

Delphi method



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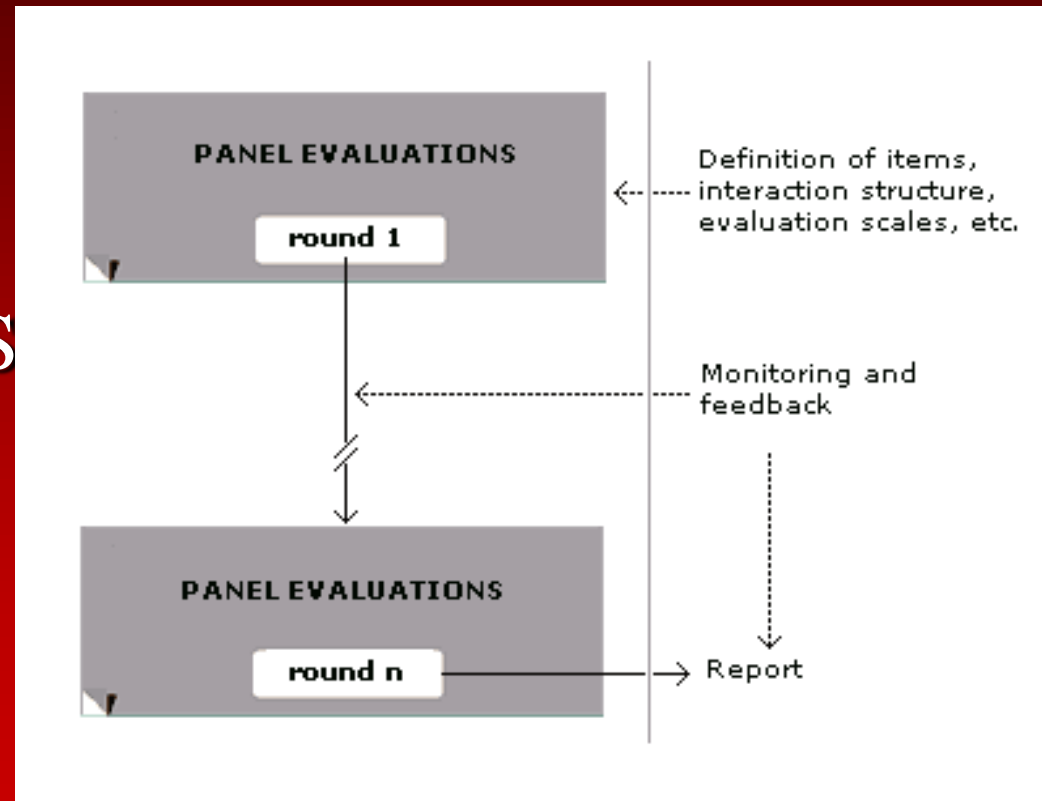
Definition



- Structured systematic communication technique that relies on a panel of experts
- In the standard format
 - Facilitator proposes a question
 - Panel of experts answer
 - Facilitator provides an anonymous summary of the responses and the reasons behind them
 - Experts are encouraged to modify their answers

Delphi

- Named after the Oracle of Delphi
- Developed during the Cold War to forecast future needs of the US Army
- Useful in areas where quantitative methods are inefficient or not well developed



Advantages



- Over the course of deliberations, the range of answers will decrease
- Participants will gradually converge towards the “correct answer”
- Process stops after a pre-defines stop criterion – e.g. number of rounds, achievement of consensus, stability of results

Foundation and Uses



- Foundation
 - Based on the principle that decisions from a structured group of individuals are more accurate than those from unstructured groups – “collective intelligence”
- Uses
 - In development of social policy and public health
 - Interactive decision making and e-democracy

Actors

- Facilitator
 - Facilitates responses by the panel
 - Collates and analyses responses
 - Identifies conflicting and common viewpoints
- Experts
 - Chosen based on recognized ability, interest or representation