

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The report that we present you with has been determined by the change in the government of the city of Barcelona, which occurred in July 2011. One of the consequences of this change in the mayoralty of the city of Barcelona has been a change in the leadership of the OIDP Technical Secretariat.

This document comes out of the Work Plan, which was approved at the last internal members' session, held in the city of Porto Alegre, on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011. At this meeting the new Barcelona City Council Commissioner for Citizens Participation and Associationism, Carles Agustí, announced the desire of the new Council to continue with the leadership of the OIDP Technical Secretariat on the basis of a new and renovated focus centred on the production of innovative knowledge at the service of local governments.

And so, in continuation, we shall present a balance of the work that has been done by the Technical Secretariat, based on the commitment that was acquired before the network members in November last year.

### **▪ 12<sup>th</sup> OIDP CONFERENCE**

The Technical Secretariat has assisted the Prefecture of Porto Alegre, particularly with the coordination of the session on Local Observatories of Participatory Democracy, and also by collaborating with the organisation of an international session on participatory budgeting networks.

The Technical Secretariat has also contributed to the diffusion of the Conference, of the subscriptions, and has also made a contribution to promoting the call for the presentation of works. Finally, the Secretariat has also taken on the role of a facilitator, in the sense of setting up contacts between OIDP members, with specific demands related to the Conference, and the Prefecture of Porto Alegre.

Furthermore, the 6<sup>th</sup> OIDP Distinction CD has been designed, edited, produced and financed, and will be included in the packs that are to be handed over to the participants of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference during accreditation. Moreover, the Secretariat has also worked on the physical production of the trophy, which is to be awarded to the winners of this Distinction.

On the other hand the Technical Secretariat has, as has always been the case, taken on the work of preparing the Internal Members Session, to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012. For the organisation of this Meeting the Secretariat has been able to count on the logistics and economic support of the Prefecture of Porto Alegre.

### **▪ MANAGEMENT OF THE WEBPAGE**

As established in the approved Work Plan, the Technical Secretariat has set up a new website that functions on the basis of a contents manager, which will allow the staff of the Secretariat to directly and autonomously administer and update the contents that appear on the web, without having to depend on a webmaster. This initiative is a response to a historic demand by the network's members for an OIDP website that is much more agile and dynamic, and that will serve as a reflection of everything that is taking place around the world in terms of participatory

democracy. For this reason the web is also linked up to the Technical Secretariat's Twitter profile (@oidpoidp) as well as to participatory democracy blogs.

Another innovative element of the new webpage is that it seeks the collective production of knowledge, i.e. that it will allow the members themselves, through the private members' area, to also provide public contents and contribute to their updating.

The presentation of this web will take place during the OIDP Internal Session for members, within the framework of the Conference for all of those attending.

- **DIVERSIFYING THE COMPOSITION OF NETWORK MEMBERS**

At the meeting, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2011, it was decided that the concentration of members in determined territories was a limitation and the Secretariat was urged both to extend the network of contacts and to consolidate them in Africa.

To satisfy this demand by the members, the Technical Secretariat is presently working with ENDA in Dakar on the inclusion of a session for the presentation and promotion of the OIDP within the framework of the Africités, Local Authorities' Summit, organised by the African Regional Section of United Cities and Local Governments.

Meanwhile, on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2012, the Technical Secretariat also participated in a seminar on "Best Practices for Decision Making Processes", which was organised by the European Commission in Pristine, with representatives from Kosovar municipalities and civil society organisations.

Furthermore, on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> May in Berlin, the Secretariat also took part in a workshop on international trends in participatory budgeting, thanks to an invitation from the German participatory budgeting network. With the intention of providing continuity to this contact and forging a link between the German authorities and the OIDP, a special invitation has been extended to the German network to participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> OIDP Conference.

- **INCREASING THE NETWORK'S VISIBILITY**

With regard to the provisions established within the framework of the 2012 Work Plan, the OIDP has drawn up a promotional leaflet outlining the network's new strategic priorities, the purpose of which is to make both it and them known in a quick and dynamic way at those meetings or events that the network takes part in.

A profile has also been set up in Twitter, which is linked to the new web and aimed at ensuring the presence of the OIDP in the social networks. This is a way of achieving immediacy in the transmission of information (complementing the information that is provided via the web and by email) to those organisations that form a part of the OIDP. At the same time the scope of the activities and information disseminated through the network is extended, given that via Twitter it also reaches people and organisation that do not form a part of the OIDP (and, as a result, do not receive the periodic newsletters sent out by the Secretariat).

▪ **BEST PRACTICES IN CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION DISTINCTION**

This year the Technical Secretariat has, once again, called on all of the local government network members to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Distinction of Best Practices in Citizens' Participation. In this edition 15 local governments presented their candidacies, from 11 countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia Portugal, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru and Spain.

Once the period for the presentation of candidacies had finalised, at the end of February, the Technical Secretariat started work on the preparation of the documentation and set up a virtual space so that the International Jury –which is formed following a call for members in January every year– could study the documentation and evaluate the different candidates through March and up to the middle of April. For the voting, each member of the Jury is allowed choose a maximum of 3 experiences, granting them respectively 3, 2 and 1 points, according to the voting criteria established in the guidelines. In this period work also started on the Summary CD, including the 15 candidates, in parallel with the work of the Jury.

On 27<sup>th</sup> April the International Jury finalised its evaluations and decided to award the 6<sup>th</sup> Distinction to the Spanish city of Madrid, for their experience "Neighbourhood Plans". Furthermore, the Jury also decided to grant a special mention to the experience "Agenda 21 Cascais", presented by the Municipal Chamber of Cascais (Portugal).

Once the result had been validated by all the members of the Jury, the winning candidates were notified of the final decision at the end of April. The Madrid City Council and the Technical Secretariat then immediately began work on the specific CD-Publication dedicated to the winning entry.

In this edition the Jury was made up of the following members:

- PREFECTURE OF DE PORTO ALEGRE
- BARCELONA CITY COUNCIL
- HISPANO-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION
- UCLG COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
- IN LOCO ASSOCIATION
- SOCIAL STUDIES CENTRE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA
- SOCIO-CULTURAL, MUNICIPALITY AND CULTURE ASSOCIATION
- DEMÀ PROJECTS
- CENTRE OF INITIATIVES FOR LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

From here, we would also like to underline the voluntary work of the members of the jury and thank them, once again, for their dedication and initiative.

▪ **COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG) TO TAKE IN THE OIDP TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT**

Given that the previous agreement had expired, the UCLG and the Barcelona City Council decided to extend their collaboration agreement for a period of one year (2012).

- **TO IMPROVE THE MECHANISMS OF THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE**

Given that the new OIDP website is going to be brought on line, coinciding with the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference, from that point on work will be done on establishing links with the academic world and centres for the production of knowledge in related matters.

On the other hand, in November the Secretariat committed itself to reactivating the network of Local Observatories of Participatory Democracy, by calling all of the existing Observatories to a meeting, to be held within the framework of the 12<sup>th</sup> OIDP Conference. While contact with all 9 of the OLDP's has not been possible, the Secretariat has managed to contact most of them - Barcelona, Province of Barcelona, Buenos Aires, San Sebastian/Donostia, El Bosque (Chile), La Paz (Bolivia) and Porto Alegre- for the purpose of drawing up a diagnosis of the current situation of the project. Unfortunately it has not been possible to contact Cuenca (Ecuador), Saint Denis (France) or Sao Paulo (Brazil). A short diagnosis of the current state of each of the OLDP's that formed a part of the project between 2005- and 2007 is presented in a separate document

Due to time constraints it has still not been possible to get to grips with the promotion of the new work groups.

- **COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH THE PREFECTURE OF PORTO ALEGRE.**

At the meeting held in November it was established that, in order for the OIDP to be a centre for innovation in the production of knowledge it would have to work in a collaborative way on the basis of a **decentralised structure**. This decentralised structure has taken the form of **two Regional Offices**, one in **Porto Alegre** and the other in **Dakar**. Each Regional Office must become an "expert" within its territory and must offer network members the most extensive and best knowledge produced in their world region, respectively Latin America and Africa.

Because of the enormous workload that the organisation of a conference represents, the drafting of a specific work and coordination proposal, to be drawn up by the Secretariat and the Latin American Regional Office, has been proposed.

Likewise, in the case of Dakar –and as indicated above– at the present time work is being done on a session for the presentation and promotion of the OIDP in Africa.

- **LAUNCH OF A CALL FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SEAT FOR THE NETWORK PRESIDENCY IN 2014.**

Due to the Presidential vacancy left by the abandonment of the Board of the Freguesia (Parish) of Carnide (given that it was impossible for them to take on the full costs associated with the organisation of the Presidency), the Technical Secretariat has been obliged to restart the process and, once again, to launch a call for the election of the seat of the Presidency in 2013.

▪ **2012 EXECUTED BUDGET (MAY 2012):**

<b>ITEM</b>	<b>COST IN EUROS</b>
Web (design and maintenance)	19,069.00
6 <sup>th</sup> Distinction (translation, design and production of the double CD - 700 units- and the trophies)	13,615.00
Informative OIDP leaflet: translation and production of 3,500 copies	3,717.00
Sending of material for the 12 <sup>th</sup> Conference	417.45
Translations	1,988.48
UCLG Agreement (Technical Secretariat personnel expenses, travel and allowances)	58,550.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,356.93</b>

▪ **PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE NETWORK**

The Technical Secretariat is scheduled to attend:

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Iberian Participatory Budgeting Encounter and the assembly of the International Participatory Budgeting Platform, In Portugal on 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November.
- Africités, Dakar on 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012.