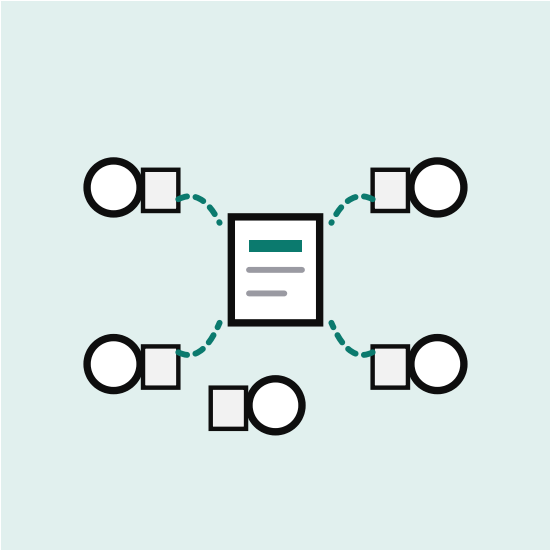
Method

Delphi method

A method that asks a group of experts through questionnaires in several rounds and, between rounds, gives them back a summary of what the group answered so they can revise their opinion.



In Spanish
Método Delphi

Origin
Dalkey and Helmer (1963)

Output
The reasoned opinion of a group of experts and where they agree or disagree

What it's for

Helps gather the judgment of many experts on something uncertain, such as a possible future, without the loudest voice weighing most.

Key elements

Several rounds
Each round builds on what came out of the previous one.

The group's answer, summarized
Each expert sees where the group stands and can change or defend their answer.

Agreement is sought, not forced
The disagreements that remain are also a result.

How it's done

1

Choose the group of experts and the question.

2

Each expert answers in writing, in each round.

3

Return the summary and repeat until the answers settle.

Applications in design

When to use it

When you need expert judgment on something that can't be measured yet, such as trends or future scenarios.

Avoid

Choosing only experts who think alike; the result will look like an agreement that doesn't exist.

Don't fall for it

Agreement among experts is not proof: it's still an opinion.

Connections

Builds on

- Futures studies

Related to

- Survey
- Horizon scanning
- Scenario planning

Authors and works

1963	**Norman Dalkey and Olaf Helmer**	They published an experiment with the method, which aimed to reach a reliable group opinion through successive questionnaires and controlled feedback of the group's answers.

Sources

Original sources

- Dalkey, N., & Helmer, O. (1963). An experimental application of the Delphi method to the use of experts. Management Science, 9(3), 458–467. View source (https://doi.org/10.1287/mnsc.9.3.458)

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