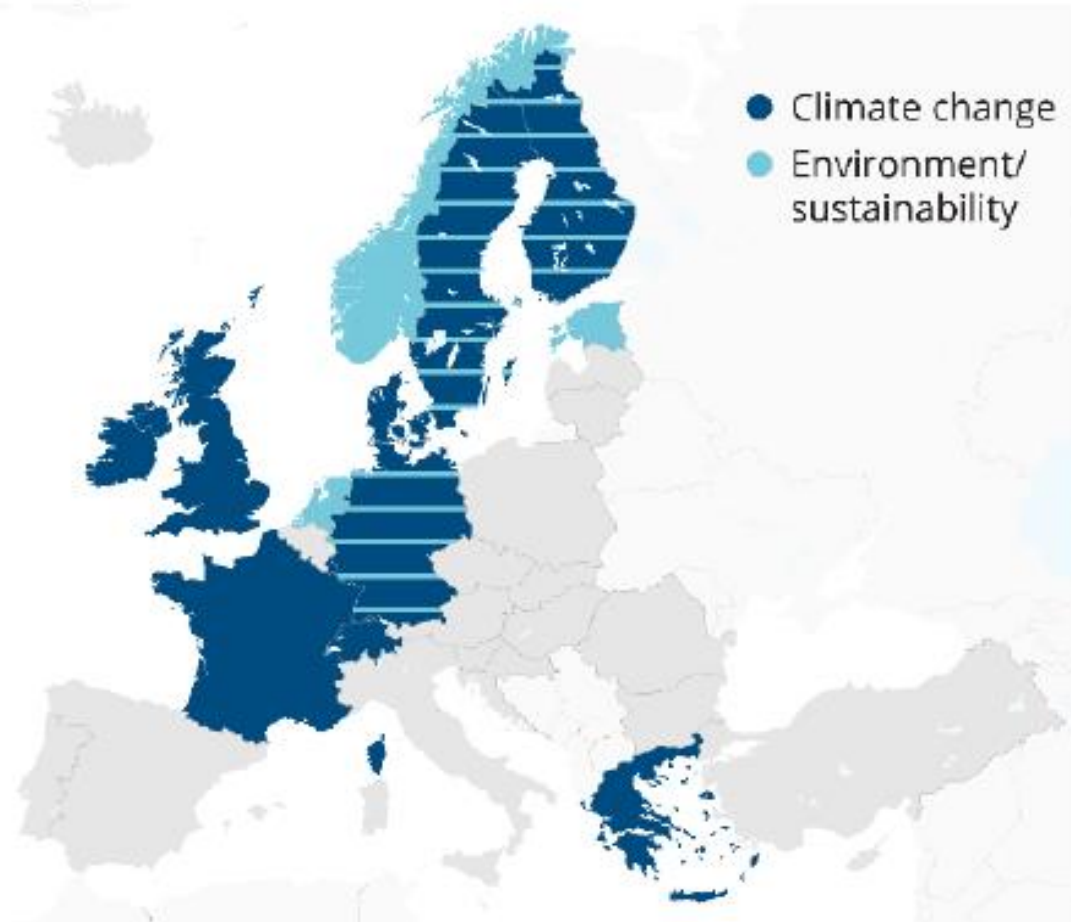


Figure 1. The parliamentary ecosystem

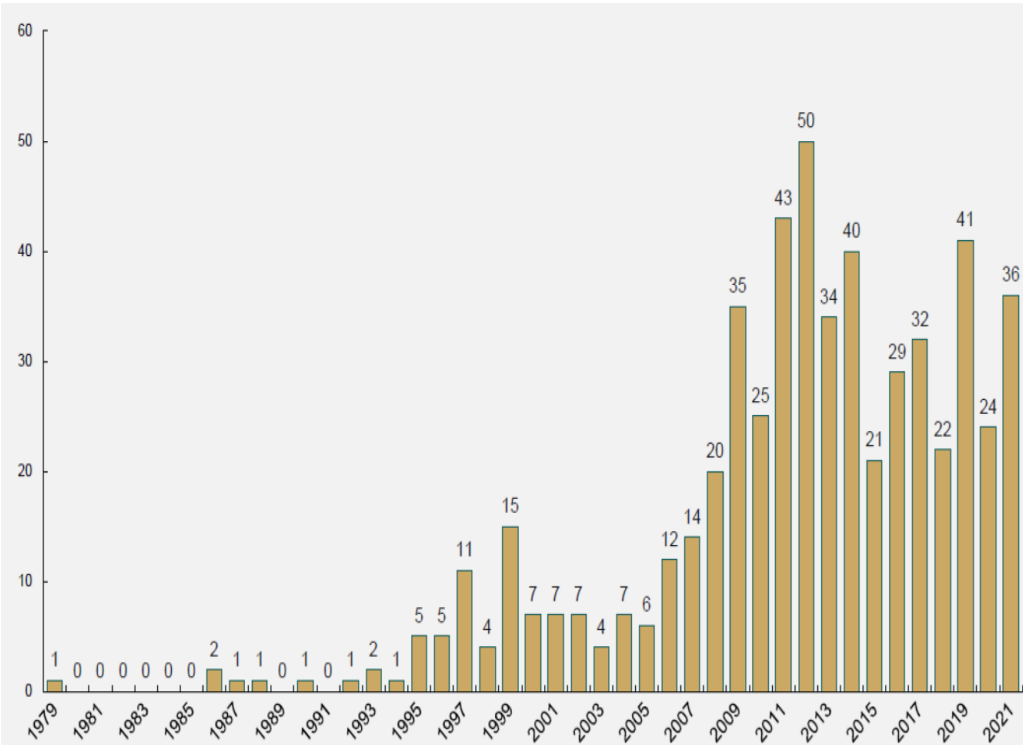
Epistocratic perspective: Climate advisory bodies

Independent scientific councils



Source: Evans & Duwe 2021

Deliberative perspective: Climate Citizens Assemblies



Note: n=566; Data for OECD countries is based on 24 OECD countries that were members in 2021 plus the European Union. Processes that spanned over multiple years are noted by the year of their completion (except for permanent ongoing processes).

Source: OECD Database of Representative Deliberative Processes and Institutions (2021).



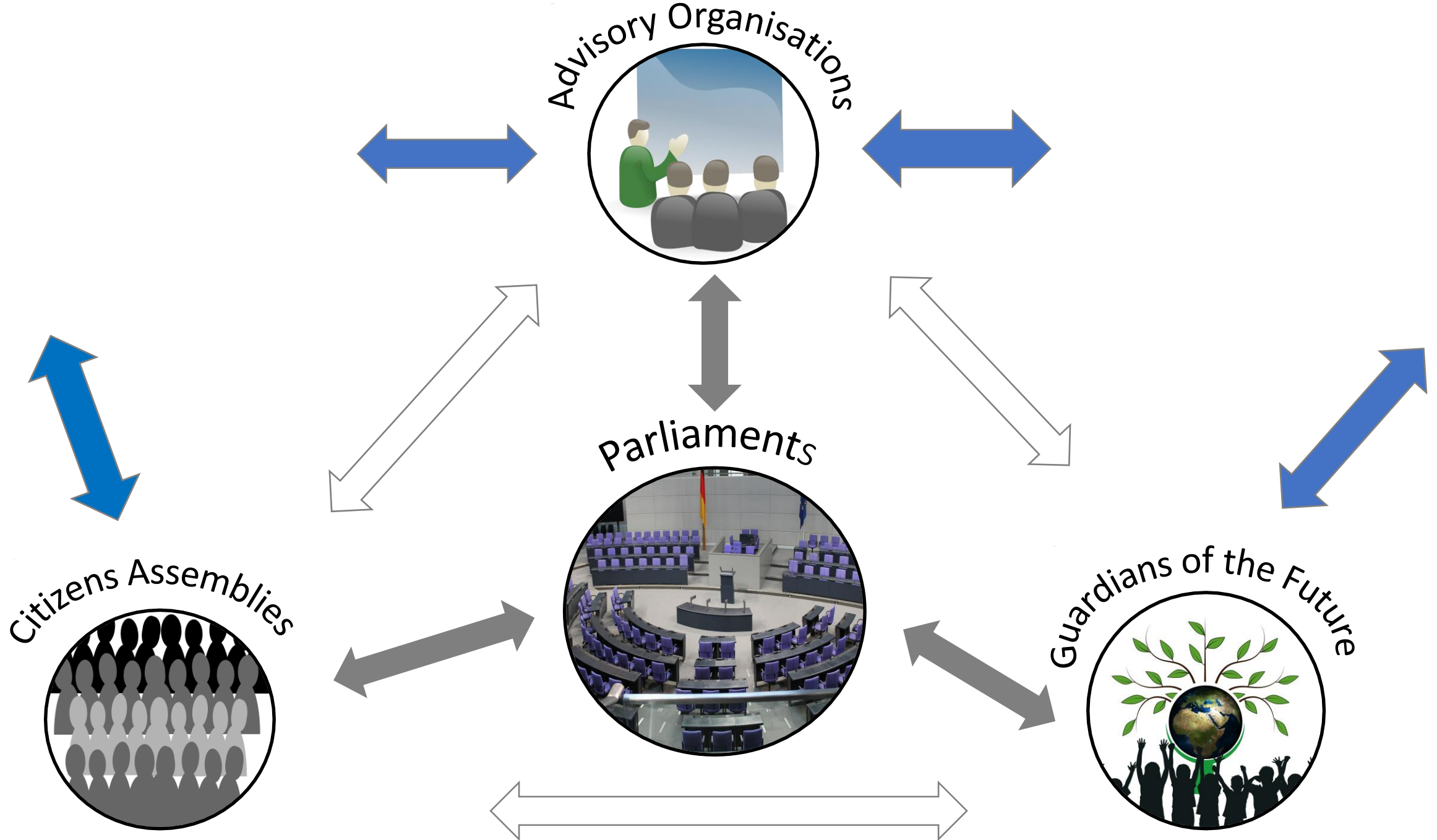


Figure 1. The parliamentary ecosystem



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Thank you for your attention!

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