



18th AWARD
BEST PRACTICE
IN CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION



Alajuelita Amman Annemasse Comuna 12 La América, Medellín Aragón Área Metropolitana de Buenos Aires Asunción Azuay Baía Mare Bandikhon district Barcelona Belfast Belgium Belo Horizonte Bizerte Bohicon Bologna Bordeaux Brno metropolitan area Brusque, Santa Catarina Bukavu Bursa Cape Town Catalunya Cocody Comandante Andresito, Misiones Contagem Provincia de Córdoba Provincia de Cotopaxi Cuenca Curitiba Djougou Dudelange Durham, NC Envigado Provincia de Esmeraldas Esplugues de Llobregat Estado de Goiás Feira de Santana, BA Florence Fortaleza Gandia Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolia Grez-Doiceau Guayas Istanbul Istanbul, Esenler Istanbul Fatih Istanbul, Kadikoy Itanhaém Izmir Iztapalapa, Ciudad de México Jalakuduk district João Pessoa Kaduna Kampala Karlstads municipality Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Kocaeli Koulikoro Lamu County Le Kremlin-Bicêtre Lisboa Maia Provincia de Manabí Maputo Marmara, Bursa Mashhad Massamá e Monte Abraão Medellín Mersin Mogi das Cruzes Montréal Morón Mufulira, Copperbelt province Najaf Nässjö kommun Natalio N'djamena et les dix communes pilotes Nilüfer, Bursa Estado de Nuevo León Ocoyoacac Oeiras Ormoc City Osório Pastaza Portoviejo Provincia de Badajoz Provincia de Barcelona Ramallah Región Metropolitana de Santiago Rocafuerte Rosário da Limeira Russian regions Salvador Sarmarkand district San Salvador centro São Paulo Selcuklu Surakarta, Solo Tehran Territoire de Nyiragongo Valle del Cauca Vienna Villa de San Diego de Ubate Ville de Goma Xianning City Zaio-Nador

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of the 18th IOPD
Award* 16

*Other applications
submitted* 36



47 countries of origin

108 local and regional governments

127 applications

Applications according to category

- 48** Building more democratic and peaceful cities and territories
 - 26** Urban Management and Public Space
 - 18** Gender and Care
 - 26** Ecological Transition and Environment
 - 09** Civic Tech and AI
-

Applications according to the size of the municipality or region

- 15** proposals < **50.000** habitants
 - 23** proposals **50 k < 250 k**
 - 33** proposals **250 k < 1 M**
 - 28** proposals > **1 M** habitants
 - 28** proposals Supralocal and Regional governments
-

SDG1 - 8 **SDG2** - 9 **SDG3** - 30 **SDG4** - 29 **SDG5** - 29 **SDG6** - 11 **SDG7** - 1 **SDG8** - 20 **SDG9** - 13
SDG10 - 19 **SDG11** - 52 **SDG12** - 11 **SDG13** - 21 **SDG14** - 1 **SDG15** - 9 **SDG16** - 47 **SDG17** - 23

A jury of **23** experts

4,375 people participated in the online voting



18th IOPD Award

<i>Argentina</i> - 6	<i>Colombia</i> - 5	<i>France</i> - 3	<i>Palestinian Territories</i> - 2	<i>Paraguay</i> - 2	<i>United States</i> - 2
<i>Austria</i> - 1	<i>Côte d'Ivoire</i> - 1	<i>Indonesia</i> - 1	<i>Luxembourg</i> - 1	<i>Philippines</i> - 4	<i>Uzbekistan</i> - 3
<i>Belgium</i> - 2	<i>Costa Rica</i> - 1	<i>Iran</i> - 3	<i>Mali</i> - 1	<i>Poland</i> - 1	<i>Zambia</i> - 1
<i>Benin</i> - 2	<i>Czech Republic</i> - 1	<i>Iraq</i> - 1	<i>Morocco</i> - 1	<i>Portugal</i> - 5	<i>Spain</i> - 7
<i>Brazil</i> - 16	<i>Democratic Republic of Congo</i> - 3	<i>Italy</i> - 2	<i>Mexico</i> - 5	<i>Romania</i> - 1	<i>Sweden</i> - 2
<i>Canada</i> - 1	<i>Ecuador</i> - 10	<i>Jordania</i> - 2	<i>Mozambique</i> - 1	<i>Russia</i> - 1	<i>Tunisia</i> - 1
<i>Chad</i> - 1	<i>El Salvador</i> - 2	<i>Kenya</i> - 1	<i>Pakistan</i> - 1	<i>South Africa</i> - 1	<i>Türkiye</i> - 14
<i>Chile</i> - 1		<i>Nigeria</i> - 1		<i>United Kingdom</i> - 1	<i>Uganda</i> - 1
<i>China</i> - 1					



FOREWORD



It is an honor for me to chair the organization that represents the spirit of local participation to protect and strengthen our democracies: the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD). Even more so, as a local leader, **I am very happy to witness the wide participation received in this 18th edition of the IOPD Award, which has set a new record with 47 countries represented**, where 108 local and regional governments have shared 127 participatory democracy practices.

*I congratulate Iztapalapa municipality for its **“UTOPIAS - Units of Transformation and Organization for Inclusion and Social Harmony,”** the winning practice of this year’s IOPD Award. I also extend my recognition to the five special mentions and the practice most supported by the IOPD community. Bohicon, Cotopaxi, Djougou, Durham, Surakarta, and Valle del Cauca are examples of brave local action to open the door to participation and tackle global challenges through democracy.*

Every practice presented in these pages reflects the commitment of my peers to foster civic engagement and address the challenges facing democracies in innovative, diverse, and creative ways. From empowering indigenous women as community leaders in the fight for gender equality to implementing systemic approaches to participation for territorial transformation, **the projects gathered here demonstrate that it is possible to build more resilient and democratic societies when local and regional governments create informed communities that actively participate in decision-making.**

The next IOPD Conference, which we have the privilege of hosting in Valongo, will be a space to delve deeper into these practices, exchange experiences, and reflect together on how to continue building democratic resilience in the face of populist threats challenging our societies. It will also be an honor to host the award ceremony this year. **In Valongo, we are committed to grassroots participation, convinced that only through constant dialogue, community empowerment, and innovation can we find solutions to current challenges and ensure a sustainable world for future generations.** I am deeply grateful to the jury members, whose insights and knowledge have been essential in selecting and recognizing these exemplary practices, as

well as in nurturing our IOPD community to advance towards a more innovative democracy with bolder and more transformative mechanisms. I also extend my gratitude to all those who participated in the open vote for their enthusiasm in exercising their voice in this process.

I hope this publication serves as a source of inspiration for all, a starting point for new ideas and projects, and a valuable tool for continuing to strengthen participatory democracy in our territories.

See you in Valongo, where we will continue this shared journey towards a more inclusive, fair, and resilient democracy starting from our local communities.

Jose Manuel Ribeiro
Mayor of Valongo Municipality
President of the IOPD

FOREWORD



As Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments, I am honored to deliver, on behalf of the full international municipal movement which the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) is part of, the 18th Award “Best Practice in Citizen Participation.” **Our movement is convinced that local service provisions that put care at the center, are the perfect articulators of local democracy and guarantors of human rights and dignity for all.**

The 2024 edition has seen a new record of 47 countries of origin, from where 108 local and regional governments have shared 127 inspiring public participation practices. This figure is more than a number: **it is a testament to our movement’s rich diversity, innovation and determination to advance towards a happier and more equal future built from the local communities’ dreams, needs and aspirations.**

The 18th IOPD Award becomes even more relevant in light of the review of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which aims for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies with effective, accountable, and transparent institutions at all levels. All the practices submitted in this edition show the commitment of local and regional governments to foster inclusive governance, empowering local democracies through innovative participatory tools to regain trust.

*I commend the Municipality of Iztapalapa and former Mayor and current Head of Government of Mexico City, Clara Brugada, as well as the current administration led by Aleida Alavez, which continues to foster participatory processes, for their **“UTOPIAS – Units of Transformation and Organisation for Inclusion and Social Harmony”**. It is a deserving winner of this edition and will continue to be a reference for care local service provision around the world.*

The UTOPIAS embody the commitment made in our Pact for the Future to address the root causes of inequality by bringing public services and spaces closer to the two million residents of a peripheral municipality in the Mexico City metropolitan area. Moreover, they represent a unique opportunity for future generations to access culture, science, and sports, steering them away from insecurity and drug trafficking—challenges that have long impacted Iztapalapa, an area once considered the backyard of the Mexican capital. It is no coincidence that Libertad, “freedom”, one of the 12 UTOPIAS is located in a park next to a prison. **The UTOPIAS represent Iztapalapa’s commitment to achieving a systemic transformation of the territory through participatory democracy.**

I want to take a moment to commend and congratulate all the local and regional governments that submitted applications for this edition. Their efforts enrich our global ecosystem of local democracy. The participation in this process is not only a window to the world but also a contribution to the co-creation of knowledge and practices that will inform decision-makers. Our deepest gratitude and sympathy go to the distinguished jury members who undertook the challenge and brought their expertise and knowl-

edge to evaluate the applications and provide feedback to the candidates. Allow me to celebrate again the open-voting participants who took their time to have their say, thereby shaping our collective agenda.

Finally **allow me to acknowledge the commitment, vision and inspiration that the City of Valongo and Mayor Jose Manuel Ribeiro, and his team, have brought to the ODP and the international municipal movement throughout the years.** Valongo inspired our local democracy agenda going beyond governance issues to guarantor of agency and dreams of communities. It has been a wonderful journey that will continue through renewed paths in the work of the IOPD and its members.

Emilia Saiz
Secretary General
United Cities and Local Governments



INTRODUCTION

In the 18th edition of the IOPD Award “Best Practice in Citizen Participation”, **127 proposals have been submitted** from the 47 following countries:

Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Italy, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, South Africa, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Zambia.

This was a remarkable year for the IOPD: our award set a new record of applicant countries. As our Secretary General, Emilia Saiz, has rightly pointed out, this result is more than just a number: it is a vivid reflection of the diversity that exists in participatory democracy today and a testament to the growing reach of the spirit of solidarity and collaboration that characterizes local and regional governments in an increasing number of regions around the world.

Moreover, new this year, we have added five **categories** to classify and evaluate the practices submitted: Building more democratic and peaceful cities and territories, Urban Management and Public Space, Gender and Care, Ecological Transition and Environment, Civic Tech and AI.

The 127 applications received underwent an initial evaluation by a jury to select the 40 finalists. A second, reduced jury deliberated on the award-winning practice and the special mentions.

The main evaluation criteria for the winning practices were the level of innovation within their own context, the promotion of inclusion and focus on specific groups, the impacts achieved, sustainability, and, above all, **their potential for systemic transformation across the territory.**

The Jury decided to grant the 18th IOPD Award to the **Municipality of Iztapalapa** for the practice **“UTOPIAS – Units of Transformation and Organisation for Inclusion and Social Harmony.”**



Some special mentions were also given to six other experiences that were highly valued by the jury:

- Special Mention for Civic Tech and AI: **Bohicon** (Benin): “Civic-Tech Bohicon”.
- Special Mention for Gender and Care: **Cotopaxi** (Ecuador): “Defensoras Comunitarias” (Women Community Defenders).
- Special Mention for Water Management: **Djougou** (Benin): “Local water committee for the Djougou dam”.
- Special Mention for a Contribution to Recycling Food Waste: **Durham, NC** (United States of America): “Designing a community-centred curbside food waste collection program”.
- Special Mention for Child and Youth Participation: **Surakarta** (Indonesia): Surakarta Inclusive City Movement.
- Special Mention for the Experience Most Supported by the IOPD Community: **Valle del Cauca** (Colombia): Integral Social Management System - SIGESI eGov.

Through this award, the ODP reaffirms its core mission as a consultative platform for participatory democracy within the municipal movement, represented by UCLG, by promoting and recognizing the innovations that local and regional governments implement

to include more people in decision-making processes.

In addition to being highly commended by the jury, the 127 local and regional government practices submitted for the IOPD Award also receive our recognition through this compilation. We encourage all those interested in promoting a stronger, more inclusive and diverse participatory democracy to enrich their practice through this document.

In this publication we present the seven awarded experiences and share a brief presentation of all the candidacies with links to the platform where you can find further and detailed information on each project.

The IOPD Technical Secretariat expresses its deepest gratitude to all the local and regional governments that took the time and made the effort to submit an application. We also thank all the institutions and partners that have supported us to share this initiative and the network’s collaborating members who, as the Jury, took part in the evaluation of all of the different practices submitted.



In this 18th edition of the IOPD Award, two groups of juries participated in its evaluation: one for the first phase of evaluation and selection of finalists, and another for the second phase to select the winner and the special mentions among the 40 finalists.

The **first jury** consisted of 22 people and was divided in groups per category. During May and June, this jury read and evaluated the applications received. Finally, they selected the 40 finalists who moved on to the second phase.

Building more democratic and peaceful cities and territories



Andrea Baldessari

Coordinator and Communications Specialist, Young Women Network (YWN)



Johan Lilja

Secretary General of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy – with focus on participation, equity, transparency, and accountability



Rosa M. de la Fuente Fernández

Vice-Rector for Students at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Senior lecturer and researcher in urban governance and local welfare. Member of the academic team of the 4cities Erasmus Mundus Master Program



Luciana Renner

Executive Director of Placemaking Mexico Foundation, supporting communities to improve public spaces democratically and inclusively through participatory urban planning



Céline Ethuin

Expert in multi-level governance, public policies, sustainable development. Now an independent consultant, Céline worked at URBACT helping EU cities develop integrated and participatory actions for sustainable change and localise the SDGs



Savaş Zafer Şahin

Urban planning and public participation expert, Professor in Ankara Hacı Bayram Veli, University Deputy Head of Citizen Assembly of Ankara



José Sebastián Calderón Pedraza

Research & Development Manager, Innovation for Policy Foundation

Urban Management and public space



Serge Allou

Former Director General of Gret (NGO). Former Lead Urban Specialist at Cities Alliance. Former Special Advisor to the Secretary General of UCLG



María Delia Porta

Expert in Citizen Participation, Urban Affairs, and Sustainable and Inclusive Cities (UN-Habitat, Institute of Development Studies, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella)



Yves Cabannes

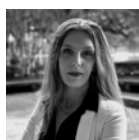
Emeritus Professor in Development Planning, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London



Aurelio Escobar

Expert in Smart Cities, Islands and Territories at Covenant of Mayors EU & Project Management Consultant in Digital Transformation

Gender and Care



Marion Cassard

Sociologist, specialist in Feminist and Gender Studies, Sustainability, Political Economy, and Social Movements



Job Van der Poel

Programme Manager and Trainer on Inclusive Local Governance at The Hague Academy for Local Governance



Ferdous Lhoucin

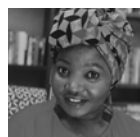
Administrator (National Mutual Aid), Expert and Consultant in Civil Society, Ex Head of the Governance Division (Relations with CSO Directorate, MCRP)

Ecological Transition and Environment



Sofia Castillo

Specialist in deliberation and governance, advocating for human rights in Latin America, with extensive project coordination and fundraising experience. Led Democracy R&D's Latin America chapter and key anti-corruption and environmental initiatives



Ayanda Roji

Head of Environmental Education and Research at the Parks and Zoo Agency of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan (JCPZ), Convenor of the Centre on African Public Spaces (CAPS)



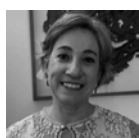
Elise Naud

Public consultation and participation Expert, Office de participation publique de Longueuil



Sinara Sandri

Journalist, Pos-Doctoral researcher at Centro de Estudos Sociais / Coimbra University



Silvia Penteadó Cervellini

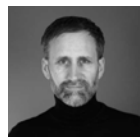
Founder and Director of Delibera Brasil since 2017. Social Sciences/USP, Masters Public Opinion/UConn

Civic Tech and AI



Diana Dajer

Manager of Citizen Participation at Corona Foundation and member of People Powered's Board of Directors



Philipp Rode

Executive Director of LSE Cities, Associate Professor at LSE. Expert in urban development, policy, and governance



Yannick Lechevallier

Director in the Agence du Monde commun, Expert in regional internationalisation

The **second jury** was made up of eight people. This jury was in charge of evaluating the finalists between July, August and September to choose the winners:



Yves Cabannes

Emeritus Professor of Development Planning, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London



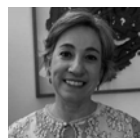
Elise Naud

Public consultation and participation Expert, Office de participation publique de Longueuil



Diana Dajer

Manager of Citizen Participation at Corona Foundation and member of People Powered's Board of Directors



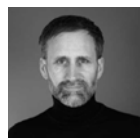
Silvia Penteado Cervellini

Founder and Director of Delibera Brasil since 2017. Social Sciences/USP, Masters Public Opinion/UCONN



Amanda Fléty Martinez

Coordinator of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)



Philipp Rode

Executive Director of LSE Cities, Associate Professor at LSE. Expert in urban development, policy, and governance



Johan Lilja

Secretary General of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy – with focus on participation, equity, transparency, and accountability



UTOPIAS – Units of Transformation and Organisation for Inclusion and Social Harmony

Municipality of Iztapalapa

Urban Management and Public Space / More than 1,000,000 inhabitants



Iztapalapa, founded more than 1,500 years ago by native cultures, today maintains a strong history, culture and ancestral traditions that are part of the national intangible cultural heritage. **It is the most populated municipality in Mexico City and the second most populated in the country. Forty-three percent of its population lives in poverty, and thirty-three percent are young people.** Its economy is based on commerce and services, of which 23% of the economically active population works in the informal sector. Its Gini index is 0.39 and its GDP in 2022 was close to 5,500 USD per capita. Geographically, Iztapalapa has an area of about 117 km² (about 8% of Mexico City's total area) with 16 km² of green areas. It has 295 urban neighbourhoods, including the original villages and neighbourhoods.

Located on the eastern periphery of Mexico City, it has historically been the city's backyard, where the prisons and rubbish dumps were sent, with significant deficiencies in infrastructure and essential public services. In 2018, at the beginning of the current government, Iztapalapa was in critical urban and

social conditions: public spaces were deteriorated, abandoned or underutilised and there were high crime rates.

Traditionally, Mexico has a multilevel system of government: federal, regional and local. To bring the government closer to citizens, **the Municipality of Iztapalapa created a decentralised sublocal level in 13 territories.** In Mexico City, municipalities do not levy taxes and cannot incur debt; their budget is allocated by the local Congress. **Iztapalapa's per capita budget is the smallest in the city.**





The UTOPIAS are a strategy for social and urban transformation, designed to transcend the structural socio-territorial inequality of urban peripheries by regenerating deteriorated public spaces and constructing a system of large, comprehensive public facilities of high quality and impact. These innovative, sustainable, and inclusive spaces of exceptional architectural quality offer free social, cultural, sporting, and recreational activities, open to people of all ages and genders, serving as living schools of citizenship. Open to people of all ages and genders, these spaces are living schools of citizenship. In just four years, 12 UTOPIAS have been built, recovering over 540,000 m² of degraded public space and **providing services to more than 100,000 people a week.**

City production and community building are practices that have been exercised in Iztapalapa in many different ways for several decades, and which has constituted an important backdrop to the construction of the UTOPIAS. Faced with this scarcity of sufficient and quality public spaces and services, the population has fought for a long time to maintain and recover the few free areas destined for community social facilities. **It has been a historic battle for access to and qualification of public space and services, vindicated by the government of Clara Brugada, Mayor of Iztapalapa, a government that emanates from popular struggles.**

Citizen participation was strategic in the planning, design and implementation of the 12 UTOPIAS as spaces for inclusion.

Community diagnosis and projection were a strong component of the participatory processes carried out to materialise this project, complemented with imaginary workshops held with the residents of the impact zone to address their needs in harmony with the ter-

ritory. **Surveys, participatory workshops and consultations were carried out to address local needs and traditions.** It was a circular learning process. In some cases, participation came about through dialogue and collaboration with the mayor's office; in others it flourished through negotiation with certain interest groups and neighbourhood organisations; and in still others, through popular consultation with the community, particularly the original peoples and neighbourhoods.

At the beginning, the Pavilions of Imaginaries were set up. They were wooden structures designed as an outreach strategy to disseminate on the ground the UTOPIAS project in the very place of its construction. Other objective was to know how people imagined the spaces, prior to its architectural design and construction. In these pavilions, people drew what they imagined. The popular proposals were translated into architectural interventions, as they were shared with the designers.

Cross-departmental coordination was also fundamental. There was a circular dialogue between the areas of government for the definition of the architectural programme, the needs that articulated it, responding both to what was proposed by the conceptualisation of the project headed by Mayor Clara Brugada and by the population in the collaborative workshops.





The issue of community participation and the participation of the neighbours in the UTOPIAS project also has another dimension that concerns the commitment that they have acquired in relation to the defence and preservation of the spaces built in their local space. Already in operation, some local social collectives, civil society organisations and academic institutions support with various activities and thematic workshops, as well as with care and maintenance tasks in various UTOPIAS. This is relevant because beyond the fact that the UTOPIAS are valued primarily as a tangible expression of the population's access to their urban rights, they have also been conceived as a facility, a set of services, educational, creative and recreational activities, and a public space for coexistence and exchange, which is also a responsibility for those who are its users and beneficiaries.

The aim is to recognise, build and guarantee an integral citizenship: multidimensional, inclusive of diversity, participatory and with the exercise of full rights in the city. In this sense, the UTOPIAS project is finally committed to "building different generations," where active participation in the decision making process of public affairs is a reality.

Through the UTOPIAS, the Iztapalapa municipality promotes human rights and community well-being, revaluing public space as a community treasure and asset, with a focus on the equitable distribution of public goods and the concept of a 15-minute city. This initiative is guided by the principles of "the poor first," "the best for the poor," and "for the poorest, what is far away does not exist." The UTOPIAS are raised as a public space for participatory democracy and the exercise of rights.



DISCOVER MORE

Website of the UTOPIAS
<https://www.utopiasiztapalapa.com>

Website of the Municipality of Iztapalapa
<http://www.iztapalapa.cdmx.gob.mx>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/291/proposals/3423>

Comments from the jury

“ *This is an extraordinary initiative, one of the few truly designed for a population of 2 million inhabitants. A massive investment has transformed what was once considered Mexico City’s “backyard,” marked by violence. Most of the areas that have been occupied by the UTOPIAS are the defense of the social movements against developers and they are kept for the youth. I have never seen something at that scale. The recently elected mayor plans to expand the UTOPIAS project across the entire Mexico City, which has a population of 10 million. UTOPIAS offers a highly protected, multigenerational environment where people can engage in a wide range of activities. The goal is to create 10 to 15 of these spaces during the mayor’s term.*

The project stands out for its emphasis on participatory democracy—when you visit, you see thousands of people actively involved. It has made culture and sports more accessible to children and teenagers, keeping them away from drugs and drug dealers. Additionally, the scale of the UTOPIAS project, rooted in the defense of public spaces by social movements, further emphasizes its importance for the community. UTOPIAS has already received significant recognition, being a finalist for the Guangzhou Award. This achievement signals that the mayor is heading in the right direction.

- “ The municipality of Iztapalapa has its roots in grassroots movements. All the policies implemented in the area are developed with active involvement from the community to address issues such as drug addiction, women’s rights, and cultural development. The directors of the UTOPIAS play a key role, supported by facilitators who promote a culture of accountability within the municipality. They do provide spaces for community engagement: in any public meeting on urban development in Iztapalapa, the high level of active citizen participation is truly remarkable. For me, UTOPIAS stand out as one of the most exceptional experiences of community involvement.
- “ The UTOPIAS initiative is an ambitious urban and social transformation project focused on regenerating degraded public spaces to create high-quality, inclusive facilities that address the needs of marginalized communities. The project’s strengths lie in its innovative approach to urbanism, inclusion of diverse community groups, and successful implementation of participatory planning processes.
- “ What i really like is the sustainability of the practice. I remember how it was emerging and starting to scale up and now see everything that it has achieved and the projections it has. It has grown well. It is a systemic approach on participatory democracy that is transforming the territory.
- “ The process of participation is probably really of the most advanced. It is very much rooted in the different associations which have been building Iztapalapa. The UTOPIAS became true agoras, protected spaces where people can go and feel safe. It touches in very different groups of people.



Promoting Civic-Tech in Bohicon for participatory local democracy (Civic-Tech Bohicon)

Municipality of Bohicon

Civic Tech and AI / Between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants

The Commune of Bohicon, a crossroads town and economic showcase for the department of Zou, is subdivided into ten *arrondissements* (districts) and **has a predominantly young population with a working population of almost 48%**, which represents a major asset in promoting its development.

The history of the settlement reveals that the indigenous people of the Abomey plateau are the GUEDEVI or IGUEDE of Yoruba origin, who migrated from western Nigeria. They were later invaded by the ADJA conquerors. This invasion led to the emergence of the Fon ethnolinguistic community. For various reasons (war, trade, etc.), other ethnic groups (Mahi, Mina and Yoruba) integrated with the Fon.

Given its proximity to the historic town of Abomey and its position as a crossroads town, the Commune of Bohicon possesses significant potential for tourism, art and culture. **It was also designated UNESCO Creative Cities in 2022**, and boasts the archaeological sites of Agongointo and the private zoo of Dako Wègbè, located in Houawé, as well as private residences within some of the royal palaces of Abomey.

In accordance with Law No. 2021-14 of 20 December 2021 on the Code of Territorial Administration in the Republic of Benin, the Commune of Bohicon is administered by political bodies and technical and administrative bodies. The main economic activities are trade, crafts, transport and agriculture.



Bohicon



The promotion of Civic-Tech in Bohicon for participatory local democracy has involved the integration of digital tools into the processes of formulating, continuously monitoring, and evaluating municipal development plans in a participatory manner.



It is all the more innovative in that this dynamic is being driven by grassroots development players, through the Bohicon Town Hall. Local people and members of organised groups, elected representatives and municipal staff are being made aware of and trained in the use of digital tools to develop and anchor citizen participation.



The promotion of civic technology in Bohicon began in 2019 with training on the effective use of social networks for municipal officials, department heads, the mayor's office, arrondissement secretaries, and citizen observers. A technical team was established to implement, monitor, and evaluate the project. Following a research-action approach with short-cycle self-assessments and potential adjustments, the project progressed through the following stages: 1) reviewing key participation experiences of excluded groups over the past 20 years and developing tools with organizations; 2) issuing a call for expressions of interest and financial contributions; 3) **adapting tools to reach populations excluded from political dialogue by addressing barriers such as physical Internet access (key-based applications), financial access (SMS solutions), and illiteracy (voice or symbol-based solutions)**; and 4) ensuring financial sustainability through hybrid collective intelligence tools developed by the Beninese private sector and accessible to local authorities.



Public awareness campaigns have been launched, demonstrating the value of digital tools in enhancing citizen participation. A wide range of information channels were used: television and radio (messages, debates), national newspapers with wide circulation (for example, *Nation*) or specialised newspapers such as the *Municipal*. To further amplify this dynamic and create emulation, an annual competition was organized to reward the best practices in citizen participation across the target groups. The competition was held in four categories: citizen, company, association and public institution, with an **emphasis on female participation**. Participation in the competition was voluntary.



A survey was carried out at the start of the project to monitor the development of citizen participation in the PDC3s. This survey, which consisted of a limited number of questions (fewer than 10), was carried out

Bohicon



Bohicon

in collaboration with the Town Hall by the Digital Project Manager in public spaces in the boroughs (e.g., markets, health centers, etc.) and reached at least 5% of the borough's population (50% of whom were women). At the same time, the same questionnaire was distributed using a digital platform such as SurveyMonkey.

The initiative led to greater citizen participation and, ultimately, a better quality of public services and increased public satisfaction with public services at the town hall. It has also had a positive economic impact by promoting the emergence of digital companies capable of offering Civic-Tech digital services and digital applications to help people find work. The implementation of the initiative has strengthened the regular running of consultation frameworks, and the connection between civil society and the municipal administration through the transmission of proposals for development ideas and citizens' concerns.

DISCOVER MORE

Website of the municipality of Bohicon:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100072128961914&mibextid=ZbWKwL>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website:

<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3381>

Comments from the jury

“

This initiative effectively fosters a local culture of participatory democracy, aligned with local social realities, and its impact is quite impressive

“

It is commendable that the municipality has also introduced a job search tool within the framework of participatory democracy.

“

The objectives go beyond improving public services to include those excluded from political dialogue. The methodology is original and innovative, using citizen dynamics and adapting digital tools to overcome barriers faced by excluded populations, such as illiteracy, through voice-based solutions. The hybrid communication strategy—combining digital, face-to-face, collective, and individual approaches—is excellent.



Women Community Defenders

Decentralised Autonomous Government of the Province of Cotopaxi

Building more democratic and peaceful cities and territories / Regional government

The province of Cotopaxi, located in the heart of Ecuador, is a vibrant and diverse territory characterized by cultural richness and a history deeply rooted in the identity of its people. However, behind this image of natural beauty and cultural heritage lie deep inequalities and socio-economic challenges that affect its inhabitants.

Despite its relatively small size, accounting for approximately 2.4% of the national territory, Cotopaxi is strategically located in the north-central part of the country. Nevertheless, despite its rich natural resources and strategic location, the province faces numerous socio-economic challenges. Poverty, inequality, and lack of access to basic services are persistent issues

affecting its population. These challenges stem from a combination of historical, geographical, and structural factors that have shaped the province's reality over time.

Cotopaxi's current boundaries were officially demarcated on 1 April 1851, when the Ecuadorian State recognized it as a province. However, this demarcation process did not include significant participation from the indigenous sector, leaving the internal integration of the territory unresolved. This omission has created a persistent division, with some indigenous groups advocating for an intercultural reconstruction of the territory as a new social pact among the various ethnic groups present.





The Women Community Defenders are leading a comprehensive and participatory initiative to address the complex issue of violence against women in the province. **Their approach, rooted in principles of gender and citizen participation, stands out for its specific attention to the socio-economic inequalities that particularly affect rural communities.** Through a meticulous process involving sensitization, diagnosis and planning, these community leaders identify the most pressing challenges faced by women in their different contexts and prioritize solutions tailored to each situation.

The practice starts in 2023 with **community awareness-raising on the exercise of their rights**, through a series of meetings to assess internal community relations with a focus on human rights, interculturality, peace promotion, violence reduction and the elimination of discrimination.

The communication strategy implemented plays a crucial role in unifying efforts and mobilizing the active participation of citizens in the prevention and eradication of gender-based violence. **The initiative is characterised by its inclusive approach, which recognizes and values the diversity of women in society**, including indigenous populations, migrants, youth, adults, girls and people with special needs, among other groups.

One of the most outstanding innovations of this practice is the **active and direct participation of women beneficiaries in the formulation and implementation of actions, which guarantees greater relevance and effectiveness** in the proposed solutions. In addition,

training and empowerment is provided to indigenous women and communities, strengthening their leadership and their capacity to defend their rights and promote positive changes in their environments.

The most notable impacts of this initiative include the implementation of protocols for the effective application of the Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Violence, as well as the introduction of a manual for the good treatment of victims to improve the quality of care offered. **As a result, there has been a significant strengthening of women's self-esteem and capacity to exercise their rights, as well as the establishment of community protection networks that contribute in a tangible way to the prevention of and attention to gender-based violence in the province of Cotopaxi.** At the end of the project formal complaints and case follow-up increased by 10% as a result of the improvement and institutional strengthening of the response and care processes for victims of violence.

DISCOVER MORE

Website of the Women Community Defenders:
<https://www.cotopaxi.gob.ec/index.php/2015-09-20-01-01-40/asamblea-territoriales>

Website of the Province of Cotopaxi:
<https://www.cotopaxi.gob.ec>

The experience in the Participate IOPD website:
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3363>

Comments from the jury

“ This practice is a valuable effort to address gender-based violence through a participatory and community-driven approach. Its strengths lie in the inclusive methodology, which empowers women from diverse backgrounds—including indigenous and rural communities—to actively participate in identifying and addressing issues of violence. The focus on capacity building and the creation of community protection networks has the potential to improve the protection and promotion of women’s rights in the province. An area for improvement could be the inclusion of broader community stakeholders, such as men, youth, and local authorities. By actively involving these groups in the fight against gender-based violence, the initiative could foster a more inclusive and comprehensive approach to cultural and behavioral change. This would not only strengthen the support network for women but also create a more unified community effort to address the root causes of violence and promote gender equality.

“ *Firstly, what I really like about this project is its rural focus; such initiatives are uncommon, making it interesting to address a different kind of territory. Secondly, the fact that it originates from indigenous people in a challenging context—given Ecuador’s significant setbacks in human rights—is noteworthy. I found the impact of what local leaders are doing to combat violence against women particularly impressive. It’s about the topic, the profile of the people involved, and the type of territory they are working in.*

“ The approach, the methodology, and the participation of the protagonists, as well as the work in rural and marginalized areas, seem excellent to me.



Local water committee for the Djougou dam

Municipality of Djougou

Ecological Transition and Environment / Between 250.000 and 1.000.000 inhabitants

The commune of Djougou is located in the north-western part of Benin in the department of Donga. It covers an area of 3,966 km² and is about 461 km from Cotonou, Benin's economic capital. The commune comprises 12 arrondissements (districts), divided into 122 villages and town districts. **The town of Djougou, capital of the Commune and of the Donga department, has an urban population of around 138,000 inhabitants**, with an annual intercensal growth rate of 3.53% since 2013.

The commune is governed by an elected council of 33 members, chaired by a mayor and two deputy mayors. The official working language is French, but the

main languages spoken in Djougou are Yom, Lokpa and Dendi. Traditionally, the commune is under the authority of a central king whose palace is located in the heart of the town of Djougou at Kilir. He is surrounded by secondary kings who participate in the management of the town alongside the communal authorities.

Islam is the dominant religion in the commune, followed by Catholicism and Protestantism, with some animists in the smaller localities. **Agriculture, transport and trade are the main economic activities of the local population.**





Djougou



In 1950, on the eve of the country's independence, the town was endowed with a surface water reservoir known as the Djougou dam, designed to meet agro-pastoral needs. Located in the southwest of the town, it is wedged between the town and the outlying villages, which have been home to a classified forest since 1946. The dam supported a wet, dense, and varied ecosystem, with large, seemingly inexhaustible pools that were its main water reservoirs. The largest of these ponds was sacred to the local population because of the crocodiles that lived there.

In the 1980s, with the rapid growth of the population, drinking water began to run short. To address the pressing need for drinking water, the dam was entrusted to the National Water Company of Benin, which made it the main source of drinking water for the urban population.

Under the combined effects of economic activities, population growth, and climate change, the dam's ecosystem has been severely impacted. **The dam, under pressure from multiple factors, dried up completely in 2014.** Finally, it was saved by the government, which cleaned up the bottom of the basin without, however, planning a comprehensive program to restore its ecosystem.

In 2020, with a view to preserving this vital water resource, the Djougou Municipal Council decided to set up a Local Water Committee (LWC) for the first time, composed of the stakeholders involved in managing the dam. The LWC's main mission is to ensure the restoration of the dam's catchment area through the participation of all stakeholders. Thanks to this organization, the municipality has benefited from financial support from the German cooperation "AGIR-Eau," which has enabled it to develop several activities to restore and preserve the dam's catchment area and ecosystem.

The establishment of the LWC began in September 2023 with the launch of the process to set up the ad hoc committee, whose mission is to identify and bring together the various stakeholders involved in the management of the hydrological unit of the basin housing the dam.

The second stage in setting up the LWC involved defining its area of competence. The third stage focused on identifying the key players involved. This entailed identifying and analyzing all the stakeholders in relation to the issues surrounding the LWC area and their interrelationships.

The fourth stage is the mobilization of the stakeholders in a two-step process:

1. Identification and implementation of social mobilization actions. This involves conducting an organizational diagnosis of the stakeholders and preparing them to appoint a qualified representative to the General Assembly of stakeholders.
2. Drafting and implementing a communication plan, which includes assessing the stakeholders' level of knowledge of the regulations governing their field of activity (water, environment, integrated water resource management, gender, climate change) and building their capacities for better management of the area. It also aims to inform the general public about the process of setting up the LWC.

Finally, the fifth stage concerns the formal establishment of the LWC, which includes drawing up and approving the rules of procedure and organizing consultations to appoint the members of the LWC bureau. It is officially recognized at the sectoral, municipal, and prefectural levels. Its technical and managerial capacities have been strengthened to effectively carry out its mission.

DISCOVER MORE

Report of the WLC:
[On this link](#)

Website of the municipality of Djougou:
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Mairie-de-Djougou-100072458626317/>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website:
<https://participe.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3360>

Comments from the jury

“ *This very clear practice deals with an essential subject: putting in place democratic governance structures to ensure access to water for the population and market gardeners in a fast-growing Sahelian town. The starting point was a dried-up dam lake. It has been demonstrated that it is possible to reverse the course of events. So this project is a beacon of hope. The Local Water Committee multi-actor method, its recognition and the strengthening of its capacities are well highlighted. It also shows the importance of an environmental, political and social approach to tackling climate change.* ”

“ Djougou deserves a special mention for this practice because we have to move from giving attention to climate change in general; water supplies are also a struggle. ”

“ This practice is extremely important because it is difficult for local democracy in Benin. It touches on something essential on Africa: because the dam was dried and there was no water for food producers or neither for the population. It follows an interesting method: they have been able to take all stakeholders to reprotect this area. In the African context is very difficult to document: the people who are in charge of doing this are really heroes and they have shown that it is possible to revert to desertification without competing. ”



Designing a community-centered curbside food waste collection program

City of Durham

Ecological Transition and Environment / Between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants

The City of Durham is located in central North Carolina and is part of the region known as the “research triangle,” named for the three large research universities in central North Carolina (Duke in Durham, University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University in Raleigh) in addition to the abundant technology and life science companies headquartered in the area. It is located nearly equidistant from the beaches and outer banks of the east coast of North Carolina and the Blue Ridge and Smoky Mountains of western North Carolina.

Durham originated as a railway depot and was the headquarters of the American Tobacco Company in the 20th century. It was also home to one of the US’s first “Black Wall Streets” located on Parish Street, which housed North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance

Company and Mechanics & Farmers Bank, two of the most influential Black-owned businesses of the 1900s.

Today, the “Bull City” is home to nearly 300,000 residents and is one of the fastest-growing cities in the region. The City is extremely diverse, with a population that is close to 40% white, 36% black, 15% hispanic, and 6% asian.

Durham is a progressive city and prioritizes climate considerations in its governance. In 1996, the City passed a resolution to join the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) and **in 2007, Durham was the first community in North Carolina to develop a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Reduction Plan.**





The genesis of our practice, a curbside food waste collection service in Durham, stemmed from a waste reduction initiative embedded in the City's Strategic Plan. **Informed by a comprehensive 2015 waste characterization study revealing that a staggering 30% of residential waste in Durham is compostable**, it became evident that landfilling such material posed multifaceted challenges—economic, environmental, and social.

The economic rationale was compelling: landfill costs, already steep, were projected to rise significantly with the need for additional landfill space, each acre costing over \$1 million to construct. Meanwhile, the environmental impact of landfilling, notably methane emissions contributing to climate change, and the disproportionate siting of landfills in minority communities, underscored the urgency for a sustainable solution.

Historically, Durham provided limited composting avenues, mainly through sporadic educational events on backyard composting. Residents, however, lacked a viable option for curbside food waste collection, with private services imposing monthly fees. **This glaring gap propelled our city's commitment to equity and sustainability, driving the quest for a community-driven, no-cost curbside composting service.**

In essence, our practice emerges from a confluence of data-driven insights, fiscal prudence, environmental stewardship, and **a steadfast commitment to justice**, underscoring Durham's ethos of innovation and inclusivity.

The practice started in 2019 with a citywide survey and subsequent resident interviews. Our team gathered survey responses from nearly 4,500 residents, held in-depth interviews with six of the survey respondents, hosted two focus groups with collections staff, and completed a benchmarking analysis, examining other cities' programs and speaking with staff who helped develop them.

In mid 2019 through early 2020, the team prototyped the service by developing a minimum viable product (MVP) version of the program and recruiting two groups of residents to participate in two, two-week prototypes. Residents were provided with counter-top food scraps containers, communications materials, and a texting line to answer questions. After two weeks of trial service, they were interviewed. **The insights from this prototype, including logistical hurdles, communications misunderstandings, and resident feedback on the equipment and educational materials all helped refine the program before scaling.**

Using the findings from the previous exploratory work, the team recruited ~100 households in a diverse neighborhood to experience full-scale service with weekly pickups. This allowed the solid waste team to iron out program logistics and driver training and offered more residents the chance to provide feedback through their set-out behavior as well as surveys and interviews.





Durham



To rigorously evaluate the impact of the program, the team launched a randomized controlled trial (RCT) in late summer 2023, after recruiting 360 households to participate from four neighborhoods around the city. Approximately half of those recruited were provided full-scale composting service for 16 weeks, during which time the weight of their household garbage was measured on a weekly basis, and they provided responses to three surveys. Their results were compared to a “control” group who did not receive curbside service until the end of the 16-week pilot.

Designing and testing a curbside food waste collection program in Durham required marrying behavioral science, community-centered design, and **rigorous evaluation to achieve significant waste reduction and environmental benefits for residents.**

Durham is a vibrant city known for its rich cultural heritage, progressive values, and commitment to sustainability. The city prioritizes community engagement and empowerment, striving for equity and inclusivity. **Specific groups targeted include diverse residents and garbage collectors, ensuring comprehensive representation and empowerment.** Evaluation mechanisms encompassed qualitative surveys, interviews, and quantitative data on waste reduction, spillover behaviors, and resident feedback.

The impact of this practice has been substantial, with significant waste diversion, reduced GHG emissions, and positive effects on resident satisfaction. Over 30,000 pounds of food waste were diverted from landfills in the first year, with a potential annual reduction of 14,000 tons if scaled citywide.

Residents showed increased positive perceptions of local government, indicating broad social benefits beyond environmental achievements.

The practice has contributed to institutionalizing participatory democracy in Durham, fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among residents.

DISCOVER MORE

Website of Designing a community-centered curbside food waste collection program:
<https://www.durhamnc.gov/4625/Food-Waste-Collection-Pilot>

Website of the City of Durham:
<https://www.durhamnc.gov/>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website:
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3275>

Comments from the jury

“*The notable impact of this project is its strong focus on equity and participation: it establishes an institutionalized method that can be sustained over the years, contributing to a stronger local democracy by providing the opportunity for all inhabitants to influence decision-making, regardless of their social status, gender, or other factors. It is a surprise that this is happening in the US, it shows that there are possibilities for a strong local democracy in this context.*”

- “ This topic is not very glamorous, but it is a competence of local governments and it is about the provision of a basic public service for the people. Durham has implemented participatory democracy to this innovative topic. It can inspire other local governments both in the Global North and South.
- “ An excellent project that engages the community and stakeholders at every stage, with a comprehensive process and outcome evaluation program. It is truly a project created with and for the residents.
- “ Accessing good food has become a challenge, but now it can be accessed through participatory democracy.

Surakarta Inclusive City Movement

City of Surakarta, Kota Kita Foundation

Urban management and public space / Between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants

Surakarta, popularly known as Solo, is a major city in the Central Java province of Indonesia. **Its total area is 44.02 km², with approximately 12.45% of it categorized as public open space.**

Similar to other cities in Indonesia, **urban planning and development processes are still conducted with a top-down approach**, which often results in spaces that do not adequately address the needs and aspirations of communities. Vulnerable groups, such as low-income households and children, have been left out of the decision-making process as they are often viewed as objects of a policy or program, rather than as actors of change.

Furthermore, formal public spaces—such as enclosed parks, ceremonial venues, etc.—are the predominant paradigm of public space development in

Solo. This issue often limits the scope and accessibility of outdoor public spaces and becomes a particularly urgent issue as outdoor spaces offer significant health, social, and environmental benefits for the community. Meanwhile, the quality of small-scale common spaces such as neighborhood parks and streets is often overlooked when they actually present opportunities that are equally available and needed by the communities.

To enhance citizen participation in urban development processes, **the City of Surakarta and the Kota Kita Foundation saw an opportunity to reclaim decision-making by using participatory and inclusive approaches to equip citizens with the capacity for information and participation to collectively design and develop urban spaces.**





The Surakarta Inclusive City Movement is a multi-stakeholder initiative that promotes the creation of new inclusive urban spaces through a participatory, multi-stakeholder approach, aligning the aspirations of marginalized citizens and the local government's agenda. The movement emerged from a long-standing collaboration between Kota Kita and the Surakarta City Government starting from a city-wide participatory mapping project called Solo Kota Kita in 2010. It also builds on Kota Kita's experience in co-designing common spaces with local communities.

The practice adopted new and innovative participatory approaches and methodologies, particularly in engaging children and the youth.

Developed between 2021 and 2023, the initiatives include the Kali Pepe Riverbank Public Space project (supported by UN-Habitat), which led to the construction of the Taman Rukun Mangkubumen park, a neighborhood space next to a social housing project; and the Sukaria Street for Kids project (supported by Global Designing Cities Initiative), which **created a safer and more enjoyable street for children in Kampung Baru neighborhood.**

The Kali Pepe Riverbank Public Space project started in October 2021 with stakeholder interviews, a citywide public space assessment, and participatory vision-

ing at the neighborhood level to determine the site location. This was followed by a co-design process using tools like Minecraft to allow residents, especially children, to design their ideal public space. Discussions and voting took place to shape a collective vision for co-management and technical features. **The Taman Rukun Mangkubumen park was completed in March 2023, featuring accessibility infrastructure, a shaded area with benches, a multipurpose field and a rainwater harvesting system.**

The Sukaria Street for Kids project started in February 2023 with a student mobility survey and site observation. During the co-creation phase, **students engaged in journey mapping using illustrated maps, a child-led tour, and a design solution activity with maps, toy figures, and handicrafts.** Completed in November 2023, the street features zoning with paint, a comfortable school shelter and an interactive mural space.

The communication strategy entailed meetings with the Mayor of Surakarta and **coordination with city departments on planning development, transportation, and housing and public works.** It also included social media promotion, mini-documentaries, booklets and reports, site visits and events, and outreach activities like mural paintings, sport competitions and regenerative farming.

Key approaches:

- Participatory tools & methodologies to create a safe space for citizens to express their aspirations.
- Gamification such as Minecraft & toy figures to engage first-time participants such as children.
- Inclusive design principles to mainstream inclusive values.
- Partnership with local government to encourage policy adoption.
- Multi-stakeholder consultations to secure approval.

The movement reached around 380 children and 300 adults in Solo by directly involving them in the decision-making process of urban development and improving their access to safe and inclusive urban spaces. By providing evidence of the crucial value of inclusive participation, particularly children and vulnerable groups, it has also prompted the Solo government's interest in participatory planning practices, including a model of inclusive public space in social housing and a blueprint for child-friendly streets.

DISCOVER MORE

Website of Surakarta Inclusive City Movement:
<https://kotakita.org/>

Website of the City of Surakarta:
<https://rthl.surakarta.go.id/beranda>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website:
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3327>

Comments from the jury

“ *The municipality of Surakarta and the NGO Kota Kita did a great work indeed. It is an example of civil society trying to have collaboration with the local government.* ”

“ It is an excellent practice of local participatory democracy in renewing public spaces with the kids and by the kids. ”

“ The work with the school is very interesting as well as the place given to children in city planning. The crosscutting approach between neighborhoods alongside the river is quite interesting. ”



SPECIAL MENTION TO THE
MOST SUPPORTED PRACTICE
BY THE IOPD COMMUNITY

Valle del Cauca / Colombia

Integral Social Management System - SIGESI eGov

Government of Valle del Cauca

Civic Tech and AI / Regional government

Valle del Cauca is a department located in the southwest of Colombia, made up of 40 municipalities and two districts, rich in cultural, biological and geographic diversity, covering all thermal floors. **Culturally, it is the result of a long history and a special mix between the customs of native Indians, African slaves, Spanish settlers and immigrants from other departments of Colombia.** Salsa is the most notorious cultural representation of the region. The department preserves its deep-rooted traditions in festivities such as the Feria de Cali, and boasts a cultural heritage that includes archaeological sites, colonial towns and cosmopolitan cities such as the capital Cali.

Geographically, the department is influenced by the presence of the Andes mountain range, the Pacific Ocean to the west, and extensive plains and fertile valleys crossed by the Cauca River. **Institutionally, it is currently administered and led by a female governor.** The governorate's primary purpose is to serve the community, promote general prosperity and seek the development of its territory.

The department's economy is based on the provision of services, industry, tourism and agricultural activities, with sugar cane being the most important product for the departmental economy.





The Integrated Social Management System - SIGESI e-gov emerged in the Government of Valle del Cauca to measure social progress through information technologies and business intelligence, applied in non-business contexts. **It promotes data-driven decision-making and public management with a rights-based and differential approach.** It focuses on:

- Recognizing people as subjects of rights and agents of development.
- Promoting citizen participation in the management of public affairs.
- Enhancing local capacities and strengthening public entities.

During the first five months of 2024, **it has ensured the participation of more than 60,000 people.**

The specific groups included in the development of the practice cover all stages of life: early childhood, childhood, and adolescence through the SICE and Kitea platforms, where this population is taught about their rights while being held accountable on a permanent basis; youth, who initially gave rise to the practice, as it was born from the implementation of the public youth policy; young people and adults through the SITUR (Tourism) platform, Valle del Cauca Travel, Valle Inn Fund, Gender Observatory, and Social Bank; older adults through the SIAAM platform, which monitors the implementation of the public policy for older adults. Across all populations, work is carried out in the Participation module of the Citizen Dialogues, where the community prioritizes, monitors, and provides feedback on the progress of the commitments made through these permanent dialogue spaces.

Currently, SIGESI benefits all 4,647,367 inhabitants of Valle del Cauca. The main SDGs to which it contributes are: 5 - Gender Equality; 10 - Reducing Inequalities; 16 - Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

The objective of the practice is to boost participation and transparency in Valle del Cauca through digital platforms, allowing citizens to influence their quality of life and co-create solutions. Specific objectives in-

clude contributing to the construction of the development plan, addressing citizen demands and accountability.

Initiated in 2009 with the Public Youth Policy, SIGESI evolved in 2011 and 2017, integrating technology to improve public management. Today, it is a tool for participation and citizenship, empowering the population and prioritising interventions, with real-time monitoring of social indicators.

SIGESI's innovation lies in being the first system in Colombia to integrate technology for citizen participation and transparency.

It articulates government agencies and other actors to solve problems and optimise resources, and is fundamental for decision-making.

In addition to the citizen participation module for the conversations, **it covers all age groups** through other modules: SICE and Kitea for early childhood, infancy and adolescence, in which this population is taught their rights while being held accountable; young people and adults through the SITUR, Valle del Cauca Travel, Fondo Valle Inn, Gender Observatory and Social Bank platforms; older adults through SIAAM, monitoring the implementation of the public policy for older adults.

The practice has been recognised nationally with the Colombia Participa Award from the Ministry of Interior in 2017.

DISCOVER MORE

Website of the Integral Social Management System - SIGESI eGov:
<https://sigesi.valledelcauca.gov.co/>

Website of the Government of Valle del Cauca:
<https://www.valledelcauca.gov.co>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website:
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3337>

The most supported practice by the IOPD Community:

The proposal of the government of Valle del Cauca obtained 3.473 votes through the open voting on our platform ParticipateOIPD, standing out as the public's favorite.



Other applications submitted

In the following section, you will find the complete list of applications submitted for the 18th edition of the IOPD Award. Each entry includes a brief description provided by the respective local and regional governments. You can also explore each nomination in detail through the links to the ParticipateOIDP platform, where you will find comprehensive information about these initiatives. Many of these submissions showcase remarkable examples of innovative participatory democracy.

We encourage you to delve into these inspiring stories and projects, which highlight the transformative potential participatory local democracy.



*CATEGORY
BUILDING
MORE
DEMOCRATIC
AND
PEACEFUL
CITIES AND
TERRITORIES*



BUILDING MORE DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL CITIES AND TERRITORIES

CITIZEN DEBATE ON ANNEMASSE'S NEIGHBORHOODS Annemasse, France

Following the urban violence in Annemasse in June 2023, the Mayor announced a conference of local residents. A consultation process led to the selection of NALISSE Consulting to facilitate the implementation of the Assises des Quartiers, a collaborative initiative involving residents and stakeholders in the Perrier and Romagny neighbourhoods, with a focus on addressing the needs of young people. The process consisted of three phases: preparatory (October), consultation (November), and co-construction (December). It resulted in 1,220 contributions and an action plan containing 114 measures to be implemented from 2024 to 2026.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3332>

NEIGHBOURHOOD SCHOOL FOR CITIZENSHIP AND WORK Asunción, Paraguay

The Neighbourhood School for Citizenship and Work, initiated by the Federation of Neighbourhood Entities of Paraguay (Federación de Entidades Vecinalistas del Paraguay - FEDEM Py), provides civic and vocational training to strengthen community leadership and improve economic conditions. Since 2014, the program has expanded from Asunción to nine municipalities, offering courses defined by the community and taught by experienced leaders. This initiative has resulted in over 5,000 graduates and significantly enhanced social cohesion.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3368>

PARTICIPATORY PROVINCIAL BUDGETING Badajoz, Spain

The Provincial Council of Badajoz, in its commitment to fostering citizen participation and participatory democracy in all areas affecting people's lives, is launching the Provincial Participatory Budgeting initiative across the province. This initiative aims to involve the citizens of Badajoz in all matters and public policies of interest to them, thereby promoting transparency, effective and efficient public management, increased civic awareness, and the empowerment of an increasingly active population in public affairs. In essence, it seeks to genuinely advance the concept of active citizenship as opposed to the current model of a "passive user" or "captive client" of the Administration.

<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3255>



Belfast, UK

INITIATIVE BUDGETING (PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING) Bandikhon district, Uzbekistan

Implemented since 2021, the initiative budgeting project in the Bandikhon district has significantly increased citizen participation in budget allocation. Supported by international experts, this practice allows citizens to propose and vote on projects, ensuring that the winning initiatives receive district budget funding. This approach has not only enhanced financial literacy and addressed long-standing regional issues but has also strengthened the bond between the government and the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3371>

BELFAST 2024 & BANK OF IDEAS Belfast, United Kingdom

Belfast 2024's cultural programme, including its Cultural Hub, Creative Me engagement programme, and Bank of Ideas scheme, promotes civic participation and cultural democracy by celebrating Belfast's evolving identity. Involving over 10,000 participants, it aims to build a more democratic and peaceful city by addressing themes of diversity, equality, and environmental sustainability, fostering new skills, connections, and civic pride while challenging local cultural organisations to rethink their roles.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3340>

INCLUSIVE URBAN PLANNING AND MULTICULTURAL ENGAGEMENT Brno, Czech Republic

This practice addresses the need for inclusive urban planning by serving as an intermediary between underrepresented communities and urban decision-makers. By facilitating collaboration and amplifying marginalized voices, the initiative promotes inclusivity and equity in urban management, cultural engagement, and education, ensuring that all residents have the opportunity to participate in and benefit from the city's development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3274>

STRENGTHENING INTEGRITY PROGRAMME IN DRC Bukavu, DRC

This practice aims to combat corruption and enhance local governance to support participatory democracy. By focusing on innovative approaches such as celebrating public service integrity, promoting democratic initiatives, co-creating community solutions, and investing in the arts, the programme has significantly impacted Bukavu and beyond. Over the past three years, it has engaged thousands of citizens, fostering accountability and promoting moral values.

<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3260>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Town, South Africa

The City of Cape Town's initial digital public participation process, which relied on a one-way online comment form, hindered future engagement due to a lack of feedback and the absence of visibility into others' inputs. To address these issues, a new Collaboration Platform was introduced, featuring an archive, multi-directional communication, and social media elements to enhance user interaction and municipal responses. This innovation aims to foster a more informed community sentiment and encourage greater civic engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3359>

PROMOTING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Commune 12 of Medellín, Colombia

Launched in 2018, this practice revitalizes civic engagement through a participatory approach. It empowers community leaders, fosters collaboration, and improves residents' quality of life. By involving all sectors of the population and continuously evaluating progress, it has increased civic awareness, trained new leaders, and strengthened citizen participation, thereby contributing to sustainable community development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3375>

FALA CURITIBA MOBILE Curitiba, Brazil

This practice involves residents in the municipal budget process through virtual and in-person meetings, as well as the innovative Fala Curitiba Móvel, which uses mobile units to engage those less likely to participate. By bringing the process to public spaces across 10 administrative regions, the initiative has successfully increased civic engagement, with 70% of participants in 2022 being first-time contributors.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3257>

HUMANISING THE BUDGET PROCESS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY DESIGN AND INNOVATION

Durham, United States of America

Initiated in 2018, this practice engages residents in allocating public funds, empowering communities and ensuring their priorities are heard. By the third cycle in 2022, PB Durham focused on equity and community empowerment, successfully engaging over 12,000 residents and implementing projects that address the needs of underserved populations. This initiative exemplifies its commitment to inclusivity and continuous improvement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3357>

MISSION SDG ESPLUGUES

Esplugues de Llobregat, Spain

Initiated by the Esplugues City Council and funded by Spain's Ministry of Social Rights and Agenda 2030, this practice aims to promote the SDGs through a participatory, cross-cutting, and gamified methodology. Engaging all community sectors from June to December 2023, the project facilitated over 100 interactive actions, fostering collaborations and highlighting the impact of daily decisions on achieving the 2030 Agenda. This initiative marks the first phase of Esplugues' Urban Agenda 2030.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3317>

2nd CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY: FOR FULL-TIME EDUCATION

Fortaleza, Fortaleza

This practice aims to expand social participation in democracy by integrating citizen deliberation into processes for solving complex issues, focusing on community development and the universalization of full-time primary education in the final years. In December 2023, the Citizens' Assembly, comprising randomly selected citizens and a group of content experts, produced a Final Report of Resolutions to improve education policy. The implementation of these recommendations continues to be monitored by the Municipal Education Department in Fortaleza.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3348>

FREGUÊS NETWORK

Freguesias de Massamá e Monte Abraão, Portugal

Launched in 2014, this practice aims to bolster local commerce and safeguard jobs by encouraging local consumption habits and supporting families with basic necessities. Through events, competitions, and initiatives like the Local Economy Support Programme, the project fosters community engagement and economic resilience, providing financial aid and stimulating local business during challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3329>

CIVIC AUDIT IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS Goiás, Brazil

Launched in 2019, “Students with Attitude” uses a gamified civic audit methodology to engage students in active learning, promoting citizen participation, social oversight practices, and the prevention of corruption. Aimed at fostering a participatory political culture, the project includes teacher training, student-led audits, special tasks such as measuring Gross Internal Happiness, and challenges designed to transform their communities. The initiative culminates in evaluations and awards for the best-performing schools, with over 700 registrations in 2023.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3288>

EUROPEAN CITIZENS' WALK AND DRAWING COMPETITION Grez-Doiceau, Belgium

Part of the European DESIRE project, this practice engaged various local stakeholders in promoting European values and cultural diversity. The success of the Schuman walk and the subsequent drawing exhibition fostered community involvement, discussions on European history and geography, and innovative use of digital platforms for civic engagement, making it a significant and creative experiment in local civic participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3315>

KADIKOY CENTER PARTICIPATORY URBAN AGENDA Istanbul, Turkey

This practice aims to integrate local knowledge into spatial decisions through extensive participation practices, involving collaboration between IMM, Kadikoy Municipality, and NGOs. This initiative, marked by participation events and expert evaluations, has produced a strategic document that directly influences conservation-oriented planning decisions, fostering trust and cooperation between the community and public institutions in Istanbul.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3318>

COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICES IN THE GUAPURÁ NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING COMPLEX Itanhaém, Brazil

This practice exemplifies effective interdepartmental cooperation within municipal government to enhance public services, particularly in the context of the Minha Casa Minha Vida program. Led by multiple departments, including Administration, Education, Culture, Sports, Housing, Traffic, Public Safety, Health, and Labor Relations, the project utilized a research-action methodology to engage community members and achieve tangible improvements in residents' quality of life. The initiative not only addresses local challenges comprehensively but also contributes significantly to the SDGs, demonstrating its potential to foster sustainable and inclusive urban development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3261>

INITIATIVE BUDGETING (PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING) Jalakuduk district, Uzbekistan

Implemented since 2021, this practice has significantly increased citizen participation in budget allocation. Supported by international experts, it allows citizens to propose and vote on projects, ensuring that the winning initiatives receive district budget funding. This approach enhances financial literacy, addresses long-standing regional issues, and strengthens the bond between the government and the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3374>

ELEVBORGARRÅD FÖR KLIMATET (STUDENT COUNCIL FOR THE CLIMATE) Karlstads, Sweden

This practice empowers children and young people to propose and prioritize measures for reducing municipal emissions, fostering a fair climate transition and integrating youth perspectives into local governance. Inspired by citizens' juries, this initiative has led to 26 agreed-upon proposals, including initiatives such as car-free weeks and solar panel installations. It has demonstrated its impact by enhancing democratic education and civic engagement among participants while influencing municipal policy for sustainable development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3283>

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF AN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (PDESC 2023-2027) THAT INCORPORATES THE SDGS Koulikoro, Mali

Following the 1991 revolution and subsequent decentralization, the Republic of Mali established local authorities responsible for economic, social, and cultural development through the Economic, Social, and Cultural Development Programme (PDESC). The Koulikoro Regional Council recently initiated the preparation of a new PDESC for 2023, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with technical support from various regional bodies and by fostering citizen participation across its 116 local authorities. This participatory approach ensures comprehensive regional development planning, emphasizing sustainability and enhancing local governance and community engagement in public affairs.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3349>

INNOVATIVE AND INCLUSIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION Lamu County, Kenya

This practice employs multidisciplinary strategies, including the use of donkey riders, boats, and military helicopters, to reach diverse communities across its 65 islands. Specialized sessions are organized for women, youth, people with disabilities, older people, and marginalized groups, ensuring inclusive engagement in county development agendas. It promotes human rights, democracy, and enhances peace-building efforts, even amidst challenges such as conflict zones and geographic isolation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3256>



Maia, Portugal

ANNUAL KREMLIN REFERENDUM Le Kremlin-Bicêtre, France

Initiated in 2021, this practice enhances citizen engagement by allowing annual voting on local projects, reflecting a commitment to direct democracy and addressing voter disengagement. Kremlin-Bicêtre aims to increase participation to 50% within six years, pioneering this ongoing democratic practice in France.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3296>

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS TO BUILD MAIA'S MUNICIPAL YOUTH PLAN Maia, Portugal

The Maia City Council engaged youth aged 15-30 in co-constructing the Municipal Youth Plan through consultations and focus groups across all parishes, prioritizing the inclusion of minority, migrant, and NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) youth. Facilitated by trainers from the National Youth Council, this process aimed to address youth concerns, foster active participation, and shape policy. It began with 313 initial questionnaire responses, followed by focus groups involving 123 young participants and 40 municipal professionals. The resulting plan outlines 5 strategic objectives and 15 action lines, integrated into Maia's Annual Activity Plan, ensuring ongoing youth-focused policy development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3326>

OPEN PRESIDENCY/OPEN GOVERNMENT Maputo, Mozambique

This practice, which began with the first executive in 1998, has evolved into its current format called Open Presidency/Open Government in 2024. It involves a four-stage process of receiving, verifying, and addressing citizen complaints through a WhatsApp group, with interventions supported by community and partner participation. This approach has led to increased trust between citizens and the city council.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3370>

TRAINING NETWORK SCHOOL FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Medellín, Colombia

Implemented in Medellín since 2015, this practice aims to enhance effective citizen participation through education, ethical-political reflection, and community engagement. It is structured around five action lines: pedagogy, on-site accompaniment, mobilization and social dialogue, knowledge management, and alliances. This initiative seeks to strengthen democratic relations and influence decision-making by leveraging territorial strengths and fostering collaboration among citizens, organizations, and institutions.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3347>

TEKSİN (YOU ARE UNIQUE) APPLICATION

Mersin, Turkey

The participatory presidencies are an initiative of proximity and dialogue with the citizens. It is carried out in the 18 parishes of the municipality and aims to diagnose problems, needs, and identify solutions involving the population in strategic issues of greater importance for the parishes.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2023/f/277/proposals/3118>

LIDERA MOGI- CITIZEN TRAINING

Mogi das Cruzes, Brazil

In January 2021, the Municipality established social participation as a core principle in Mogi das Cruzes' administration, leading to the creation of the Participa Mogi policy to enhance citizen engagement and democracy. This initiative includes the Lidera Mogi citizenship training program, which aims to empower residents with the knowledge and tools to actively participate in city development. The program has resulted in high satisfaction and strong recommendations from participants.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3338>

CREATING AND STRENGTHENING YOUTH PROTAGONISM

Morón, Argentina

The objective of the program is to reclaim conflicted public spaces to provide young people with a political platform capable of improving their lives by strengthening democratic values and mechanisms. This is achieved through the encouragement of youth groups, transparent collaboration with the municipality, and the promotion of their active participation in the areas of health, education, and culture. The aim is to redefine the State as a source of hope for improving their quality of life.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3334>

FOSTERING INCLUSIVE DECISION-MAKING IN ZAMBIA THROUGH DE-POLITICIZATION

Mufulira, Zambia

This initiative aims to depoliticize decision-making processes to promote the public interest, improve transparency and fairness, and encourage more inclusive political participation. It advocates for political reforms, conducts civic education campaigns, strengthens civil society and the media, and engages marginalized communities to actively participate and hold political leaders accountable. Additionally, it employs monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to measure its impact.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3378>

SETTING UP TERRITORIAL OBSERVATORIES

N'Djamena, Chad

Established by the National Support Program for Communes of Chad, this practice aims to collect and process data to guide the decisions of communal authorities and inform the population, with support from the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF). A steering committee, composed of FERAM Chad, the National Association of Communes of Chad, and the OIF, oversees their operation and adapts public policies to the needs of the population based on regular evaluation reports.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3379>

MEDBORGARBUDGET (CITIZEN BUDGETING)

Nässjö, Sweden

This practice is a participatory budgeting initiative aimed at developing rural areas between 2022 and 2029 by allocating approximately SEK 500,000 annually to rural communities. Building on previous experiences, the project allows residents to collectively decide on local priorities, thereby strengthening trust between the community and the administration while using inclusive and flexible participation methods.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3316>

IN SEARCH OF TAVARANDU: EXPERIENTIAL TRAINING ON PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE PRACTICES

Natalio, Paraguay

The UNDP "Tavarandu" program in Paraguay, born from an initiative of the Acceleration Laboratory, seeks to revitalize citizen participation by training municipal officials in participatory methodologies and public innovation. In parallel, citizen laboratories have been established to enable residents, including adolescents, to actively contribute to solving local problems and making decisions. The program employs rigorous monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the intervention.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3269>

Natalio, Paraguay



PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN LAVEIRAS MUNICIPAL NEIGHBOURHOOD 2023/24
Oeiras, Portugal

The Municipality of Oeiras launched this participatory budget, focused on community development, to strengthen social cohesion and citizenship. This pilot project involved residents in the submission and selection of projects, supported by two trained ambassadors. It aimed to address civic deserts by promoting dialogue, cooperation, and community engagement, thereby strengthening the sense of belonging and improving relationships with municipal services.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3271>

GRASSROOTS LEADERS TO GOOD GOVERNANCE CHAMPIONS: ORMOC PANAGTAMBAYAYONG, REDEFINING PEOPLE PARTICIPATION AS PARTNERS FOR CHANGE
Ormoc, Philippines

This initiative promotes participatory governance by involving citizens in decision-making processes. Civil society organizations play a crucial role in contributing to local legislation, overseeing finances, planning and monitoring infrastructure projects, and supervising procurement processes. Through capacity-building activities, civic engagement is revitalized, resulting in tangible improvements and laying the foundation for sustainable and inclusive community development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3355>

ORMOC CITY PROJECT MONITORING COMMITTEE (OCPMC): THE KEY TOWARDS PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
Ormoc, Philippines

The transformative impact of the OCPMC, established in 2019, is rooted in its commitment to citizen participation, transparency, and accountability. By using digital platforms such as SubayBAYAN and organizing barangay assemblies, OCPMC enables citizens to track the progress of projects in real time and provide valuable feedback. Through strategic initiatives and rigorous financial controls, the committee maximizes the effectiveness of public investments while fostering inclusion and collaboration between the government and citizens, positioning Ormoc as a model of participatory and inclusive governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3342>

THE CITIZEN PARTICIPATION OF OSÓRIO'S CHILDREN IN THE REVISION OF THE CITY'S MASTER PLAN

Osório, Brazil

This practice integrated human aspects and promoted social interaction in public spaces while establishing a Children's Committee to ensure ongoing involvement in urban decision-making. This process aims to develop children's sense of citizenship and foster a culture of civic activism.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3265>

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF GENERAL SARMIENTO

Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina

For more than 11 years, this PB, integrated into the university statute, has aimed to democratize internal relations, legitimize policies, reduce inequalities, and improve institutional management. With 107 projects submitted, 35 of which have been fully funded, this program has strengthened community ties and highlighted new actors and demands, despite some challenges.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3372>

ECOSISTEMA AYUDAR. A LARGE-SCALE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICE

Province of Córdoba, Argentina

This practice is a large-scale democratic initiative that brings together 280 public and private organizations which, after the pandemic, coordinated 21 participatory democracy and social inclusion programs. This collaboration between institutions and local communities had a synergistic impact on 34 civil society organizations and over 4,000 vulnerable citizens, with actions indirectly reaching more than 700,000 inhabitants in the province of Córdoba.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3377>

DEMOCRACY INITIATION PROGRAMME

Rosário da Limeira, Brazil

This practice is an innovative educational initiative that develops young, engaged and aware citizens by simulating electoral processes. Over the course of four months, students create political parties, discuss civic rights and responsibilities, and participate in mock elections, thereby strengthening their understanding of democracy and human rights. This multidimensional program includes discussions on ethics, political participation, and diversity, and prepares students to become community leaders.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3281>

INITIATIVE BUDGETING (PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING) Samarkand district, Uzbekistan

Implemented since 2021, this practice has significantly increased citizen participation in budget allocation. Supported by international experts, it allows citizens to propose and vote on projects, ensuring that the winning initiatives receive funding from the district budget. This approach improves financial literacy, addresses long-standing regional issues, and strengthens the connection between the government and society.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3373>

OPEN GOVERNMENT MODEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SANTIAGO DE CHILE: GOVERNING WITH PUBLIC SENSE Santiago de Chile, Chile

The governance model implemented since 2021 aims to establish democratic, collective, and efficient governance by fostering public engagement and collaboration throughout the entire policy and project cycle of the regional government. It focuses on the modernization of management, transparency, and citizen participation. Since 2022, 24 measures have been implemented, including regional investment management systems with open data, transparent portals, and various round tables with civil society. Innovative in its use of advanced technology and active citizen participation, this initiative has led to significant projects and included Santiago in the Open Government Partnership in 2024.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3311>

PRAÇA VIVA São Paulo, Brazil

In just two years, this practice transformed abandoned spaces into vibrant and structured areas, providing a legal and safe environment for street vendors and local artists. This program improved the quality of life for low-income families by offering cultural and leisure spaces nearby, while also creating opportunities for artists to perform and earn an income. The initiative revitalized public spaces through community engagement, reducing maintenance costs for the public administration and strengthening collaboration between authorities and citizens.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3333>

BEST PRACTICES OF PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE OF NUEVO LEÓN 2023 State of Nuevo León, Mexico

The Secretariat of Citizen Participation of the State of Nuevo León has launched an annual call to recognize the best practices in public participation, aimed at strengthening communities, protecting rights, and improving public life. In 2023, the call was expanded to include legally constituted organizations, unincorporated groups, and neighborhood associations, rewarding initiatives focused on people with disabilities, indigenous communities, LGBTQI+ individuals, children, adolescents, and women. This practice inspires citizens to exercise their right to participate and transform their environment, while providing a toolbox of replicable successes for civil society and public authorities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3267>

SCHOOL MAYOR Tehran, Iran

The School Mayor Project aims to empower adolescents as active contributors to the future of society, strengthen their sense of participation and responsibility, and introduce them to methods of collective decision-making. Implemented within schools, this project also seeks to familiarize students with the concepts of citizenship, elections, and municipal governance. Schools, as key social institutions interconnected with the broader social system, were chosen as the ideal setting for this initiative due to their role in the socialization of students. This collaborative project prepares young people to engage in urban and social affairs, practice self-regulation, and develop a strong sense of civic responsibility.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3266>

I'M MAYOR Tehran, Iran

Tehran Municipality is implementing this initiative to promote citizen participation in urban management. The process includes six stages, from the submission of applications to the inclusion of selected projects in the budget proposal. Various communication strategies, such as website enhancements, campaigns, and direct interaction, are used to engage citizens from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. This approach has transformed the image of the municipality from a mere service provider to a social institution focused on culture and community services.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3279>

DELIBERATIVE DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA Various African countries

The Demo.Rest project, conducted from 2021 to 2023 by Extituto de Política Abierta in collaboration with the Centre for Peace Advancement and Socio-Economic Development (CPAED), aims to strengthen youth participation in policy formulation and decision-making processes across Africa. In response to the marginalization and exclusion of young people from public affairs in countries such as Nigeria, DRC, CAR, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, this project promotes active youth engagement through advocacy, dialogue, and art. In partnership with various stakeholders, it encourages young people to influence change, challenge the status quo, and play a crucial role in advancing participatory democracy in Africa.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/285/proposals/3323>



*CATEGORY
URBAN
MANAGEMENT
AND PUBLIC
SPACE*



CATEGORY URBAN MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE

IMPROVING LIVING CONDITIONS IN POVERTY-STRICKEN AREAS (ILCA) OF AMMAN PROJECT AND URBAN MICRO LUNGS Amman, Jordan

The ILCA project, sponsored by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via GIZ, has established green infrastructure in eastern Amman in collaboration with the Greater Amman Municipality and the Jordanian Ministry of the Environment. Using the Miyawaki method – applied for the first time in an urban environment – ILCA created urban forests to improve biodiversity, regulate temperature, and capture carbon, while encouraging community participation and inclusion in local governance. This project has not only improved urban well-being and strengthened environmental resilience, but it has also promoted sustainable practices aligned with the SDGs, establishing a replicable model for inclusive and sustainable urban development in Amman and beyond.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3308>

COMMUNITY URBAN FARMING Bordeaux Metropolis, France

The urban community gardening project at Queen Rania Al Abdullah Park in Amman aims to strengthen social cohesion, improve food security, and enhance urban climate resilience. It includes professional training, capacity-building for stakeholders, and community consultations to ensure sustainable and participatory implementation. The operational guide that has been produced supports the development and maintenance of the garden, aiming to inspire similar initiatives worldwide by providing both structure and guidance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3320>

THE INTERACTIVE PROJECT EFFECTIVENESS SCORECARD (IPEK) Bagcilar, Turkey

Launched in 2021, the IPEK aims to assess the effectiveness of municipal projects by incorporating feedback from citizens into future investment decisions. Using field and online surveys, it analyzes citizen satisfaction and the impact of services, and strengthens democracy by actively involving stakeholders in urban management. Thanks to its interactive platform, which is compatible with mobile phones, the IPEK ensures proactive and sustainable management of municipal projects.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3295>

OPEN OFFICE Brusque, Brazil

This initiative includes opening the offices of the mayor and deputy mayor to meet with and understand the specific needs of the population, then using surveys and data to develop precise strategies to meet these demands. Transparency with citizens is ensured through direct communication, as well as via the website and social networks, which facilitates access to information through open consultations.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3365>

CILDÁÑEZ BIOCORRIDOR Buenos Aires, Argentina

The practice rehabilitates a major Buenos Aires waterway by connecting basin-wide projects with green spaces and community gardens, promoting social and environmental reconstruction through inter-jurisdictional planning and participatory management. Initiated after a tragic flood in 2013, the project incorporates the historical and environmental memory of the area, facilitating a cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach to decision-making, institutionalized through legislation and integrated into local government structures.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3287>

INCREASING THE CAPACITY OF HÜDAVENDIGAR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER Bursa, Turkey

The project in the Osmangazi district of Bursa aims to promote harmonious coexistence despite recent migratory flows by focusing on three initiatives centered on children and their parents from migrant groups. The projects include workshops on fairy tales, robotic coding, and a park design project, all designed to encourage encounters between different social groups and promote empathy. By encouraging children's participation, these initiatives have also benefited adults by strengthening intercultural communication and inspiring a collective vision of an inclusive society.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2023/f/278/proposals/3060>



Bursa, Turkey

Contagem, Brazil



REVISION OF THE MASTER PLAN

Contagem, Brazil

Contagem's master plan, which is essential for guiding urban development, has been drawn up with the participation of the public through several Municipal Urban Policy Conferences (CMPU) since 2005. Approved following popular mobilization and in agreement with the Public Prosecutor's Office, it incorporates actions for urban, economic and social development while preserving the city's natural resources. It stands out for its innovative participative management system, ensuring continuous monitoring and citizen involvement via annual plenary sessions and digital tools, thereby strengthening transparency and democracy in the process of building and revising the plan.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3306>

A PIONEERING CITY FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LUXEMBOURG: THE CASE OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Dudelange, Luxembourg

Dudelange stands out for its commitment to sustainable urban development and active civic integration. With a diverse population, including over 40% of foreigners who are often excluded from traditional electoral politics, Dudelange has introduced innovative practices such as the Biergerpanel, the Biergerrot, and a participatory budget to strengthen citizen participation in local governance. These initiatives have made Dudelange a recognized model of participatory democracy in Luxembourg.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3282>

CHILDREN'S STREET

Esenler, Turkey

Esenler has transformed a street into a safe and playful space for children, incorporating traditional games, sports playgrounds and green areas with flowers and trees. The project not only encourages children's physical and mental development through play, but also promotes the inclusion of children with disabilities by providing a safe and suitable environment.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3321>

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS FOR THE DESIGN OF THE SQUARE OF THE NEW ROÍIS DE CORELLA INTEGRAL HEALTH CENTRE

Gandia, Spain

This practice involved a series of structured phases with the community and technical experts, aimed at assessing the health impact, diagnosing the needs of the neighborhood, and defining an urban project that meets the community design criteria. This process resulted in favorable recommendations for public health, with an emphasis on the creation of shade and socialization spaces, the reduction of motorized traffic, and environmental sustainability, validated by consensus between stakeholders for incorporation into the final project.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3277>

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COHESION POLICY: CO-CONSTRUCTING URBAN AREAS

Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska Metropolis, Poland

Since 2023, the Metropolis of Górnośląsko-Zagłębiowska has been organizing participatory processes with the support of the EU Transport Project Centre in Poland and FADO, within the framework of the Innovative Implementation of the Partnership Principle programme. This project aims to develop recommendations for the future of rail transport through an online survey, research walks and a deliberative jury, including special attention to the inclusion of people with disabilities. The long-term objective of this pilot project is to institutionalise citizen participation in urban planning and the allocation of cohesion policy funds. Involving 7 cities, it explores innovative methods to strengthen municipal cooperation and citizen engagement, taking into account institutional and legal diversities to enrich future practices of shared deliberation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3280>

BÜTÇE SENİN (YOUR BUDGET)

Istanbul, Turkey

Since 2021, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality has been successfully implementing its participatory budget, Katılımcı Bütçe, by facilitating the transformation of citizens' ideas into concrete projects through "idea marathons". This transparent and accountable process guides citizens through well-defined stages: from the submission of applications on the dedicated website and mobile application, to the technical evaluation of the projects by the municipal authorities, and finally to the popular vote to select the projects to be carried out. In 2024, the process will even open up to the participation of citizens from all over Turkey, highlighting its significant impact in terms of participatory democracy and social communication in local governments.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3291>

Karşıyaka, Turkey



CO-DESIGN OF A PUBLIC SPACE AND THE IMPLEMENTATION: ATAK- ENT (CAR) PARK

Karşıyaka, Turkey

The “Park(ing) Atakent” project was designed on a democratic platform, integrating the wishes of 178 local citizens to revitalize an urban space. This process allowed non-designers to engage with professionals through active design tools, enriching the common design language and fostering meaningful learning in the urban experience. Inclusiveness was enhanced by the introduction of an open object toolbox, allowing for the identification of new urban functions and consensus building through collective intelligence, while highlighting the importance of rethinking methodologies to include diverse needs and capacities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3313>

SURA URBAN POLICIES AND RESEARCH CENTER

Kocaeli, Turkey

This practice aims to develop sustainable strategies aligned with the SDGs to strengthen the city’s national and international brand by 2030. This project facilitates collaboration between the academic community, administrative bodies and the public to conduct activities such as knowledge generation, project planning and meeting management. It includes a structured process of workshops and action planning, as well as proactive communication with participants via online tools to ensure continuous and informed input at every stage of the urban development and public policy process in Kocaeli.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3303>

CITIZENS’ COUNCIL (2ND EDITION)

Lisbon, Portugal

Led by the Participation Division of the Lisbon City Council, this practice is a pioneering initiative in participatory democracy in Portugal. Through three editions since 2022, it has addressed themes such as the impact of climate change and the vision of a “15-minute Lisbon,” aiming to integrate citizen perspectives into municipal decision-making. The project stands out for its transparency, inclusiveness, and representativeness, utilizing a stratified random selection of members and close collaboration with academic and civil society partners to promote democratic deliberation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3307>

PARTICIPATORY PROJECT IN DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES IN THE PROMOTION OF NEW PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Maia, Portugal

The project aims to actively involve disadvantaged communities in Anta, Ardegães, and Lagielas in Maia in the design of new social housing through a participatory process that integrates their preferences into architectural solutions. It also includes technical aspects for the implementation of the projects, such as the management of design, financing, and construction procedures. Capacity building through academic training and local learning is a central pillar to empower residents. This ambitious project seeks to foster social and cultural integration while addressing the long-term needs of marginalized communities and deconstructing social prejudices.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3328>

SOCIAL FUND FOR DEVELOPMENT

Najaf, Iraq

This practice aims to improve the living conditions of the poor and vulnerable by facilitating access to essential services and creating short-term employment opportunities at the community level. Sub-projects are initiated by Community Development Councils, supported by the local FSD governorate office and NGOs, and are selected based on local social and economic assessments. Once approved, projects are submitted to community votes to determine funding priorities, and then implemented in close collaboration with local government and sectoral ministries. This approach aims to strengthen social cohesion and stimulate local economic development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3366>

PARTICIPATORY STRATEGY: MOVE WITHOUT HARASSMENT

Nuevo León, Mexico

This practice emerged from the mobilization of subway users and feminist collectives in Nuevo León in 2022, aimed at implementing the Vagón Rosa program to ensure the safety of women and girls. Thanks to effective collaboration between the Secretariat of Citizen Participation and government agencies, the project led to the creation of the Manual of Action Procedures to Prevent and Address Sexual Harassment in the Metrorrey Metro, as well as the successful implementation of a safe, women-only car since November 2022. This initiative has strengthened public trust in the government by demonstrating the importance of citizen participation in formulating effective public policies for violence-free public transportation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3278>

RURAL-URBAN SYMBIOSIS. UBATÉ A SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT MUNICIPALITY

San Diego de Ubate, Colombia

This practice aims to transform the municipality into a sustainable and resilient model after the devastating impacts of the La Niña phenomenon. By focusing on protecting natural areas, managing climate risks, and improving quality of life, Ubaté seeks to harmoniously integrate its urban and rural areas to support its residents and promote ecosystem services in the province.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3358>

REVITALIZATION OF THE HISTORIC CENTRE: DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATION FOR THE DIGNITY OF TRADERS IN PUBLIC SPACES

San Salvador Centro, El Salvador

The revitalization of the historic center of San Salvador was successful thanks to the active participation of merchants in the processes of dialogue and negotiation. Their equitable integration into the municipal market system not only improved their quality of life by providing safe and orderly spaces for their commercial activities, but also contributed to the reduction of economic inequalities in the region. This initiative allowed the recovery of public spaces, making them accessible to the population and promoting urban mobility and tourism, while strengthening the sense of ownership and community responsibility.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3263>

COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF CUSCATLÁN PARK

San Salvador Centro, El Salvador

The collaborative management model of the Cuscatlán Park between the San Salvador Centro City Hall and the Cuscatlán Park Foundation (FUNDAPARC) exemplifies a balanced and participatory collaboration. Through a joint working committee where decisions are made by consensus, this partnership has increased park attendance by 680%, attracting more than 780,000 visitors per year, with increased diversity among visitors, including more women and children. This approach has also improved the perception of safety, from 20% to 94%, and increased the number of activities available, providing a more inclusive and attractive public space for the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3264>

CITIZEN BUDGET

São Paulo, Brazil

São Paulo stands out as a pioneer in open government, joining the Open Government Partnership in 2016 to promote participatory democracy. The institutionalization of open government with the creation of the Inter-secretary Committee for Open Government in 2014 has strengthened transparency and social participation through initiatives such as the Citizen Budget, which allocated R\$320 million to 32 administrative areas, enabling greater democratic deliberation and citizen accountability.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3380>

FUTURE TEAM ROTHNEUSIEDL

Vienna, Austria

This practice pioneered the transformation of community engagement and urban planning processes, elevating citizens' councils to new heights. Its inclusive composition, featuring both randomly selected and appointed members, ensured diverse community representation by incorporating the unique perspectives of local stakeholders, including those from agriculture, citizen initiatives, and neighborhood associations. This approach brought citizens closer to planners, humanizing the planning process by continually amplifying community voices and fostering mutual understanding. Through active participation, the initiative empowered citizens, increased transparency through detailed websites and logs, and set a precedent for future projects.

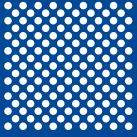
More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3322>

ENHANCING TRAFFIC SAFETY NEAR SCHOOLS THROUGH CHILD-FRIENDLY COLLABORATIVE CONSTRUCTION AND SHARING' APPROACH

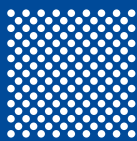
Xianning, China

The initiative is distinguished by its innovative fusion of municipal transportation, urban renewal, and child-centered elements, breaking away from the traditional Chinese model of urban development. It features the use of sustainable and innovative materials, such as walls made of discarded bottles and landscape walls made of bottle caps, integrating ecological and creative concepts like 3D printing for mushroom-shaped seats. By enriching infrastructure with educational and environmental elements, the project offers children a unique perspective, promoting ecological awareness and participatory governance, while inspiring urban development practices nationwide.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/286/proposals/3290>



CATEGORY GENDER AND CARE



CATEGORY GENDER AND CARE

EASY GOVERNMENT (GOBIERNO FÁCIL)

Aragon, Spain

Gobierno Fácil enables people with disabilities and socially vulnerable individuals to reformulate administrative and legal texts using simplified reading methods, making government information more accessible to everyone, including older people, non-Spanish speakers, and children. This co-creation program aims to integrate these groups into public decision-making and improve transparency by adapting the language and format of official documents for better understanding by a broader segment of the population. All reformulated documents are available online for universal access.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3272>

2ND CONSULTATION OF ADOLESCENTS

Barcelona, Spain

Mi Primer Voto is an independent and multicultural Catalan-Chilean collective, specialized in organizing consultations and citizen training for adolescents. Their goal is to amplify the voices of minors on issues that concern them and improve their citizenship education by using social networks to encourage participation. Since 2020, they have conducted consultations in Arica, Catalonia, and Barcelona, and plan to expand their activities to Chile, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3367>

TEKOM' BOE / CAMINOS DE TIZA

Comandante Andresito, Argentina

This practice is a collaborative initiative between the community and the municipality of Comandante Andresito, Argentina, aimed at integrating and valuing the functional, linguistic, and cultural diversity of vulnerable and rural areas. This itinerant model offers spaces for action, listening, and training to empower participants to understand and defend their rights while providing resources for socio-community actions. By promoting education and active participation, it transforms citizens into agents of social and political change, breaking away from a traditional assistance approach to foster sustainable participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3253>



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE SERVICES

Feira de Santana, Brazil

This practice focuses on strengthening community ties, promoting the economic independence of citizens in extreme poverty, and combating child labor exploitation. By implementing targeted actions with rapid results, it has already reduced violence in the municipality through humanitarian support for the homeless and preventive initiatives against child labor. Outcomes include the distribution of 252,000 meals, milk for 1,008,000 people, food assistance to 8,652 people, and temporary housing for 270 individuals, garnering the interest of other organizations and the media.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3362>

SUPPORT FOR UNEMPLOYED WOMEN THROUGH TRAINING IN CUTTING AND SEWING AND THE PROCESSING OF SAUSAGES

Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo

The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan highlights the needs of 6 million women and 6.8 million girls in the DRC, with a 37% increase in gender-based violence in North Kivu at the beginning of 2023. The sausage cutting, sewing, and processing project aims to empower vulnerable and displaced women in Goma by providing them with skills to meet their own needs and those of their families, thereby helping to reduce violence and strengthen their resilience. At the end of the project, it is hoped that these women, having overcome the trauma of war, will be able to invest in their self-development and regain their dignity.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3259>

YOU MAYOR IN SCHOOLS

João Pessoa, Brazil

This practice allows children and adolescents to vote in municipal elections, a democratic tool previously reserved for adults, thereby strengthening their civic role. In addition to voting, the program includes dialogue circles on various topics such as peace culture and racism, with high participation and positive feedback. The next phase, in 2024, will involve young people in public management, demonstrating that their participation can generate significant changes in their community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3268>

MONTREAL: CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 12, TODAY'S CITIZENS: BOOSTING CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Montreal, Canada

Concertation Montréal actively engages children aged 4 to 12 in civic participation using inclusive methods such as interactive discussions and annotated drawings. Since 2021, they have consulted approximately 100 children per year on topics such as urban planning and public health, and have educated more than 350 adults, including municipal elected officials, on the importance of incorporating children's voices. The goal is to awaken children to the concept of citizenship, raise awareness among adults about the importance of consulting children, and promote an inclusive city that respects children's rights.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3285>

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF GENDER AND DIVERSITIES

Morón, Argentina

This practice consists of an innovative public policy that promotes women's participation through horizontal and inclusive mechanisms. Managed by the Secretariat of Women, Gender, Diversity and Human Rights, this Council addresses various issues related to rights and the prevention of violence, establishing itself as a democratic space for the exchange of experiences. Active since 2004, it has evolved in parallel with the feminist movement, participating in national and plurinational women's meetings, and strengthening the recognition of gender rights.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3352>

INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS AROUND VIRUNGA NATIONAL PARK THROUGH REFORESTATION

Nyiragongo, Democratic Republic of Congo

Eastern DRC, particularly the Nyiragongo territory, is experiencing increased deforestation due to the exploitation of forest resources and shifting agriculture. To combat this degradation, reforestation and awareness-raising initiatives are being implemented, notably by the GMT ASBL organization, which trains women in best practices for soil restoration and biodiversity conservation. This project aims to protect forests and promote sustainable development by actively involving women in natural resource management.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3258>

CIRCUITO ORGULLO CULTURAL OCOYOACAC; "HERE COMES THE COCO"

Ocoyoacac, Mexico

Ocoyoacac, located between Mexico City and Toluca, is rich in cultural heritage and natural wonders and is designated as an urban area of priority attention to reduce marginalization and poverty. This practice aims to democratize access to cultural services by involving the entire community and promoting peace through cultural and artistic alternatives, benefiting more than one million people.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3353>

GUAYAS CARE SYSTEM 'CARING FOR LIVES' - CARE BLOCK

Province of Guayas, Ecuador

This initiative is based on the interaction between citizens and public institutions to facilitate access to social services and training aimed at improving living conditions, empowering citizens, and recognizing the efforts of women caregivers. Through inter-institutional coordination, it reduces redundant efforts and values unpaid care work, while providing support and well-being activities across the 25 cantons of the province. In less than a year, four care blocks have been established, with plans to expand to other provinces, making this system the first of its kind in Ecuador and at the provincial level in Latin America.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3351>

CONSTRUCTION OF A TECHNIFIED IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Province of Manabí, Ecuador

This project has significantly strengthened the local economy, improved water management, and promoted sustainable development by increasing agricultural productivity on 480 hectares by 85% in the first year. This successful initiative, a result of collaboration between local authorities, community organizations, and technicians, has optimized water use, improved food security, and promoted environmentally friendly agricultural practices.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3310>

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORKS

Province of Manabí, Ecuador

This project aims to transform the reality of gender-based violence in collaboration with the Women's Association of Santa Marta, creating 14 care centers for women victims of violence and promoting prevention and protection policies. Through its pioneering initiatives and legislative support, the project has strengthened local support networks and provided essential resources to women, demonstrating its effectiveness and commitment to the dignity and rights of women.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3335>

YOU ARE NOT ALONE: COORDINATED CARE FOR WOMEN IN SITUATIONS OF VIOLENCE

Nuevo León, Mexico

This initiative provides continuous and diversified access to services for women victims of violence through the emergency numbers 911 and 070, significantly increasing the quantity and quality of interactions. It also promotes effective inter-institutional coordination, integrating a gender perspective and facilitating the extension of the model to other municipalities and institutions for optimal care and avoiding revictimization.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3289>

Ramallah, Palestinian Territories



ACTIVE AGING INITIATIVE Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Launched in 2018, this project empowers older adults by promoting well-being, intergenerational connections, and collaborative action through senior-led activities. By disrupting traditional programming, it empowers older adults, combats social isolation through community interactions, and promotes physical and mental well-being. This participatory approach has significantly improved the lives of over 865 residents, demonstrating a measurable positive impact and influencing social policies to better support older adults in Ramallah.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/28>

SOUK AL HARAJEH Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Launched in 2010 in Ramallah, this project has transformed the cityscape by revitalizing cultural heritage through a collaboration between the creative industry and the private sector. With a focus on local crafts, it supports local artisans and entrepreneurs while creating employment opportunities and promoting social inclusion. Through an inclusive approach and an effective communication strategy, the Souk attracts thousands of visitors every week, helping to boost the local economy and strengthen community engagement in Ramallah.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3343>

AFRO PLAN Salvador, Brazil

The Afro Plan in Salvador has been allocated \$2.7 million, as an initiative focused on strengthening entrepreneurship, cultural promotion, revitalization of public infrastructure and institutional support, aimed at exploiting Afro-Bahian cultural characteristics for tourism. The project includes initiatives such as the AfroBiz platform, the Rolês Afro, the strengthening of the crafts of the baianas, and the Salvador Capital Afro Festival to stimulate the local creative economy and promote Afrotourism.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3344>

NEXANS-ZAIO PROJECT

Zaio, Morocco

The Zaio Second Chance Center offers vocational training in various sectors to young people who have dropped out of school, with a significant impact on socio-educational integration. Initiated by the Ministry of Education, it trains between 150 and 250 young people aged 14 to 19 each year, with a balanced participation between girls and boys. The results show a reduction in juvenile delinquency and a decrease in the emigration of young people from the region.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/287/proposals/3270>



*CATEGORY
ECOLOGICAL
TRANSITION
AND
ENVIRONMENT*



CATEGORY ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND ENVIRONMENT

URBAN ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION LA SABANITA Alajuelita, Costa Rica

This project has transformed a former landfill site into a revitalized urban and environmental space. Initiated by massive clean-up campaigns in 2020, followed by successful reforestation in 2021 with zero plant mortality, the project also involved community training and the creation of vegetable gardens and composting areas. It has not only restored the ecosystem with the return of bird species to the Tiribí River, but also enhanced urban safety by reducing crime, thus demonstrating a replicable model for other areas of Alajuelita.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3369>

FROM A MINING AND POLLUTED CITY TOWARDS A GREEN, INNOVATIVE AND PARTICIPATORY CITY-SPIRE Baia Mare, Romania

This project aims to improve the urban environment, public health, and the local economy through phytoremediation on approximately seven hectares of contaminated soil, thereby promoting urban renaturalization. It also includes the creation of bio-based business models and a local value chain, reinforced by the use of technologies such as iGIS for intelligent environmental data management and the promotion of sustainable behaviors through the iLEU application.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3302>

POLICY TO SUPPORT URBAN AGRICULTURE AND AGROECOLOGY Belo Horizonte, Brazil

In Belo Horizonte, the policy of supporting urban agriculture, initiated in the 1990s, promotes socio-economic inclusion, food security, and environmental sustainability by utilizing degraded public spaces for agroforestry production. This initiative helps vulnerable populations grow and market their produce. It also aims to raise awareness of the importance of urban agriculture, conserve local biodiversity, strengthen the local economy, and reduce environmental impact.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3339>



Bologna, Italy

BOLOGNA CLIMATE CITIZENS 2019 ASSEMBLY Bologna, Italy

After declaring a climate emergency in 2019, Bologna integrated a Citizens' Assembly in 2021 to directly involve residents in climate policy. Comprising 100 representative members, the assembly made recommendations on sustainability and climate neutrality, which were approved and integrated by the city council to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. This initiative demonstrates the potential of participatory democracy to influence municipal governance and drive local climate action.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3314>

GREAT CITIZENS' DIALOGUE Bordeaux, France

The Grand Dialogue Citoyen in Bordeaux mobilized residents, students, and workers around climate issues through three innovative participatory phases, culminating in a citizens' opinion with concrete recommendations that the city is now using to enhance its political actions.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3301>

CITIZENS' ASSEMBLY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE OF CATALONIA (ACCC) Catalonia, Spain

This practice involved 100 citizens, randomly selected from 20,000 invitations, to formulate recommendations on the deployment of renewable energies and the future food model, following six training and deliberation sessions. Supported by the Generalitat de Catalunya and part of the European Horizon-CLIMAS project, this pioneering initiative in Catalonia aims to integrate citizens' recommendations into regional climate policies and contribute to the development of tools for future climate assemblies across Europe.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3324>

FROM CASSAVA PROCESSING TO IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN COCODY - THE CASE OF BLOCKHAUS

Cocody, Ivory Coast

This project aims to improve the living and working conditions of the inhabitants of Blockhaus and the surrounding villages by addressing issues related to hygiene, productivity, and profitability in Attiéké production, while reducing unemployment and protecting the environment. By involving the local community and authorities, this sustainable development initiative seeks to create lasting jobs and enhance living conditions by 2026.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3254>

INCLUSIVE RECYCLING SYSTEM IN THE CANTON CUENCA

Cuenca, Ecuador

The Inclusive Recycling System project is being developed in Cuenca, Ecuador, in the province of Azuay. Since 2004, Cuenca has implemented a recycling system by formalizing regulations for waste pickers, demonstrating its commitment to waste management and the inclusion of this group. EMAC EP leads the project and is responsible for environmental policies and programs in the region.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3336>

ACTIONS FOR THE CONSERVATION AND APPROPRIATION OF THE AYURÁ STREAM

Envigado, Colombia

The project around the La Ayurá stream in Envigado engages children in educational and artistic activities to understand and conserve water resources, supported by governance involving local stakeholders. Initiatives such as “Guardians of the Ayurá,” micro-stories, drawing competitions, a large-scale mural, and the use of Minecraft for learning have raised awareness of the creek’s cultural, historical and ecological significance, while fostering community engagement and conservation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3312>

SMART CONVERSION CARD PROJECT WITH MOBILE TOOLS

Fatih, Turkey

This project raises citizens' awareness of selective waste collection, preventing pollution and integrating recyclable waste into a system that offers financial benefits to participants. Using a smart transformation card and mobile collection vehicles, waste management has been modernized and made safer, increasing recycling rates, reducing GHG emissions, and strengthening social interaction and waste awareness.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3305>

FLORENCE FOR CLIMATE - FIXCLIMA

Florence, Italy

FIXCLIMA is an innovative initiative in Florence aimed at involving the entire community in the climate transition, combining cross-sectoral skills to enhance social and biocultural assets. In 2023, the Citizens' Climate Assembly identified four flagship projects and proposed to continue in 2024, consolidating democratic dialogue and expanding decarbonization actions, with the aim of making Florence climate neutral by 2030.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3276>

ZERO WASTE, TOGETHER FOR A GREEN FUTURE

Gürsu, Turkey

Since 2022, the municipality of Gürsu developed a mobile app that has raised users' awareness of environmental issues, recycling and sustainable lifestyles, reaching over 2,000 households by May 2024. Gamification elements have encouraged positive behavior change, and the app has collected data useful for developing new environmental policies. By collaborating with various regional players, the municipality continues to innovate to ensure the sustainability of our project and a better future for generations to come.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3309>

CIRCULAR MAKERSPACE FOR WASTE TO GOOD

Istanbul, Turkey

This practice revealed that participants are seeking a sharing-oriented urban life, are interested in waste-based production, and that young people desire activities that also engage older generations. Nearly 50,000 people were reached by the recycling activities implemented, supporting the transition to a circular economy. Joint production spaces, managed by governments, are essential for developing the urban entrepreneurial ecosystem and must include all representative groups for fair and inclusive management.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3364>

URBAN AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Mashhad, Iran

This project aims to improve food security, environmental sustainability and community resilience by transforming unused urban spaces into productive agricultural areas. Through collaboration with local stakeholders and effective communication, notably via an urban agriculture club, the project promotes civic engagement and a culture of sustainability. Surveys show a high level of satisfaction among participants, underlining the project's positive impact on individual well-being, social cohesion and reduced municipal costs.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3319>

NILÜFER FOOD LIVING LAB (NFLL) Nilüfer, Turkey

This project was launched in 2021 to strengthen the local agricultural activity and meet the food security challenges of its growing population. Funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon 2020 program, NFLL supports small farmers, promotes short supply chains and agroecological practices, while involving a variety of local stakeholders. It aims to build a sustainable food ecosystem, ensure access to healthy food for all, and develop innovative business models.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3299>

SAVING KAN: A LOVE STORY IN ORMOC BAY Ormoc, Philippines

The Ormoc Bay Reptile Rehabilitation Center saves and rehabilitates marine species while strictly enforcing fishing laws and conducting research and remediation activities. This initiative has achieved national recognition as one of the Top 17 in the Galing Pook Awards. The program's success relies on collaboration between governments, conservation organizations and volunteers, with plans for a dedicated offshore facility to enhance rehabilitation efforts.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3331>

AKON IRO: COLLABORATIVE PET OWNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE STRAY MANAGEMENT Ormoc, Philippines

Akon Iro promotes animal welfare by empowering pet owners, emphasizing that every member of the community must take care of their pets' five essential freedoms. The program aims to reduce stray animals through education and access to veterinary care, transforming pounds into rehabilitation and education centers in Ormoc. It highlights the need to raise owners' awareness of the solutions and services available for responsible animal management.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3354>



CO-DESIGNING WITH THE COMMUNITY IN MAMEY PARK WITH SBN STRATEGIES

Portoviejo, Ecuador

Portoviejo aspires to become Ecuador's most pleasant and healthy city by 2035 by developing a network of parks and green corridors to improve quality of life and protect its natural resources. The urban restoration plan, which includes the Portoviejo River, aims to re-establish the relationship between the city and the river, by rehabilitating spaces such as Mamey Park. The municipality involves the community and experts to ensure that projects meet local needs and promote a sustainable synergy between nature and urban space.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3350>

ECOLOGICAL AND PARTICIPATIVE RESTORATION OF WETLANDS

Province of Azuay, Ecuador

For 40 years, the wetlands of San Martín, Zhogra and Busa in the province of Azuay, Ecuador, have been facing serious environmental problems affecting the local quality of life. The restoration project aims to recover ecosystem services, improve access to quality water, regulate the climate, and increase biodiversity through technical interventions and community awareness-raising activities. Measures such as the removal of invasive vegetation, the construction of watering troughs, and the promotion of ecotourism and handicrafts support sustainable management and the socio-economic improvement of the region.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3345>

PROMOTING THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS THAT SHOULD BE PROTECTED THROUGH THE SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION AREAS

Province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

The province of Esmeraldas promotes the conservation and protection of its ecosystems through a system of conservation zones, aimed at preserving and restoring natural heritage while ensuring sustainable practices. Faced with indiscriminate extraction and changes in land use, Esmeraldas has created Areas of Conservation and Sustainable Use to protect its biodiversity and ensure the provision of ecosystem services. The project involves the participation of various local and national communities, including Chachis, Afro, and LGBTIQ+ women's groups, as well as NGOs.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3252?locale=en>

ANCESTRAL AGROFORESTRY FOOD SYSTEMS

Province of Pastaza, Ecuador

The provincial government of Pastaza has engaged local leaders to obtain their consent before launching projects in their territories, appointing focal points for each community. The project aims to meet the needs of food sovereignty, forest conservation and income generation by integrating cash crops into the SAAA and developing ancestral agro-ecological food systems. Trade agreements, such as the one for transkutuku peanuts, have been established to provide economic support to local communities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3376>

Russia



COMPETITION OF SCHOOL AND YOUTH ECOLOGICAL PROJECTS OF INITIATIVE BUDGETING ECO-SCHIB Russian Federation

The practice introduced focuses on budgeting for green school initiatives, engaging community consultants and young people in environmental projects. The “Eco-SCHIB-2023” competition attracted over 450 entries, with projects ranging from the creation of school eco-spaces to recycling of objects and biodiversity conservation, indicating a strong commitment to environmental issues among schoolchildren and young people. Future expansion of this initiative aims to include all regions of Russia and to diversify collaboration formats, including through events such as festivals.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3284>

MY WASTE BANK PROJECT Selcuklu, Turkey

This project encourages source-separated waste collection, aiming to raise awareness of zero waste, promote social responsibility and contribute to the domestic economy. Citizens can become members by bringing recyclable waste such as paper, plastic and glass to specific collection points, receiving in return credits on dedicated cards for use in partner markets. A mobile vehicle provides service six days a week in local bazaars, making it easy for people to join the program.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3300>

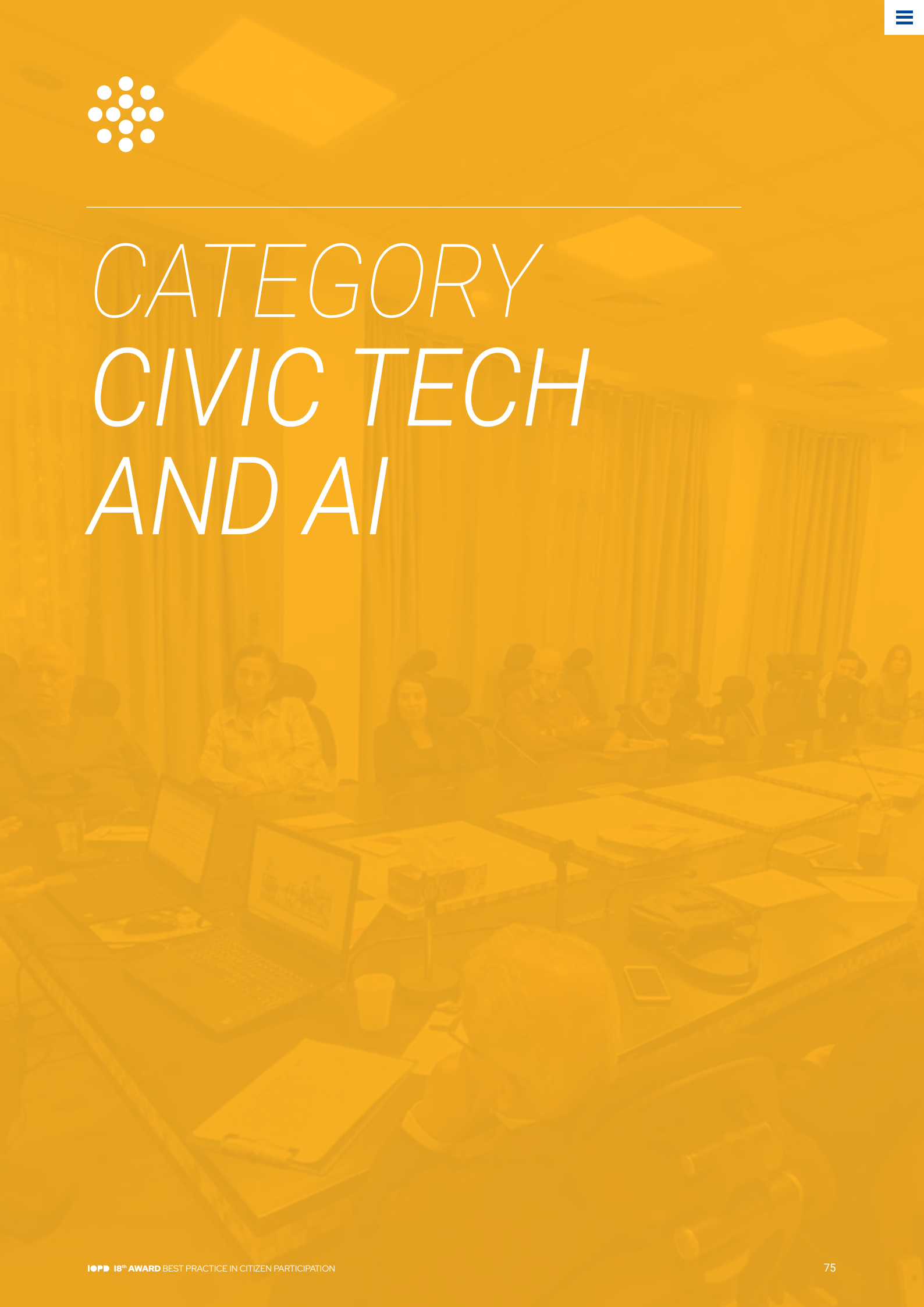
ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE TRAINING CENTER Zeytinburnu, Turkey

This is an innovative project that combines environmental education, sustainable infrastructure and community involvement. With a surface area of 1,718 m², it houses a waste collection center, a composting facility and an educational building. Every year, over 6,000 children take part in workshops on climate change and sustainable practices, reinforcing their role as “climate heroes.” The center uses renewable energies such as solar power and innovative practices such as rain gardens to promote urban and environmental sustainability throughout the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/288/proposals/3292>



CATEGORY CIVIC TECH AND AI





CATEGORY CIVIC TECH AND AI

COMUNITAT311, THE VIRTUAL AND COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Barcelona Provincial Council, Spain

Comunitat311 is an initiative of the province of Barcelona aimed at strengthening citizen participation through communication and collaboration between municipal professionals. Launched in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the project facilitates the exchange of experiences, the dissemination of innovative practices and the promotion of the democratic quality of digital tools used by local authorities. Following an evaluation at the end of 2022, an overhaul was undertaken to improve design, content organization and community engagement, notably by launching online sessions such as Community Calls to strengthen the collaborative network.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3294>

BeEU CITIZEN PANEL ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Belgium

Organized as part of the Belgian Presidency of the European Council, this practice brought together 60 participants representing Belgium, with a particular focus on young people up to the age of 24, similar to the Conference on the Future of Europe. The panel focused on the implications of artificial intelligence through structured discussions on democracy, security, work, the environment, health and Europe's position in the world. Through a participatory process over three weekends, including plenary sessions and sub-groups, participants formulated observations, messages and a vision for each theme, aimed at influencing future EU policies and other strategic agendas.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3262>

SMART CITY PROGRAMME

Belo Horizonte, Brazil

This program, launched in 2018 and expanded in 2022, aims to modernize the city by integrating five main axes: sustainability and well-being, mobility and safety, governance and citizen services, economic development and urban planning, technological culture and digital inclusion. It emphasizes citizen participation to continuously adapt its projects to the needs of the population and technological advances, promoting digital inclusion and social innovation and fostering the development of the technology sector through public-private partnerships and economic incentives.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3341>

FINANCING MODELS AND URBAN TECHNOLOGIES FOR FUTURE INFRASTRUCTURE

Bizerte, Tunisia

Bizerte's sustainable digital development program, recognized by the ITU as Africa's first smart city, developed after the Arab Spring of 2011. It uses an inclusive and dynamic approach based on community engagement and collaboration to address contemporary urban challenges such as urbanization, environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Through a variety of methodologies including needs assessments and co-created action plans, this initiative has improved infrastructure, enhanced quality of life for residents and strengthened participatory democracy in Bizerte, laying a solid foundation for sustainable development and resilient communities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3346>

PROVIDING PIT-EMPTYING SERVICES THROUGH A GIS-ENABLED MOBILE APPLICATION

Kampala, Uganda

The Weyonje mobile app is transforming pit-emptying services in Kampala, Uganda, addressing the sanitation needs of informal settlements through a collaborative, technology-driven approach. In partnership with local governments, communities and service providers, Weyonje was designed with careful planning and community engagement to ensure widespread and effective adoption. It offers a user-friendly interface and robust communication mechanisms that have led to significant improvements in waste management and sanitation services, demonstrating the potential of technology to strengthen community resilience and equitable access to essential services.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3304>

E STAMPING

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan

The e-stamping initiative in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is modernizing the stamp duty system by digitizing processes to improve efficiency and transparency. Thanks to meticulous planning and successful pilot testing in Charsadda, this practice now facilitates procedures for over 40 million people, reducing bureaucratic hurdles and boosting confidence in governance. It represents a model of administrative modernization and the promotion of participatory democracy in the region.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3298>

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION WITH THE RURAL SECTOR

Province of Esmeraldas, Ecuador

Esmeraldas, once one of the most dangerous cities in Ecuador, has seen its crime rates fall since 2024 thanks to government intervention. To combat poverty and boost development, the provincial government has launched a 'rural digitisation' initiative, including the installation of WiFi in poor areas, an interactive map for international cooperation and a digital participatory budget to encourage citizen involvement. In addition, a 360-degree interactive tour of Esmeraldas' natural attractions, supported by virtual reality, has been introduced to promote tourism and create local economic opportunities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2024/f/289/proposals/3286>



18th AWARD
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IN CITIZEN
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