Feb. 08 – James Fishkin visits Porto Alegre as a speaker at the World Conference on Development of Cities: “Democratic innovation and social transformation for inclusive cities in the 21st century”

Apr. 08 – Governor Yeda, together with secretaries Erik Camarano and Fernando Schüler, meets professor Fishkin at Yale Club, N.Y.

July 08 – Fishkin makes his first technical visit to Rio Grande do Sul, led by the State Government Secretary-General Department, where he meets with several secretaries of state, government technicians and members of the Agenda 2020 movement

Sep. 08 – Alice Siu, assistant to professor Fishkin, makes the second technical visit to Porto Alegre to prepare the Deliberative Polling® topics

Oct. 08 – The Sectorial Chamber of Public Management and Finance evaluates the advances in career plans and their harmonization with the teaching career

Dec. 08 – The formulation of Deliberative Polling® topics is completed by the career group, which is composed of State Government technicians under the supervision of the Secretary-General Department

Jan. 09 – Governor Yeda approves the Deliberative Polling® and its work schedule

Feb. 09 – The State Government forms a partnership with the PGQP for the joint implementation of this initiative

Feb. 09 – Alice Siu makes the third technical visit to prepare the questionnaire and the briefing materials

Mar. 09 – The Methodus Institute presents the fieldwork’s polling and structuring concept

Apr. 09 – Four panelists are invited to the event

May. 09 – The field survey gets started (1st questionnaire): 1,651 Rio Grande do Sul residents are interviewed, in 29 cities, representing the state’s population

May. 09 – Methodus Institute recruiters start contacting the participants who accepted the invitation to the face-to-face event in Porto Alegre in order to prepare them to attend the event. On average, thirty phone calls to every participant were necessary, including disabled participants

May. 09 – Participants receive an invitation from the State Government Secretary-General, formalizing a leave-of-absence request in order to head for Porto Alegre

June 4, 09 – Twenty volunteer moderators are directly trained by Alice Siu and the Secretary-General Department team to perform their role during small-group discussions

June 5, 09 – Participants start arriving in Porto Alegre and are welcomed at the bus station by Methodus Institute recruiters

June 6-7, 09 – The face-to-face event takes place over a weekend at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUC), in Porto Alegre, with 226 participants from 29 Rio Grande do Sul cities selected by sampling among the 1,651 first-stage participants

June 8, 09 – The secretaries become aware of the first polling conclusions in a private meeting with the Governor at the Administrative Center

June 9, 09 – Governor Yeda Crusius holds a press conference together with the professors in charge of the polling: James Fishkin, Robert Luskin and Alice Siu, at Piratini Palace’s Galpão Crioulo, where details are given about the polling method and the quality of the sampling of the state’s population

July-Aug. 09 – Start of simulations for the preparation of bills to be submitted to the Rio Grande do Sul State Legislature for career reform

Aug 25, 09 – The State Government Secretary-General, Erik Camarano, presents the Deliberative Polling® results, with professor Fishkin participating from Stanford University’s Center for Deliberative Democracy by video conference

May to June 2009

January to May 2009

September to December 2008

February to July 2008

June 2009
The deliberative polling is a process that starts with a questionnaire distributed at random to a representative sample of the general public.

A subgroup of sample representatives is selected at random to take part in the deliberative polling project.

Before the event, participants receive a briefing material containing impartial information about the topics under discussion.

During the event, participants are randomly distributed among small groups (15 people), each one of them supervised by a trained moderator. / (Plenary sessions): participants have the opportunity to ask questions – prepared by consensus in the small groups – to attending experts and politicians.

The event is completed with a final questionnaire aimed at getting participants' informed opinion. / (Media): results are analyzed and presented to the public via the media after the event.

The following insert shows the main steps necessary for running the experiment of the "1st Rio Grande do Sul Deliberative Democracy Polling", whose topic was "Valuing State Careers". The preparation of this type of polling requires considerable effort to organize the briefing materials, decide on the field of activity, obtain the necessary infrastructure for the face-to-face meeting, choose the panelists and communicate the results.

The preparation of this work by the State Government was very quick, considering the complexity of the topic chosen for consultation. In addition, the successful application of this method was only possible with the committed action of the teams involved in this work, not only on the part of the government, but also, and especially, with the dedication of private partners (the Methodus Institute and PGQP), which accepted to take part in this initiative.