



19th AWARD
BEST PRACTICE
IN CITIZEN
PARTICIPATION



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ne-Sakia El Hamra Leandro N. Alem Lezhë Lomas de Zamora Lomé Los Ríos Luján de Cuyo Lushnje Lyon Maia Maipú
Mar del Plata Mashhad Mato Grosso Medellín Mersin Mineral de la Reforma Montevideo Montpellier Morón Nigde Nilü-
fer Niterói Nkongsamba Noépé Ormoc Porto Alegre Porto-Novo Posadas Póvoa de Varzim Provincia de Azuay Provin-
cia de Cotopaxi Provincia del Guayas Provincia de Pastaza Provincia de los Ríos Provincia de Manabí Provincia de Salta
Provincia de Tucumán Provincia de Tungurahua Punjab Quilmes Ramallah Río Cuarto Río Grande Rosario Roskovec
Saint Denis à La Réunion Salta Salvador San Juan San Luis Potosí San Miguel de Tucumán San Salvador Centro Santa
Fe Santa Lucía de Tirajana São Paulo Siaya Taghzirt Taoyuan Tehran Tehran District IV Tilottama Tirana Torino Torres
Vedras Tounfit and Sidi Yahya Youssef Trnava Trogir Tucumán Valle del Cauca Valongo Vila Municipal de Marracuene
Vila Real Viladecans Viña del Mar Yashnabad Yerba Buena Zenica-Doboj

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37 countries of origin

108 local and regional governments

137 submissions

Submissions according to category

55 Building More Democratic and Peaceful Communities
26 Urbanism and Public Space
24 Gender and Care
23 Ecological Transition and Environment
09 Civic Tech and AI

Submissions according to the size of the municipality or region

17 proposals < 50.000 habitants
36 proposals 50 k < 250 k
38 proposals 250 k < 1 M
24 proposals > 1 M habitants
22 proposals Supralocal, regional, provincial governments

SDG1 - 8 SDG2 - 9 SDG3 - 38 SDG4 - 20 SDG5 - 26 SDG6 - 7 SDG7 - 0 SDG8 - 19 SDG9 - 17
SDG10 - 16 SDG11 - 76 SDG12 - 8 SDG13 - 27 SDG14 - 1 SDG15 - 11 SDG16 - 69 SDG17 - 29

A jury of 22 experts

4,534 people participated in the online voting



19th OIDP Award

| | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Albania - 4</i> | <i>Chile - 2</i> | <i>Guatemala - 1</i> | <i>Morocco - 1</i> | <i>Philippines - 1</i> | <i>Turkey - 8</i> |
| <i>Argentina - 29</i> | <i>Colombia - 6</i> | <i>Iran - 3</i> | <i>Mexico - 7</i> | <i>Portugal - 9</i> | <i>United States - 1</i> |
| <i>Benin - 1</i> | <i>Côte d'Ivoire - 1</i> | <i>Italy - 1</i> | <i>Mozambique - 1</i> | <i>Senegal - 3</i> | <i>Uruguay - 1</i> |
| <i>Bosnia</i> | <i>Croatia - 1</i> | <i>Kenya - 1</i> | <i>Nepal - 1</i> | <i>Slovakia - 1</i> | <i>Uzbekistan - 1</i> |
| <i>Herzegovina - 1</i> | <i>Ecuador - 14</i> | <i>Lebanon - 1</i> | <i>Pakistan - 1</i> | <i>Spain - 4</i> | |
| <i>Brazil - 12</i> | <i>El Salvador - 1</i> | <i>Luxembourg - 1</i> | <i>Palestinian</i> | <i>Taiwan - 1</i> | |
| <i>Cameroon - 1</i> | <i>France - 5</i> | <i>Mali - 1</i> | <i>Territories - 2</i> | <i>Togo - 2</i> | |
| <i>Chad - 1</i> | | | | | |



FOREWORD



In the city of Córdoba, we are deeply committed to participation and decentralization because we want to stay close to the people and build effective solutions together. It is a true honor for us to lead the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), especially in times like these, when democracy and politics are increasingly called into question. Now more than ever, from the presidency of this international network that promotes public participation in local communities around the world, we reaffirm our commitment to democratic values for the common good.

Our local government warmly welcomes the impressive number of submissions received for the 19th edition of the OIDP Award. **Each of the initiatives compiled here is a testament to the dedication of hundreds of local and regional governments that, like us, believe in a more inclusive democracy—one that is closer to the people and capable of delivering real solutions to their needs.** This OIDP initiative goes beyond recognition; it is a living legacy that allows us to highlight and learn from transformative experiences that foster more humane, participatory, and effective local governance.

*I would like to congratulate the Honorable Municipality of San Luis Potosí for winning the 19th OIDP Award for **“Best Practice in Citizen Participation”** with its inspiring initiative **Building Citizenship**. Thanks to its leadership, this local government shows that through proximity, decentralization, and participation, it is possible to build an active and empowered community capable of transforming public service delivery, restoring trust in institutions, and moving toward a more inclusive, solidarity-based model of governance—one that is attentive to people with disabilities and indigenous communities.*

I also applaud the local leaders of Turin, Mersin, Azuay, Medellín, Tilottama, and Niterói for receiving special mentions in this edition's various categories. **Their initiatives confirm that local and regional governments around the world are at the forefront of democracy.** With creativity, commitment, and vision, they are using participation as a powerful tool to transform their communities, advance the ecological transition, put care at the heart of public policy, and strengthen democratic ties through technology and innovation.

This shared commitment takes center stage at the OIDP Conference, which I am proud to host in Córdoba from 21 to 23 May 2025. **It is a unique opportunity to reflect collectively on the challenges and opportunities for local democracy and participation in a changing world—and to continue building networks of collaboration between governments, civil society, and active communities.** Córdoba opens its doors to the world with the conviction that only together, starting at the local level, can we build a more just, sustainable, and democratic future.

I invite you to explore the pages ahead and be inspired by the important work that local and regional communities and governments are already doing to consolidate a democracy that is responsive to the real needs of our people. **To all 137 applicants of the 19th OIDP Award: thank you for being examples, inspirations, and drivers of change!**

Daniel Passerini
Mayor of Córdoba
President of the OIDP

FOREWORD



As Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), I am delighted to celebrate the submission of 137 nominations for the 19th edition of the OIDP Award for “Best Practice in Citizen Participation.” **Once again, our movement showcases the renewing strength of our members and their unwavering commitment to protecting and revitalizing democracy through the active participation of local communities.**

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), as UCLG’s consultation mechanism on local democracy, has consolidated as a space for articulating the richness and diversity of democratic innovation worldwide. The

practices featured in this edition demonstrate that, in every region of the world, it is possible to co-create solutions from the local level to address the major challenges of our time. This great space for exchange is proof that we can change the world through community-run cultural centers that protect young people in conflict situations, and through the collective rescue of natural ecosystems in the face of the climate crisis, engaging young people.

*On behalf of our global family, I extend heartfelt congratulations to the **Honorable Municipality of San Luis Potosí, recipient of this year’s Award for its practice “Building Citizenship.”** This outstanding democratic initiative is a beacon of hope, showing that an empowered and engaged community can transform public service provision, rebuild trust in institutions, and foster inclusive, caring, and peace-oriented local governance. San Luis Potosí’s commitment inspires us to keep placing care and human rights at the heart of our policies.*

I also congratulate the local and regional governments of Azuay, Medellín, Mersin, Niterói, Tilottama, and Turin, recognized with special mentions across the different categories of this year’s Award. We are grateful to all the cities and territories that shared their experiences—each one contributes to building our collective agenda, from the local level to the global stage.

My appreciation goes as well to the jury for their dedication and thoughtful evaluation, and to the OIDP community for continuing to support this valuable exercise in local democracy. The significance of this Award lies not only in recognizing outstanding practices but also in fostering exchange, mutual learning, and shared inspiration.

The OIDP Award strengthens our Local Social Covenant, which guides our movement’s contribution to key global processes such as Urban 20 and the Second World Summit on Social Development—where reducing inequalities lies at the heart of a renewed social contract grounded in local democracy, human rights, and public services.

I invite you to draw inspiration from the stories gathered in these pages. They are living proof that, through local action rooted in care, solidarity, and dialogue, we can imagine and build a better future.

Together with the OIDP community, our World Organization will continue to elevate and champion **the role of local and regional governments as amplifiers of the dreams and aspirations of people in every territory.**

Emilia Saiz
Secretary General
United Cities and Local Governments



Grenoble

INTRODUCTION

For the 19th edition of the OIDP Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation," we received **137 local democracy practices** from local and regional governments across 37 countries:

Albania, Argentina, Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Croatia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Slovakia, Spain, United States, Philippines, France, Guatemala, Iran, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Morocco, Mexico, Mozambique, Nepal, Pakistan, Portugal, Senegal, Taiwan, Palestinian Territories, Togo, Turkey, Uruguay, Uzbekistan.

This edition marks a consolidation of the OIDP Award as a key initiative for recognizing and promoting innovative and impactful public participation practices. By collecting and showcasing these experiences, the award highlights the crucial role that local and regional governments play at the frontline of democracy. It also opens up a world of possibilities for peer learning and encourages new models of participatory governance to address today's social, environmental, and institutional challenges.

This year, the practices were organized into five thematic categories:

- A. Building More Democratic and Peaceful Communities
- B. Urban Management and Public Space
- C. Gender and Care
- D. Ecological Transition and Environment
- E. Civic Tech

Of the 137 applications submitted, 133 were validated by the OIDP Technical Secretariat and reviewed by a first round of jurors, who shortlisted 40 finalists. A second, smaller jury then convened to select the winning practice and the recipients of the Special Mentions.

The main evaluation criteria included the level of innovation in the local context, promotion of inclusion and focus on specific groups, achieved impact, sustainability over time, and—above all—**potential for systemic transformation across the territory.**

The Jury decided to grant the 19th OIDP Award for Best Practice in Citizen Participation to the **Municipality of San Luis Potosí (Mexico)** for the practice "Building Citizenship" ("Construyendo Ciudadanía").



In addition, Special Mentions were granted to six outstanding practices that were highly valued by the Jury:

- Special Mention for Urban Management and Public Space: **Turin** (Italy) - "Voci di quartiere: Civic engagement for the new Master Plan of Turin"
- Special Mention for Gender and Care: **Mersin** (Turkey): "Monday Talks"
- Special Mention for Ecological Transition and Environment: **Azuay** (Ecuador): "Ecological and Participatory Restoration of Wetlands in the Province of Azuay"
- Special Mention for Civic Tech: **Medellín** (Colombia): "Citizen Participation Index and Virtual Voting"
- Special Mention for the Most Supported Practice by the ODP Community: **Tilottama** (Nepal): "Green Clean Tilottama Campaign"
- Special mention for Durability, in collaboration with the Phoenix Project: **Niterói** (Brazil): "Digital Democracy and Social Participation in the Municipality of Niterói"

Through this award, the ODP reaffirms its core mission as a consultative platform for participatory democracy within the municipal movement led by UCLG. By promoting and recognizing innovative practices from local and regional governments, the award highlights efforts to foster inclusive governance — making

more room for people, in all their diversity, to take part in decision-making processes.

In addition to being highly commended by the jury, all 137 submitted practices are acknowledged and celebrated through this compilation.

We encourage all those committed to building a stronger, more inclusive, and diverse participatory democracy to explore this resource and find inspiration to enrich their own work.

In this publication we present the seven awarded experiences and provide a brief overview of all the candidacies, with direct links to the ParticipateODP platform for further details on each project.

**The content of each overview relies on the information provided by the applicant local and regional governments and has been adapted and condensed by the Technical Secretariat for publication purposes.*

Finally, the ODP extends its deepest gratitude to all the local and regional governments that submitted applications, as well as to the institutions and partners who supported the dissemination of the call. We also warmly thank the network's collaborating members who took part in the evaluation process as members of the Jury, and the entire ODP community who participated in the open vote and contributed to this collective recognition of participatory innovation.



THE JURY

For this 19th edition of the ODP Award, the evaluation process involved **two groups of jurors**: one for the initial phase of assessing all submissions and selecting the finalists, and another for the final deliberation to choose the winning practice and special mentions from among the 40 finalists.

The first jury was composed of 17 individuals, divided into groups according to the award categories. Between February and March 2025, this jury carefully reviewed and evaluated all eligible applications. Their work concluded with the selection of the 40 finalists that advanced to the second phase of the process.

Building More Democratic and Peaceful Communities



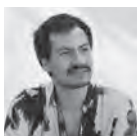
Emiliano Arena

Director of Evaluation and Citizen Participation at Argentina's Agency for Access to Public Information



Analía Nieves

Consultant in Participatory Strategic Planning and Local Economic Development (LED) and specialist in Government and Public Administration



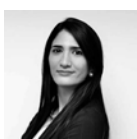
Andrés Barrios Arenas

Director of the Center for Applied Studies, promoting tools of political imagination for full access to democracy



Chandrima Padmanabhan

Climate philanthropy expert with a focus on building just and equitable systems for people and planet. Expert on climate resilience, urban adaptation, open governance and public engagement



Diana Dajer

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



Savaş Zafer Şahin

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

Urbanism 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



Claire Ollier

PhD Student in Public Management (Decision-making in Participative Democracy), attached to CERGAM (Aix-Marseille University, France)



Pamela Cáceres

Vice Rector of Research and Graduate Studies of Blas Pascal University. Member of the Civic Network Our Córdoba

Gender and Care



Lhoucin Ferdous

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



Johan Lilja

Secretary General of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy



Sheila Holz

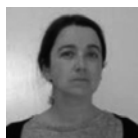
Researcher at the Centre for Social Studies (CES), University of Coimbra, Portugal. Executive Coordinator of the PHOENIX project "The Rise of Citizens' Voices for a Greener Europe"

Ecological Transition and Environment



Lucia Aboutaoufik

Project manager, designer of participatory strategies and processes, coach and facilitator at 21 Solutions



Lola Vico

Consultant at the World Bank



Aurelio Escobar

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

Civic Technology



Serge Allou

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



Ana Gabriel Zúñiga

Expert in Open State and Open Government, Executive Director of Cívica, and Former Deputy Minister for Citizen Dialogue at the Ministry of the Presidency of Costa Rica



Carlos Mascarell Vilar

Manager of the UCLG Forum of Regions

Jury that evaluated the finalists

The **second jury** was composed of a smaller group of expert members from the OIDP network. This jury was responsible for the final deliberation phase, during which they evaluated the 40 shortlisted practices in detail. Their task was to identify the winning practice of the 19th edition of the OIDP Award, as well as to grant Special Mentions to outstanding initiatives across the five thematic categories.

This final evaluation meeting took place in April 2025 and involved rich discussions to assess the innovation, impact, inclusiveness, and transformative potential of each finalist. The jury's decision reflects a collective commitment to advancing participatory democracy and recognizing practices that create meaningful opportunities for civic engagement in public life.



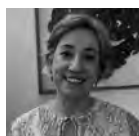
Matthew Bach

European Director of ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability



Carlos Mascarell

Manager of the UCLG Forum of Regions



Silvia Penteado Cervellini

Founder and Director of Delibera Brasil



Paolo Spada

Lecturer at the University of Southampton in the Department of Politics and International Relations



Diana Dajer

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



Juan Domingo Viola

Secretary of Citizen Participation and Youth of the City of Córdoba - 2025 OIDP Presidency



Brigitte Fargevieille

Vice-President and Treasurer of Décider Ensemble, Director of Dialogue and Consultation at the EDF Group



WINNER OF THE 19TH ODP AWARD
“BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION”

San Luis Potosí / Mexico

Building Citizenship

San Luis Potosí Municipality

Building More Democratic and Peaceful Cities and Territories / 911.908 inhabitants



San Luis Potosí —also known as San Luis Capital— is an emblematic city in central Mexico, with a rich cultural history that combines its colonial heritage with a growing modernity. As the **capital of the state of San Luis Potosí, it is home to a diverse population of over one million**, with unique geographical characteristics that include densely populated urban areas and rural communities facing challenges of connectivity and access to basic services.

Historically, the **city has been a hub of economic and industrial development, although social and economic** inequalities persist. Marginalized areas have high rates of poverty, lack of adequate infrastructure and limited access to essential services such as drinking water and health care. In addition, the city faces challenges such as insecurity, the water crisis and the lack of citizen participation in public decision-making. Institutionally, San Luis Capital has a robust framework that includes the Municipal Development **Plan 2021-2024, which laid the foundations for strengthening sustainability, social inclusion and participatory governance. This effort continues in the Munic-**

ipal Development Plan 2024-2027, giving continuity to citizen participation through the program “Building Citizenship,” which connects the community with the government through innovative mechanisms of participatory democracy, addressing local challenges and promoting collective well-being.





“Building Citizenship” consisted of an innovative model of participatory governance implemented in San Luis Potosí to **strengthen the relationship between citizens and the government through the creation of 284 Citizen Participation Boards (CPBs), democratically elected and representing 100% of the population.** These CPBs became the key link in identifying needs, prioritizing actions and supervising the implementation of programs that impacted fundamental areas such as health, safety, infrastructure and sustainability.

The practice helped to **address historical problems such as citizen apathy, unequal access to services and the disconnection between the community and the authorities.** Tangible results were achieved, such as the **provision of more than 78,000 medical services** through the Health Route, the **rehabilitation of 390 public spaces on the Battery-powered Sundays**, and the **implementation of the Emergency Plan Yes to Water**, which resolved the water crisis through well drilling, equitable distribution of water in cisterns and the active participation of the JPCs to **guarantee social peace.**

Additionally, **structures of participatory democracy** such as the Municipal Social Development Council, responsible for approving strategic works and actions, **were strengthened.** The **inclusion of vulnerable groups** was a central pillar, through specific consultations for **people with disabilities, indigenous peoples,** and educational programs involving **children and youth.**

This approach consolidated a **replicable and sustainable system,** which now continues as part of the 2024-2027 Municipal Development Plan, ensuring its long-term permanence.

“Building Citizenship” transformed local governance, promoting constant dialogue between citizens and the government, empowering communities and demonstrating how active participation can be the driving force behind a fairer, more equitable and more inclusive administration.

FIND OUT MORE

Building Citizenship website
<https://sitio.sanluis.gob.mx/ConstruyendoCiudadania>

San Luis Potosí Municipality website
<https://sitio.sanluis.gob.mx/SanLuisPotosi>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3521>

San Luis



San Luis



Comments from the jury

“*‘Building Citizenship’ is an exceptional model of participatory governance that has significantly strengthened the relationship between citizens and local government in San Luis Potosí. With its clear vision, strong methodology, innovative practices, and measurable results, it presents a replicable and transformative approach to local governance. The balance between virtual and in-person engagement, combined with a bottom-up organizational structure, demonstrates a serious and effective commitment to participatory processes.*

- “ This practice represents the entire population, which is a remarkable achievement in the context of participatory democracy. It also stands out for its capacity to mobilize citizens around the theme of peace.
- “ The decentralization process showcased here is particularly notable for its tangible achievements. The impact and level of inclusion are outstanding, demonstrating a robust and well-established participatory framework.
- “ A very compelling initiative, especially notable for the scope of its interventions and the significant efforts made to ensure inclusivity.



Voci di quartiere: Civic engagement for the new Master Plan of Turin

Turin City Council

Urban Management and Public Space / 852.877 inhabitants

Turin is the **fourth largest city in Italy** by population, with approximately 850,000 inhabitants, and the core of a vast metropolitan area with over 2 million people. Located in the northwest of the country, it is the capital of the Piedmont region and is situated between the Po Valley and the Alps. Known for its industrial past, **it was the birthplace of the Italian automotive industry with Fiat and today stands out for its diversified economy.**

Today, Turin finds itself at a decisive moment in its history: on one hand, it **boasts a solid economy, excellence in various sectors**, and a carefully planned urban fabric; on the other, it **faces demographic and urban stagnation**. After starting to lose residents in the 1970s, this trend continued

for decades, with a slight increase at the beginning of the millennium and a recent sign of stabilization in 2023. However, the city struggles to retain businesses, talent, and foreign populations. **The Administration's goal is to break this vicious cycle and unleash the potential and energy of the city, for the benefit of both current and future residents.**

The current **Urban Master Plan of Turin, the main tool regulating the city's urban development**, dates back to 1995. Today, the Administration is working on a new Plan that interprets urban and social transformations, balancing flexibility with public management. The goal is **to meet the new needs of its residents and create a dynamic and sustainable development model.**



Turin



'Voci di Quartiere' is an initiative promoted by the City of Turin and curated by Urban Lab, which is part of a listening and dialogue process aimed at defining the city's new Master Plan. The project's goal is **to stimulate shared reflection on the quality of life in Turin's neighborhoods, public services, and spaces, and to promote the inclusion of all voices in the creation of the future city.**

In 2023, the City of Turin, with the support of Urban Lab, launched **a listening process that involved institutions, intermediary bodies, and local actors** through a series of events and meetings designed to gather suggestions, ideas, and visions for the city. Two moments of dialogue and co-learning took place in June and November to discuss three central themes, key to the new Master Plan: economy and knowledge, environment and territory, and city life. Participants discussed the limitations of the current urban plan and future challenges, **gathering valuable input for drafting a new territorial governance tool.**

Subsequently the City organized a dialogue and engagement program in all eight constituencies through public meetings, information points, and an online questionnaire. **This program allowed citizens to better understand the Master Plan process, share their opinions, and suggest projects, emerging topics, or concerns. The aim was to make the participatory process accessible to everyone, offering opportunities for discussion and feedback in every corner of the city.**

In 2024, the 'Voci di Quartiere' project extended this dialogue to neighborhood residents by offering a series of meetings and activities to gather direct feed-

back from Turin citizens about life in their neighborhoods. These meetings were **complemented by a digital environment that utilized game and interaction tools** to engage citizens innovatively, encouraging active participation and creating a sense of belonging. **Participants had the chance to win prizes such as tickets to cultural and sports events, boosting interaction and participation in urban dynamics.**

In 2025, the 'Voci di Quartiere' journey will continue with a new series of neighborhood meetings, aiming to consolidate and expand the dialogue already initiated and share the results of the listening activities. In this way, the project is consolidating as a lasting channel for dialogue and discussion with citizens and local partners on the city's policies.

FIND OUT MORE

Voci di Quartiere website
<https://www.torinocambia.it/prg>

City of Turin website
<http://comune.torino.it/>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3566>



Turin

Comments from the jury

“

This is an impressive initiative with a bold and well-structured participatory approach. Developing and implementing a Master Plan is notoriously challenging, and the City of Turin has shown remarkable commitment in bringing it to life. Overall, the city's efforts in participatory governance are commendable.

“

The project demonstrates an excellent use of Turin's existing participatory infrastructure, effectively integrating it into core urban planning processes.

“

This is a wide-reaching participatory urban planning process, notable for its innovative engagement strategies.

“*The practice is well-designed and thoughtfully conceived. Turin benefits from its strong position as a leading city in Italy with a long-standing tradition of public participation. The inclusion of games for families as a participatory tool is particularly creative and impactful. The project's key strengths lie in its comprehensive vision and design. By placing neighborhoods at the heart of the urban dialogue, the initiative aligns closely with the real needs of Turin's citizens and plays a central role in shaping the Urban Master Plan.*



Monday Talks

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality

Gender and Care / 1.947.375 inhabitants

Mersin, a major city located on the eastern Mediterranean coast of southern Türkiye, serves as a **critical geographic and economic hub**. Characterized by expansive agricultural lands, forests, and highlands, Mersin plays a pivotal role in shaping the Mediterranean economy of Türkiye.

With a history shaped by numerous civilizations, the city flourished during the Ottoman era and experienced significant growth following the establishment of the Republic of Türkiye. Today, **Mersin continues to expand through its dynamic sectors: industry, trade, agriculture, and tourism.**

The city's rich cultural fabric reflects the coexistence of diverse ethnic and religious communities.

Internal migration and the influx of refugees have notably reshaped Mersin's demographic structure, contributing to its reputation as one of Türkiye's most vibrant and dynamic urban centers.

In addition to the Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, the city encompasses a range of key institutions, including district municipalities, the Governorship of Mersin, the Mersin Free Zone, various chambers of commerce and industry, four universities, research institutions, private enterprises, NGOs, and numerous international collaborations. **Mersin International Port—ranked among the top 100 ports globally—stands as a cornerstone of the city's trade and logistics infrastructure.**



Mersin



Mersin

Agriculture, industry, logistics, and tourism collectively form the backbone of Mersin's economy. Its strategic location, coupled with a **strong commitment to social cohesion, sustainable development, and international cooperation**, underscores Mersin's significance as a leading economic and cultural center in both Türkiye and the broader Mediterranean region.

The Mersin Metropolitan Municipality has implemented the Monday Talks model to strengthen collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), enhance democratic participation, and **deliver more inclusive and effective public services**. As a city shaped by migration and cultural diversity, Mersin reflects the broader social fabric of Türkiye. It has long been a place where various cultures coexist, fostering a tradition of solidarity and a multi-layered way of life. This initiative seeks to build on that legacy, aiming to institutionalize collaboration between local government and civil society actors.

As part of this approach, **79 stakeholder meetings have been held every Monday, focusing on improving municipal services for women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, refugees, and other disadvantaged groups, particularly those residing in rural neighborhoods**. The strategic pairing of NGOs with rural communities—working in coordination with municipal departments—has enabled timely and targeted responses to local needs, resulting in expanded educational programs, awareness-raising efforts, and social support services.

Mersin's multicultural and complex societal structure has amplified the reach and effectiveness of this

model. **By integrating NGOs into decision-making processes, public services have become more transparent, accountable, and sustainable.**

To ensure the long-term sustainability of the Monday Talks model, the municipality has:

- Established **long-term cooperation protocols** with NGOs;
- Developed **internal coordination mechanisms** to facilitate NGO engagement within municipal departments;
- **Incorporated data and insights gained through this initiative into future local policy-making processes.**

This initiative has played a **key role in institutionalizing participatory democracy and promoting inclusive local governance**. Grounded in Mersin's strong tradition of social solidarity, the model has created a dynamic platform for diverse stakeholders to come together, co-develop solutions, and foster active citizen participation in governance. As such, it stands as an innovative example of collaborative governance in action.

FIND OUT MORE

Mersin Metropolitan Municipality website
<https://www.mersin.bel.tr/>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3574>



Mersin

Comments from the jury

“ The participatory mechanisms developed by Mersin Metropolitan Municipality represent a significant evolution in how local government engages with civil society. Since 2019, the establishment of dedicated offices and regular dialogue platforms—such as the "Voices of Mersin" and "Monday Talks" initiatives—has transformed civic engagement into a systematic and institutionalized process. These mechanisms have fostered collaboration, transparency, and shared responsibility, particularly enhancing the role of women and NGOs in decision-making. The application was very well written—clear and straightforward—effectively connecting NGOs with rural communities.

“ *This is a simple yet highly compelling innovation that strengthens the local ecosystem of collaboration between NGOs and government. Particularly notable is the strategy of pairing women's organizations with rural villages and facilitating the work of local NGOs through a coordinated mechanism. It is a practical, transferable, and well-executed model.*

“ I agree that this initiative is beautifully simple. It presents a clear approach that directly responds to an identified need, executed in an inclusive and well-communicated manner.

“ Very strong inclusion. What is interesting about this approach is the inclusive aspect, the difficult collaboration between the government and NGOs, co-constructing at the local level is a very good initiative.



Ecological and Participatory Restoration of Wetlands in the Province of Azuay

Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Government of Azuay

Ecological Transition and Environment / 801.609 inhabitants

The Province of Azuay is situated in the southern region of Ecuador, within the inter-Andean corridor, nestled between the western and eastern mountain ranges. These geographic features have shaped a **series of valleys, where population centers have been established** since colonial times.

The name **"Azuay" reflects its Cañari origin and translates to "water that falls from the sky."** The province is composed of 15 cantons and 61 parishes, distributed across the Paute and Jubones river basins. It encompasses 10 hydrographic basins, and its extensive water network spans over 10,000 linear kilometers, including rivers, streams, and ravines, as well as lake and lagoon areas exceeding 1,700 hectares.

Covering a total area of 8,172.71 km², Azuay reported a population of 801,609 in the 2022 Eighth Population Census—accounting for 4.73% of the national population. The demographic composition reveals a **higher percentage of women** (53.04%) compared to men (46.96%), with the population distributed across **246,867 households, 40.70% of which are headed by women.**

In terms of cultural heritage, Azuay is distinguished as the province with the highest density of heritage records per square kilometer. Of the 95,403 documented tangible and intangible heritage assets in Ecuador, Azuay holds 15,765, underscoring its **significant historical and cultural richness.**



Azuay



The population of Azuay increasingly perceives a range of **environmental challenges**, including the reduced quantity and quality of water, the proliferation of invasive vegetation, accelerated eutrophication, and changes in land use. These environmental issues, compounded by existing **socioeconomic difficulties**, **negatively affect the quality of life**, contributing to rising unemployment and migration.

The core objective of the project is the ecological restoration of wetlands, with the aim of recovering their essential ecosystem services—such as water and climate regulation, mitigation of droughts and floods, the provision of natural resources, and the preservation of biodiversity. To this end, social and governmental stakeholders have signed formal commitments to restore degraded wetlands across the province.

To achieve this restoration, **both physical and biological rehabilitation techniques are employed, supported by community engagement and awareness-raising initiatives**. These efforts seek to improve agricultural practices and address the socioeconomic issues that are closely linked to environmental degradation.

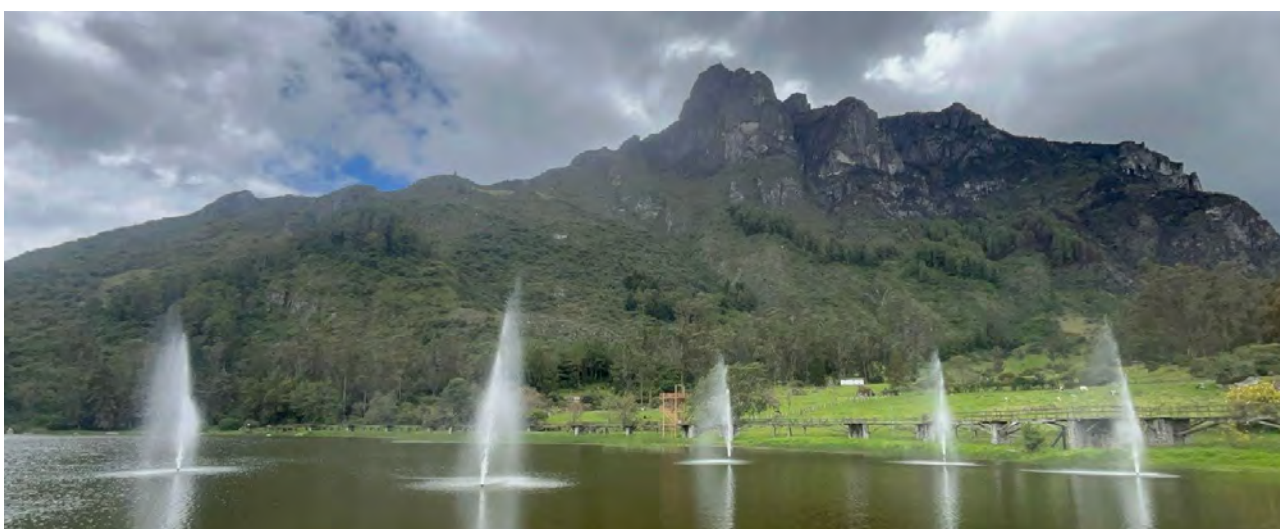
Invasive vegetation is removed using a combination of specialized machinery and manual labor. The extracted biomass is repurposed for local handicrafts and as raw material for organic fertilizer, while sediments are reused to reinforce protective buffer zones around lakes. Additionally, physical and biological

barriers are implemented to prevent the entry of pollutants into these fragile ecosystems.

The project's methodology and management model are designed to strengthen community capacities, recognizing wetlands as dynamic ecosystems shaped by internal and external factors—including local culture and climatic conditions—that must be balanced through adaptive strategies.

This integrated restoration approach is the first of its kind to be implemented in Azuay. To ensure long-term sustainability, the initiative includes a robust community empowerment strategy. As a result, notable shifts in public attitudes have been observed. Communities are increasingly identifying new opportunities to improve their quality of life through sustainable livelihoods tied to restored wetlands. These include handicrafts using totora reeds, ecotourism, and silvopastoral practices—all contributing to improved environmental, social, and economic outcomes.

Notably, **the local academic community has played an important role in this effort**, actively collecting and analyzing both qualitative and quantitative data on wetland ecosystems since 2021. Ecological restoration activities are currently underway in the Zhogra, San Martín, Guiquíña, and Busa lagoons within the Jubones basin, and in the Quingor, Chobshi, and Narig lagoons within the Paute basin. The long-term vision is to replicate these successful interventions across other degraded water bodies throughout the province.





Azuay

FIND OUT MORE

Ecological and Participatory Restoration of Wetlands in the Province of Azuay website

<https://www.azuay.gob.ec/index.php/2023/02/13/humedales-del-azuay-recuperan-su-esplendor/>

Provincial Decentralized Autonomous Government of Azuay website

<https://www.azuay.gob.ec>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website

<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3492>

Comments from the jury

“*The project excels in its emphasis on community engagement in environmental restoration, fostering a sense of collective responsibility for sustainability. Its participatory approach is instrumental in raising awareness and encouraging direct citizen involvement in ecological recovery.*”

“This is the only report that clearly presents the number of both direct and indirect beneficiaries. The initiative demonstrates an honest and thoughtful integration of scientific expertise with citizens' knowledge and sense of ownership.

“A strong example of effectively combining ecological restoration with participatory methods. The initiative achieves real, tangible impacts through an inclusive and well-structured methodology.



Citizen Participation Index and Virtual Voting

Medellin Municipality

Civic Tech / 2.700.443 inhabitants

Medellín is the **second-largest city in Colombia** after Bogotá, and the capital of the department of Antioquia. It is located in the Aburrá Valley, a central region of the Andes Mountains, in northwestern South America. The city's population is estimated at 2.700.443 at the 2018 census. The metro area of Medellín is the second-largest urban agglomeration in Colombia in terms of population and economy, with more than 4 million people.

Medellín is distinguished by its cultural diversity and the resilience of its inhabitants—both key drivers of active citizen participation. While the majority of the population resides in urban communes, a smaller portion lives in rural districts, requiring differentiated ap-

proaches tailored to the specific needs of each area. The city continues to face challenges such as poverty and inequality, which were further exacerbated by the pandemic, even as it advances toward the goals of the 2030 Agenda and its vision of becoming a resilient city.

The Municipality, along with entities such as Empresas Públicas de Medellín (EPM - *Public Companies of Medellín*), plays a central role in promoting sustainable development. This work is supported by tools like SISBEN IV¹ and the Social Registry of Households, which helps to **effectively target social programs**, and the SIVIGILA system, which enables the monitoring of public health indicators.



1. Information system that classifies the population according to their living conditions to identify who can and who cannot access social programs and state subsidies. <https://www.sisben.gov.co/>



At the socioeconomic level, Medellín currently faces a multidimensional poverty rate of 9.8%, along with widespread food insecurity, unemployment—particularly among women—and rising mental health issues. Challenges in the education sector include high dropout rates, while the housing sector reports a qualitative deficit of 13.9%. These issues also present **opportunities to strengthen the city through the implementation of innovative and inclusive practices.**

To consolidate progress and enhance the impact of these initiatives, it is essential to **ensure social inclusion**, adapt strategies to the needs of each territory, and **strengthen collaboration between citizens and institutions.** Moreover, **addressing gender inequalities**, promoting transparency, leveraging technological innovation, and implementing continuous evaluation mechanisms are all crucial to improving the effectiveness and sustainability of public policies and actions.

The Citizen Participation Index of Medellín (IPCM), which includes virtual voting mechanisms, **exemplifies the coordination of best practices led by the Secretariat of Citizen Participation** and stands out in two key aspects:

First, the IPCM is an innovative initiative that goes beyond measuring the quantity of citizen engagement—**it focuses on evaluating the quality of participation.** Developed by the Secretariat of Citizen Participation in the District of Science, Technology, and Innovation of Medellín, **the index assesses the actual impact of participation in local decision-making processes.**

Second, since 2017, **the city has integrated virtual voting as a complement to in-person participation**, enabling residents to prioritize public projects more easily. In collaboration with the Uni-

versity of Antioquia, **the IPCM was designed using a territorial approach** that incorporates key dimensions, surveys, and variables to evaluate the quality of participation on a scale from 0 to 1.

To ensure broader access and transparency, virtual voting has been **implemented across all 16 urban communes and 5 rural districts** through targeted strategies of pedagogy, communication, and community mobilization. In 2024, a total of 222 mobile voting stations equipped with electronic tablets were deployed, fostering inclusive participation. To enhance security and authenticity, **biometric facial recognition technology was introduced for voter validation.**

The initiative operates with a flexible budget, which reached 300 million Colombian pesos in 2025, allocated to technological infrastructure, staffing, and communication efforts. **Outreach is strengthened through the Citizen Participation Knowledge Management and Information System (SIGC-PC) and the siciudadania.com platform, complemented by community media, social media campaigns, and public space activations.**



Medellín



The IPCM includes a **broad spectrum of population groups**, with a focus on social organizations and vulnerable communities, generating specific sub-indices by territory, age, and gender. Ongoing evaluation enables the identification of gaps and supports improvements in representativeness.

Thanks to this comprehensive model, **Medellín has significantly reinforced participatory democracy, recording a historical average of 79,910 participants in virtual voting processes.** This practice now stands as a reference in participatory governance, aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those related to inclusive societies, inequality reduction, and citizen engagement as a foundation for local development.

FIND OUT MORE

Citizen Participation Index and Virtual Voting websites

<https://siciudadania.co>
<https://www.medellin.gov.co/votapp>

Municipality of Medellín website

<https://www.medellin.gov.co>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website

<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3540>

Comments from the jury

“It is crucial to develop initiatives that measure the quality of citizen participation—not just its quantity. This practice is highly ambitious in that regard, using solid evaluations and a participatory methodology to assess impact. It presents very strong indicators, setting a valuable precedent for future efforts that aim to measure not only participation itself, but also its quality, influence, and outcomes. What I particularly appreciate about this practice is that it is not just about enabling participation—it is about measuring it. And more importantly, using those measurements to inform and plan future participatory processes. That turns it into a true tool for governance.

“The entire transformation undertaken by Medellín deserves to be awarded.

“What makes this practice stand out is its remarkable sustainability: the participatory budgeting process has been active for over 20 years, successfully continued across multiple administrations, while the Citizen Participation Index has been in place for more than eight years. The virtual voting initiative is particularly noteworthy—not just for introducing digital participation, but for ensuring accessibility by deploying buses equipped with computers to assist people in casting their votes. What truly elevates this initiative is the creation and use of the Citizen Participation Index to understand how participatory democracy actually works.



Green Clean Tilottama Campaign

Tilottama Municipality

Ecological Transition and Environment / 147,657 inhabitants

Tilottama Municipality is **situated in the central region of Rupandehi District, within Lumbini Province, Nepal**. It was established on 25 January 2017 by merging six former village councils of Rupandehi District (Shankarnagar, Anandavan, Karahiya, Makrahar, Tikuligarh, and Madhawaliya), with Gangoliya village council being incorporated later.

Geographically, Tilottama has an altitude ranging from 160 to 175 meters above sea level. The municipality covers a total area of 124.8 square kilometers and **experiences a tropical climate**. According to the 2021 census, its population stands at 147,657.

The municipality is renowned for its **rich social, cultural, natural, and biological diversity**. It is home to 58 different castes, including Brahmins, Kshetris, Tharus, Magars, Bishwakarmas, Gurungs, and Yadavs. The local population speaks a variety of languages, including Nepali, Tharu, Magar, Vadhi, Bhojpuri, and Maithili. Despite the variety of castes, religions, cultures, and traditions, Tilottama has become a **model of unity in diversity, with a strong culture of mutual respect and tolerance among its people**.





Launched on July 24, 2017, the Green Clean Tilottama campaign began as a **week-long initiative aimed at promoting effective waste management**, raising awareness about sanitation, enhancing greenery, and **preserving the local ecosystem within Tilottama Municipality**. Due to the campaign's initial success, it was extended to a bi-weekly schedule—a practice that continues to this day.

With **rapid urbanization, increased migration, growing industrial activity, and rising population density**, waste emissions in the municipality have surged, placing significant pressure on the environment. In response, the Green Clean Tilottama campaign has remained active and adaptive, focusing on sustainable waste management, environmental protection, and the enhancement of local green spaces. Over

the past five years, the municipality has invested NPR 3.5 billion to support this transformative initiative.

The campaign consists of the following phases:

Phase 1. Bureaucracy- Government Driven campaign

Initially, the *Green Clean Tilottama* campaign was launched to raise awareness among residents about waste management and sanitation. The goal was to engage local civil society, the private sector, and urban communities in waste management efforts, promote greenery in the municipality, and strengthen the city's sanitation campaign through the active interest and involvement of the community. **The government played a key role in driving this phase, ensuring broad participation and collaboration across sectors.**

Phase 2. User Committees Involvement

In the second phase, various user committees, such as drinking water and sanitation, forest users, irrigation users, and village development (Tol Biash Sanstha), were brought into the campaign. Private sectors, including banks, financial institutions, schools, colleges, and industries, also joined the effort and contributed to the campaign's continuation. **Through these community outreach efforts, the municipality was able to collect and manage 28 tons of waste daily**, ensuring proper disposal and recycling.

Phase 3. Co-Production Phase

Recognizing the long-term threat posed by waste management challenges, the municipality shifted its approach in the third phase. Instead of simply managing waste, the focus moved toward co-production. In this phase, community users, cooperatives, and service users began producing organic fertilizers and recycling waste materials. **This transition allowed for better waste management**, as the daily generation of 28 tons of waste continues to be effectively managed.

A major milestone was reached **on March 15, 2023, when the campaign marked its 100th edition**. This landmark event was widely celebrated with strong community participation, including local residents, government representatives, NGOs, and other stakeholders. Activities included a human chain along the Siddhartha Highway, intensive cleaning drives, educational programs in schools, community dialogues, and tree-planting events.

In conjunction with the 100th edition, the municipality announced several new environmental commitments. These included the **adoption of environmentally friendly governance practices**, a ban on tobacco products, and the continuation of the "My Pocket: My First Dustbin" initiative to **instill waste management habits in schoolchildren**. This milestone also served as a platform to integrate critical environmental priorities—such as biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, and disaster preparedness—into the municipality's local planning frameworks.



Over time, the campaign has evolved from a top-down, government-led initiative into a **more inclusive, community-driven model**. Today, it engages service users, user committees, the municipality, and cooperatives in shared environmental stewardship. **This shift toward participatory governance has been instrumental in ensuring the campaign's sustainability and long-term success.** By empowering citizens in the co-creation and delivery of services, Tilottama Municipality has fostered a responsive and resilient approach to environmental management.

FIND OUT MORE

Website of the Tilottama Municipality
<https://tilottamamun.gov.np/en>

Tilottama's Municipality Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/tilottam>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/295/proposals/3662?locale=en>

The Most Supported Practice by the OIDP Community

The proposal put forward by the Government of Tilottama Municipality garnered 1,736 votes through the open voting process on the ParticipateOIDP platform, distinguishing itself as the preferred choice of the public.



SPECIAL MENTION FOR DURABILITY,
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE PHOENIX PROJECT

Niterói / Brazil

Digital Democracy and Social Participation in the Municipality of Niterói

Niterói Municipality

Civic Tech / 516.720 inhabitants



Niterói is a municipality in the state of Rio de Janeiro, in the southeast region of Brazil. It lies across Guanabara Bay, facing the city of Rio de Janeiro and forming part of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area. Niterói has an estimated population of 516,720 (IBGE, 2024).

Founded in 1576 by the Indigenous leader Arariboia, the city served as the capital of the state of Rio de Janeiro for over 130 years, until 1975. **With a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.837—the highest in the state and the seventh highest in Brazil**—Niterói reflects consistent investment in education, healthcare, income distribution, urban cleanliness, transparency, and fiscal management.

In the cultural sphere, **the city is home to Fluminense Federal University, one of the largest in the country, and leads the state in cultural investment**, with per capita spending of R\$125. It also ranks first nationally in per capita social assistance spending. Tourism is driven by iconic attractions such as the Museum of Contemporary Art (MAC), the Niemeyer Trail, and the Complexo dos Fortes, along with a vibrant commercial and gastronomic scene.

Niterói is also a reference point in basic sanitation, **with 100% of its population receiving water supply and 94.5% covered by sewage collection services.**





More than 50% of its territory is designated as environmentally protected, and the city features 40 kilometers of bike lanes. It boasts one of the best public safety records of the past two decades.

Ranked as the smartest city in the state and **among the top five in Brazil in the Connected Smart Cities index**, Niterói stands out for its innovation and quality of life. However, significant challenges remain. **Reducing inequality and enhancing citizen participation**—especially among low-income populations and residents of peripheral communities—continues to be a priority. This commitment is reflected in initiatives such as the one presented in this proposal, which seeks to build a more inclusive and participatory city.

The initiative to expand Digital Democracy and Social Participation in the municipality of Niterói builds upon the **city's long-standing tradition of social mobilization and active citizen involvement in public policy-making**. Instruments such as conferences, participatory councils, public hearings, and participatory budgeting have historically played a central role in democratic decision-making. However, in light of technological advancements and new forms of communication, it became essential to modernize and broaden the city's engagement channels with its residents.

In this context, **Niterói launched a digital transformation, leveraging social media to enable direct, real-time communication between the population and municipal administration**—facilitating the submission of demands and suggestions without the barriers of traditional bureaucracy. A key milestone in this process was the city's partnership with COLAB, a platform recognized by the United Nations in 2015 as the Best Government and Participation Platform.

Innovative tools such as collaborative “Zeladorias” (community oversight mechanisms) and Public Consultations became central pillars of this transformation. These tools allow for the centralized collection of georeferenced citizen requests, which are then routed directly to the appropriate agencies—enabling faster and more efficient responses. Citizens are empowered to monitor issues, collaborate, and propose

actions digitally, without the need for physical presence or administrative hurdles. From the administration's perspective, the platform provides a unified digital environment for tracking the entire process, optimizing data management and decision-making.

Over time, various channels for submitting demands were consolidated into **a single digital hub, fully integrated into the city's broader citizen engagement strategy**. This included absorbing records previously handled by sectoral ombuds offices and linking the COLAB platform with in-person services across regional administrative centers, thereby ensuring inclusive access at both territorial and social levels.

As of today, **the platform counts over 175,000 registered users in a city of 500,000 inhabitants**. Since its inception, more than 239,000 requests have been submitted, with steady growth: 39,200 in 2022, 51,612 in 2024, and 5,700 new demands recorded in just the first month of the current year. To respond to this increasing level of participation, **510 municipal employees across 142 departments are now involved**—figures that have doubled in the past two years and continue to rise.

This initiative has positioned Niterói as a national reference in digital governance. Recognition of its success includes invitations to share the experience at major events, technical visits from other cities, and its selection as a finalist in prestigious awards such as the OIDP Award and the Smart City Expo Brazil Awards, among others.

FIND OUT MORE

Digital Democracy and Social Participation in the Municipality of Niterói website
<https://www.colab.com.br>

Municipality of Niterói website
<https://niteroi.rj.gov.br>

The practice on the ParticipateOIDP website
<https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3531>

Motivation of the Special Mention for Durability, in collaboration with the Phoenix Project

The jury has unanimously determined that the initiative "Digital Democracy and Social Participation in the Municipality of Niterói" merits the OIDP Award for the Durability of Practices. Among many outstanding candidates, **this initiative distinguished itself by demonstrating that the passage of time can foster not only the repetition of democratic rituals but also the evolution, scaling, deep-rooting, and institutionalization of participatory governance.**

Niterói's experience exemplifies how a participatory system can reach a stage of de facto institutionalization—when methodologies and impacts are not only sustained but deepened and diversified, becoming a vital and irreplaceable part of the city's governance framework.

The development of a multi-channel participatory system, particularly through the evolution of the COLAB platform, illustrates how digital tools—when driven by strong political will—can become catalysts for innovation. This approach facilitates dialogue between efficient public administration and new, dynamic forms of democratic engagement, enabling broad-based citizen participation in shaping public policies and projects.

The jury recognizes Niterói as an exemplary case of a systemic and evolutionary approach to participatory democracy—mature, robust, and well-positioned to move toward even deeper formal institutionalization of its achievements.

Jury Members of the Special Mention for Durability, in collaboration with the Phoenix Project:

Giovanni Allegretti (CES, Portugal)
Juan Pedro Battaglino (Municipality of Córdoba, Argentina)
Adriá Duarte (OIDP)
Manuela Gervasi (EEB, Belgium)
Sophie Guillain (ResPublia, France)
Marco Meloni (University of Southampton, UK)
Davide Salvadori (Feltrinelli Foundation, Italy)



In the following section, you will find the complete list of submissions for the 19th edition of the OIDP Award. Each entry includes a brief description provided by the respective local and regional governments. You can explore each nomination in detail through the links to the ParticipateOIDP platform, where you will find comprehensive information about these initiatives.

*Many of these initiatives showcase **remarkable examples of innovative, inclusive, and context-driven participatory democracy.***

We encourage you to delve into these inspiring stories and projects, which highlight the transformative potential of local and regional governments working with their communities.



*CATEGORY
BUILDING
MORE
DEMOCRATIC
AND
PEACEFUL
COMMUNITIES*



BUILDING MORE DEMOCRATIC AND PEACEFUL COMMUNITIES

OPEN ANTIGUA Antigua, Guatemala

Open Antigua is an innovative initiative in Guatemala that promotes transparency and citizen participation in governance. It includes measures like budget transparency boards, public session calendars, and access to municipal information. The initiative also encourages citizen involvement through the creation of the country's first Local Open Government Action Plan and Municipal Camps, where municipal leaders engage directly with marginalized communities. Open Antigua aims to inspire other municipalities to adopt a more transparent and inclusive governance model.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3500>

AZUAY PROVINCE SPORTS SCHOOLS Azuay, Ecuador

The "Sports Schools of Azuay" is an initiative by the Provincial Government aimed at promoting access to sports, citizen participation, and youth leadership development. The program has provided 1,200 children and adolescents with safe recreational spaces and comprehensive training, helping reduce school dropout rates and strengthen social cohesion. Implemented in 24 prioritized territories, it combines sports with leadership and peace-building training. The project also prioritizes gender equity and the inclusion of vulnerable sectors. Its success has led to plans for expansion, with 71 sports schools planned by 2025.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3560?locale=en>

LOCAL GOVERNANCE NETWORK-DIR (RGL-DIR) Béni Mellal commune of Taghzirt, Morocco



The RGL-Dir, created from a doctoral thesis on public management, aims to strengthen Civil Society Organizations' (CSOs) participation in local governance in rural Morocco. Launched in November 2023, the network promotes participatory budgeting and fosters collaboration between CSOs and elected officials. The initiative combines traditional and digital participation, deliberative and participatory democracy, and representative democracy. With growing participation, the RGL-Dir has introduced tools like citizens' juries, enhancing CSOs' role in local policy-making. Its success has led to scientific recognition and has significantly impacted citizen engagement and local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3495>



BENITO JUÁREZ MAYOR'S OFFICE: THE MUNICIPALITY WITH SUSTAINABLE GOVERNANCE

Benito Juárez, Mexico

The Municipality with Sustainable Governance practice of the Municipality of Benito Juárez is recognized for its high Human Development Index and safety, as well as its strong citizen engagement. With a population of 434,153, it has unique governance practices, including over 20 years of neighborhood participation in budgetary decisions and local consultations. Since October 1, 2024, the new administration has focused on sustainable governance, establishing a Directorate for Neighborhood Participation, training community mediators, and collaborating with the UNDP to align its 2024-2027 government program with the 2030 Agenda. These efforts aim to strengthen democracy, involve vulnerable groups, and drive progress towards the SDGs.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3502>

BRAGA MUNICIPAL VOLUNTEER STRUCTURE

Braga, Portugal

Braga Voluntária, launched in May 2022, promotes local volunteering to address community challenges and foster more democratic and peaceful societies. With over 500 volunteers and 65 partner organizations, it encourages the inclusion of diverse social groups and co-creates sustainable volunteering projects in areas like health, education, and social action. Notable initiatives include a corporate volunteering project providing primary healthcare and the Voluntaria-te program, which engages young people in community activities. These efforts not only raise awareness but also empower volunteers to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3541>

BÜYÜKÇEKMECE'S 2050 VISION

Büyükkçekmece, Turkey

The 2050 Büyükkçekmece Vision was created to imagine a future for the city, involving all stakeholders and experts in shaping a democratic and livable urban environment. With urbanization increasing globally, the strategy focuses on using modern technologies and scientific methods to improve the city's quality of life. Developed with academic input, it reflects citizens' expectations while considering the future of all urban inhabitants. The vision prioritizes sustainable urban living through seven key themes, 18 strategic objectives, and 46 targets, all rooted in research. It serves as a long-term roadmap, fostering participatory democracy and sustainable development for the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3498?locale=en>

NATIONAL COMMUNITY SPORTS AND TRADITIONAL GAMES

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

The National Community Games of Colombia, founded in 1999 by Gregorio Salgado Mendoza, aim to foster community integration through sports, culture, and social development. Initially started with 15 communities, the games grew with the involvement of Community Action Boards (JAC) and formalized in 2007. They promote local culture and citizen participation, including various social groups, and are supported by public-private partnerships. With the backing of Law 2166 of 2021, the games have become Colombia's leading community social sports event, strengthening cultural identity, social cohesion, and participatory democracy.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3517>

URBAN PARISH ASSEMBLIES

Cuenca, Ecuador

The Urban Parish Assemblies of Cuenca, Ecuador, are annual participatory events where citizens address local needs, involving workshops, assemblies, technical analysis, and a Cantonal Assembly. Citizens identify and prioritize projects for the next year's municipal budget, with the Municipal GAD evaluating feasibility. This process ensures that actions align with community needs and contributes to equitable urban development. Continuous improvements in the methodology have led to increased citizen satisfaction and better budget planning. Cuenca has become a model in Ecuador for maintaining public trust through these participatory processes.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3555>

ARTERIA, FROM GRAY TO GREEN

Cuenca, Ecuador

Cuenca's ARTERIA project, part of the Safe and Sound Cities Program, transformed a public space on Av. Elia Liut to improve safety and well-being for young people. Designed by students, it included sidewalk rehabilitation, urban furniture, lighting improvements, bike lanes, and murals. With a \$20,000 investment, the project covered 1,750m², added green areas, planted 3,449 trees, and installed 15 solar street lights. It benefits 1,478 people daily, with 75% feeling safer and 99% more comfortable. Recognized for its replicability, the project's sustainability is supported by the Municipal Corporation and community involvement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3563>

REIMAGINING THE FACE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY: DENVER'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Denver, United States of America

Denver's participatory budgeting program, the People's Budget, redefines civic engagement by allowing residents of all backgrounds, including those traditionally excluded, to vote on how public funds are spent. This inclusive approach empowers over 6,000 participants, many of whom are from underserved communities, to allocate \$3 million towards projects such as accessible sidewalks, new park lights, tiny homes for the unhoused, and community gardens. With a focus on reducing barriers to government, the program has increased participation from those who often can't vote, fostering a sense of belonging and connection to local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3482>

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE

Doboj Jug Municipality, Bosnia-Herzegovina

The "Equal Rights for Everyone" project in Doboj Jug Municipality focuses on improving the lives of vulnerable groups, particularly people with disabilities and the blind or partially sighted. The initiative includes building vertical platforms at key municipal buildings like the public library, elementary school, and post office, as well as creating designated parking spaces for people with disabilities. A significant feature is the implementation of a sound library for the blind and partially sighted. The project aims to enhance accessibility and create equal rights for all citizens. Future plans include expanding similar initiatives in collaboration with the Association of People with Disabilities to further improve living conditions.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3602>

STRATEGIC TERRITORIAL PLAN

Escobar, Argentina

The Participatory Tables for the Strategic Territorial Plan (STP) 2030 allowed neighbors to discuss and provide input on the territorial model developed by the STP office before its approval. The process, both virtual and in-person, successfully engaged citizens and contributed to the development of the STP's Codes, Programs, and Projects. The key concerns raised included the protection of the natural environment, regulating urban growth, strengthening agricultural production, promoting social integration, improving infrastructure, and enhancing municipal planning capacity. Environmental and urban issues such as preserving green areas, improving services in remote subdivisions, and addressing traffic and land use were central to the discussions.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3523>

CIVIC AUDIT: SOCIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

Goiás, Brazil

Civic Audit, created in 2012 by the Institute for Inspection and Control (IFC), is a participatory tool that empowers citizens, particularly youth, to evaluate and improve public policies. Initially focused on healthcare, it expanded to education in 2019 through the Attitude Students Program in Goiás, where students audit their own schools, identify issues, and propose solutions. This methodology fosters youth leadership, civic responsibility, and transparency in public management. Now implemented in 7 states, 283 cities, and 1,085 schools, it directly benefits 44,950 students, strengthening participatory democracy and engaging young people in monitoring public resources and improving education.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3556>

OPEN CABINET

General Pico, Argentina

Open Cabinet, organized by the PICO Lab in General Pico, is a participatory program designed to bring municipal officials to local neighborhoods, allowing residents to collaborate with the Mayor and other officials on public policies. Using the CHE Method (Communities Weaving Strategies), the program fosters decentralization, participation, and innovation, enabling residents to contribute to decisions affecting their neighborhoods. Through meetings and surveys, citizens work with the municipality to improve their community, with the program coordinated alongside other participatory tools like the Participatory Budget and the Inter-neighborhood Council. This approach strengthens the relationship between the municipality and neighborhoods, improving policy efficiency and citizen approval.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3513>

GRENOBLE VOLUNTEERS

Grenoble, France

The Grenoble Volunteers project creates an accessible ecosystem to encourage citizen engagement through a digital platform and local support. Launched in 2021, it centralizes tools like the Participatory Budget and Citizen Councils, offering a welcoming space for involvement through both digital and physical channels. With a focus on inclusion, the initiative uses campaigns and partnerships with local organizations to reach diverse audiences, resulting in a 30% increase in attendance at the House of Associative and Citizen Life and over 8,000 visitors at events. The project's flexible approach, with regular evaluations, aims to strengthen the link between citizens and institutions, making participation more personalized and accessible.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3516>

SAFE GUAYAS

Guayas Province, Ecuador



"Safe Guayas" is a citizen security initiative focused on community participation, interinstitutional coordination, and enhancing the National Police's operations. Launched by the Guayas Prefecture, the project aims to complement government actions with strategies for prevention, social cohesion, and police support. Key components include seven "Care Blocks" offering services to vulnerable populations, youth programs like football and chess schools, and improved police operations with new equipment and checkpoints. A safe corridor with surveillance and video analytics will further aid crime deterrence. Preliminary results show significant reductions in property crimes and homicides, demonstrating the success of combining infrastructure, technology, and community involvement for sustainable security.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3536>

CITIZEN MODEL FOR PEACE

Irapuato, Mexico



The Citizen Model for Peace in Irapuato is a strategy initiated by the municipal government to address the lack of peace in the area through dialogue and collaboration with the community. It includes a long-term citizen plan for peace with a vision for 2030, the creation of a Citizens' Institute for Peace to support community-driven initiatives, and a participatory budget for peace, allocating 3% of the municipality's resources to fund citizen-led peace projects. This model represents a historic step towards fostering peace through collective action and government support.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3497>

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Istanbul, Turkey

The "Participatory Budget Istanbul," launched in June 2021 by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM), empowers residents to actively influence how municipal funds are allocated to public services. This initiative aims to increase transparency, ensure accountability in public spending, and involve marginalized groups in decision-making. The process includes five stages: idea submission, evaluation, voting, results announcement, and project implementation. By prioritizing community needs, the model fosters efficiency, equal access to services, and strengthens civic participation, ultimately enhancing trust between citizens and the local government and improving quality of life in Istanbul.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3481>

VOTER PROMOTION STRATEGY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN THE 2023-2024 ELECTORAL PROCESS

Jalisco, Mexico

The Voter Promotion Strategy and citizen participation in Jalisco fostered collaborative networks with sectors like academia, business, and civil society, partnering with institutions such as DIF, UNESCO, and the INE. This strategy aimed to promote informed voting, create connections with the community, and decentralize voting programs across the state. Engaging over 40,000 residents, it included innovative initiatives like workshops for first-time voters, a stand-up comedy event for university students, a music festival for voter reflection, and a recognition program for businesses encouraging voting. These efforts helped ensure broader citizen participation and strengthen democracy in Jalisco.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3592>

LOCAL DIGITAL PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Khombole, Senegal

The Local Digital Participatory Democracy (DPNL) in Khombole modernized local governance by integrating digital tools to enhance citizen participation and transparency. Key tools included an annual report, a quarterly newsletter, live social media sessions ("Tik du Maire"), a monthly journal, and a Budget Orientation Debate (DOB) for citizen input on municipal budgets. These initiatives improved access to information, increased engagement, and included vulnerable populations through accessible formats in local languages. The project also streamlined administrative processes, institutionalized participatory democracy, and positioned Khombole as a model for other municipalities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3581>

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Leandro N. Alem, Argentina

In 2001, Leandro N. Alem Municipality in Misiones introduced an innovative Municipal Organic Charter with participatory planning, budgeting, and a Youth Council. Over 20 years later, Mayor Matías Sebely revitalized the initiative, partnering with CEMER, a research center focused on participatory budgeting. In 2024, they launched the Youth Participatory Budgeting (PPJoven), targeting youth aged 16-29 and allocating 40% of the annual budget to youth-led projects. The program includes specific youth sessions, young leaders in the municipal team, and a focus on non-adult-centered debates. The first PPJoven project was a Recreational Integrative Park, chosen as the most voted proposal.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3583>

ZERO DEBT

Lezhë Municipality, Albania



The "ZERO DEBT" event organized by the Municipality of Lezhë aimed to improve public participation and transparency in local governance by presenting the municipality's financial status and future priorities to citizens. Engaging over 450 participants, including government officials and civil society, the event fostered inclusivity, with special outreach to marginalized groups and youth. It built trust and transparency, allowing citizens to propose ideas for future investments. The success of the event, which helped achieve Albania's first zero-debt municipal balance, set a new standard for inclusive, participatory local governance and inspired other municipalities to adopt similar practices.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3479>



COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT - A COLLABORATIVE GOVERNANCE MODEL

Lomas de Zamora, Argentina

In 2023, the Community Government of Lomas de Zamora launched the Citizen Participation Tables (MPC) as part of a collaborative governance model. These forums allowed citizens and civil society organizations to co-create public policies addressing local issues like security, infrastructure, and health. The MPCs, implemented across 14 Municipal Management Centers, decentralized decision-making and included previously excluded peripheral neighborhoods. Over 410 residents from 230 institutions contributed to projects such as telemedicine, pedestrian streets, and environmental campaigns. The initiative culminated in a 2024 Community Congress, where participants shared proposals with the Mayor, further enhancing local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3545>

GETTING TO KNOW LUJÁN

Luján de Cuyo, Argentina

"Getting to Know Luján" is a citizen participation initiative that fosters dialogue among neighbors, particularly children, youth, and women, through guided tours of the department. These tours, led by facilitators, involve interactions with municipal officials and local stakeholders, focusing on government strategies and feedback from other initiatives. Since 2019, the program has engaged an average of 2,200 participants annually, empowering citizens and promoting civic values. Its flexibility allows tours to be scheduled or on-demand, and it relies on word-of-mouth, social media, and partnerships with local leaders. The initiative strengthens the social fabric and serves as a sustainable model for participatory local policies.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3524>

WELL-BEING COMPASS

Lyon, France

In 2023, the City of Lyon launched a participatory project to create a "Well-being Compass," aimed at guiding municipal policies and budgets toward improving the well-being of its citizens. The project involved 160 residents in 9 district workshops, where they identified key factors contributing to their well-being. A working group of residents, elected officials, and city agents developed the tool with expert guidance. The Well-being Compass focuses on various well-being areas such as health, safety, housing, culture, and the environment. A follow-up workshop in 2025 will help implement recommendations, with the goal of introducing a well-being budget in 2026.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3514>

RESPONSIBLE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION PROGRAM (PAR) Maipú, Argentina

The Responsible Active Participation Program (PAR) in Maipú, Mendoza, has been a successful participatory budgeting initiative since 2007, allowing residents to decide how municipal funds are allocated to projects benefiting their community. Over the years, PAR has evolved to focus on specific areas like Childhood, Rural Areas, Community Organizations, and Youth, and it has incorporated digital platforms for greater accessibility, especially during the pandemic. With increasing budgets and participation, PAR has significantly transformed the community, improving infrastructure and fostering civic engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3577>

REDE CIDADÃ PROGRAM Mato Grosso, Brazil

The Rede Cidadã program, launched in 2004 by the Department of Public Security of Mato Grosso, aims to reduce crime by providing preventive services to at-risk children and adolescents aged 8 to 18. The program uses a multidisciplinary approach involving public security professionals, educators, psychologists, social workers, and others. It provides care through referrals from schools, courts, and social services, offering psychosocial support, educational activities, and family engagement. The program focuses on improving self-esteem, motor skills, teamwork, and job readiness, addressing both individual and social challenges. By integrating public security, education, health, and leisure sectors, it fosters holistic support to prevent crime and promote community well-being.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3567>

DIALOGUES FOR TRANSFORMATION Mineral de la Reforma, Mexico

"Dialogues for the Transformation" in Mineral de la Reforma, Hidalgo, Mexico, aimed to enhance community well-being, sustainable development, and identity by involving diverse residents in creating the 2024-2027 Municipal Development Plan. For the first time, children and adolescents were included in the planning process. The initiative included five stages: designing participation mechanisms, dissemination through various forums and workshops, implementation considering demographic factors, validating citizen proposals, and accountability by sharing the results with participants. Recognized by the state for its innovation, the initiative strengthened democracy, social responsibility, and community identity.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3533?locale=en>





COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL HEALTH, CANINE EDUCATION, AND RESPONSIBLE PET OWNERSHIP PROGRAM

Morón, Argentina

The Municipality of Morón initiated a program to address sanitary issues and improve relationships between residents and their dogs, following concerns about overpopulation, zoonoses, and poor guardianship. Participatory assemblies led to the creation of the "Responsible Pet Ownership and Canine Education Workshops," developed in collaboration with the Morón Municipal Animal Health Center and the Buenos Aires Veterinary College. These workshops promote responsible pet care, reduce incidents of abuse and bites, and enhance the human-dog bond. The success of the program, which reached over 150 participants, has positioned Morón as a model for responsible animal welfare, expanding its impact to neighboring municipalities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3529>

PDAFJED-YOUTH

Nkongsamba, Cameroon

The WYDE initiative aims to empower young people and women by facilitating their access to decision-making bodies and promoting their active participation in the development and monitoring of local public policies. The project, part of a larger program funded by the European Union, encourages civic and democratic engagement for sustainable development in Central Africa. It is implemented by Civil Society Organizations in Cameroon and Gabon, including the Pan-African Student Associations Group and Patriotic Entrepreneurs Generation Cameroon. The initiative seeks to mobilize women and youth to contribute to democratic stability and participatory development, promoting social peace and sustainable democracy.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3603>

IMMEDIATE ACTION PLAN FOR COORDINATION, MOTIVATION AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT TO STRENGTHEN CITIZEN SECURITY

Pastaza Province, Ecuador



The "Strengthening Security and Democracy in Pastaza" initiative aims to improve democracy, security, and peace in Ecuador's Amazonian Pastaza province. It uses a participatory approach involving local actors, including the National Police, municipal GADs, churches, and civil society. The initiative includes a situational diagnosis, resource allocation for the police, and awareness campaigns on gender-based violence. It has strengthened security, empowered the community through civic education, and fostered participatory democracy. The initiative, nominated for its impact on building democratic and peaceful communities, contributes to sustainable development and lays the foundation for a more inclusive and resilient future.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3505>

CIVIC EDUCATION

Porto-Novo, Benin

The practice focuses on educating young people to protect public property, manage community assets, and promote social well-being. It encourages active civic and political participation, fostering vocational training, environmental protection, and advocating for vulnerable populations. By addressing power, law, and the causes of civic actions, the initiative empowers youth to contribute to democratic life, human rights, and good governance. It promotes collective problem-solving, encouraging a commitment to democracy and human rights as the foundation for a better society.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3504>

PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN PUNJAB

Punjab, Pakistan

This project in Pakistan focuses on advocating for the rights and well-being of religious minorities in the country. The campaign, driven by a commitment to democratic values and human rights, has involved protests across various regions, including Union Councils, Districts, Divisions, and provinces. Efforts have included sending letters to key political figures, such as the Prime Minister, President, Chief Justice, Senate Chairman, and the Election Commission, but no positive responses have been received. Despite these setbacks, the initiative has expanded to seek international moral support, aiming to strengthen the advocacy for non-Muslim communities' rights within Pakistan. The project's goal is to garner ethical backing to promote justice and equality for minorities.

MUNICIPAL PLAN FOR MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Quilmes, Argentina



The Municipal Plan for Migration Governance in Quilmes, Argentina, is a strategy to integrate migrants and refugees through a rights-based approach. Quilmes, with a population of 636,026, is home to 43,968 migrants, representing 7% of the local population. Launched in 2019, the plan addresses disparities in access to public services, particularly affecting migrant communities. It focuses on four strategic pillars: access to rights, strengthening institutions, training and socio-labor inclusion, and promoting interculturality. The plan encourages active participation from local residents and aims to ensure safe, orderly migration, fostering a more inclusive and democratic society. This initiative is seen as an innovative model of citizen-driven development for local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3530?locale=en>

RESIDENTS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, CITY SERVICES: HOW DO WE DECIDE TOGETHER IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS IN SAINT DENIS?

Saint-Denis, La Réunion, France

The Citizen Action Committees (CACs) in Saint-Denis de la Réunion are a participatory democracy initiative launched in 2020, involving 44 committees across the city's 40 neighborhoods. With a population of 156,000, Saint-Denis faces significant social challenges, including a 40% poverty rate. The CACs enable residents, elected officials, and municipal departments to collaborate on solving local issues. Since their creation, 170 initiatives have been implemented in areas like culture, social inclusion, health, and safety. The committees use shared diagnoses to address local needs and co-create solutions, with municipal support through technical and financial assistance. This innovative approach enhances citizen engagement, social cohesion, and the effectiveness of public decision-making, while also empowering members to contribute to urban renewal and other local projects.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3527>

INTERRELIGIOUS COLLABORATION NETWORK

Provincia de Salta, Argentina

The "Interreligious Collaboration Network" project in Salta, Argentina, promotes dialogue and collaboration between the public sector, Faith-Based Organizations (FBOs), and Religious Organizations (ROs). Initiated by the Directorate of Religious Affairs, it aims to address local challenges by recognizing the role of religious communities in areas like development and disaster response. The project seeks to break down stereotypes, connect these organizations with other sectors, and foster joint actions toward shared goals like peace and education. Ultimately, it aims to influence public policy through interreligious cooperation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3554>

AGENTE VIDA NOVA - INNOVATIVE MODEL FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION WITH ACTIVE ASSISTANCE AND DEMOCRATIC CONSTRUCTION

Salvador, Brazil



The Vida Nova Program in Salvador combats poverty by integrating social assistance, health, education, and employability. Local Vida Nova agents visit vulnerable families to assess their needs and connect them to public services, ensuring better access and support. Families help define their own priorities through a participatory Family Action Plan. The program addresses poverty as a multifaceted issue, focusing on health, education, housing, and employment, and is digitally monitored for transparency and faster responses. With over 73,000 services provided, it has reduced food insecurity and improved access to basic services, promoting family autonomy and inclusion.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3557>

BUILDING THE COUNCIL WE WANT

Provincia de Salta, Argentina

"Building the Council We Want" is a project by the Secretariat of Citizen Participation in San Antonio de los Cobres, Argentina, aimed at transforming the local Deliberative Council into an open, participatory space. The project focuses on creating an Action Plan that allows citizens to access information transparently and actively engage in the legislative process. With a small population of 5,814, San Antonio de los Cobres has historically marginalized voices, making this initiative a unique opportunity for local citizens to influence decisions that affect their lives. This pioneering project in Salta province aims to establish a model of Open Parliament, fostering transparency, active participation, and a stronger connection between the community and institutions.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3559>





ECO COLLECTIVE SCHOOL

Santa Lucía de Tirajana, Spain

The "ECO" Collective School project in a municipality aimed to engage citizens in local governance by creating an open, inclusive space for learning and community-building. Recognizing the lack of tools and knowledge for participation, the councilwoman and participation technicians launched this initiative to educate and connect diverse groups, such as senior associations, environmentalists, youth, and migrant communities. Through 14 workshops, participants gained skills, formed alliances, and became actively involved in the creation of a Citizen Participation Regulation. The process turned into a vibrant, empowered community that now carries the spirit of participation back into their neighborhoods, fostering lasting civic engagement and a more inclusive local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3585>

ADAPTATION OF THE II CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE PLAN 2023-2027

Santa Lucía de Tirajana, Spain

In Santa Lucía de Tirajana, the Local Childhood and Adolescence Council (CLIA) worked on the II Childhood and Adolescence Plan but realized it was written in complex language. The children, determined to make it accessible, took action to simplify the document into clear, inclusive language that any child, regardless of age or culture, could understand. They worked collaboratively, transforming the plan and then shared it in schools and community spaces, ensuring widespread access. This project demonstrated that children's participation is a real tool for change and showed that such an inclusive model could be replicated in other communities and policies.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3588>

VIRADA ODS

São Paulo, Brazil

Virada ODS is the largest municipal initiative focused on civic engagement towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Over three days, residents participate in workshops, services, and discussions involving the public, civil, and private sectors. The project continues year-round with training for public servants, podcasts, and local events promoting sustainability. In 2024, Virada ODS expanded to other cities like Maringá and Mairiporã, with plans for international outreach in Latin America and the Caribbean. This ongoing effort aims to share best practices and foster collaboration across municipalities, strengthening global engagement with the 2030 Agenda.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3576>

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT: BRINGING YOUNG PEOPLE CLOSER TO PUBLIC POLICIES

São Paulo, Brazil

The "Youth in Government" project, created by the Open Government Coordination, is designed to engage young people in public policy and open government concepts. It consists of two modules: a theoretical training on public policies and open government, followed by a practical role-playing game called "What if I were the Mayor?" that simulates public management and budget allocation. After a successful pilot in 2023, the project was enhanced with more accessible content, including visual elements like memes, and structured into a role-playing game using cards to represent public problems and budgets. Over 500 young people participated, and the project will continue with the creation of collective proposals for the Citizen Budget in 2025. The initiative aims to foster transparency and active youth participation in governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3562>

HARNESSING DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS TO DRIVE JUST TRANSITIONS

Siaya, Kenya

The Climate Governance project in Siaya County, Kenya, focused on strengthening community participation in local climate action. It involved training Ward Administrators to form Climate Change Planning Committees and conducting a participatory climate risk assessment to shape the county's Climate Action Plan. The project emphasized on the inclusion of marginalized groups, particularly through the involvement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Key achievements include improved community engagement, more decentralized decision-making, and the successful advocacy for 2% of climate funds to be allocated to ward-level institutions. This initiative fosters a more inclusive and effective approach to climate resilience in Siaya County.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3494>

YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING INITIATIVE FOR THE TAOYUAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT NOISE PREVENTION FUND

Taoyuan, Taiwan

The Youth Participatory Budgeting for Airport Noise Prevention Fund in Taoyuan, Taiwan, allowed high school students to directly influence the allocation of NT\$3 million for airport noise prevention. This was Taiwan's first participatory budgeting initiative for such a cause, engaging 4,218 students across four schools in proposal development, deliberation, and voting using a combination of physical and digital methods. The project enhanced fund allocation efficiency, strengthened democratic participation, and built youth civic capacity. It also improved community-government relations and created a replicable model for participatory engagement in public administration.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3606?locale=en>

MODEL OF THE STATE SECRETARIAT FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Tucumán Province, Argentina

The State Secretariat for Citizen Participation model aims to strengthen peaceful coexistence and reduce violence by fostering a citizen culture based on social representation theory and public management skills. It emphasizes open government, democratic public safety, and prevention of physical and digital violence. The model includes innovation labs, design thinking, and community training to engage citizens in creating peaceful, informed communities. It encourages direct communication between citizens and authorities, focusing on at-risk groups and promoting multi-agency collaboration. This approach ensures flexible, citizen-centered interactions, with the goal of addressing social needs and enhancing public safety.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3561>

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, AND YOUTH IN THE AREAS OF EDUCATIONAL ROBOTICS AND COMPETITIONS THROUGH STEAM EDUCATION

Tungurahua, Ecuador

The "MARAKUNA EXPRESATE, NUESTRA HORA NUESTRO MOMENTO" initiative took place throughout August to promote youth rights. It included youth forums, a film-forum, reforestation with 500 native trees, robotics fairs, and MARAKUNA events showcasing youth art and entrepreneurship. These activities were supported by various public and private institutions. A total of 987 young people participated in training on leadership, rights, and entrepreneurship across different cantons.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3532?locale=en>

CITIZEN AUDIT OF THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC POLICIES

Valencia Community, Spain



The Citizen Audit, launched in 2022 by the Valencian Regional Government and INGENIO, is an innovative initiative that empowers citizens to evaluate and improve public policies and services. The process includes four phases: training the auditing team, selecting citizens for the audit through a lottery, conducting participatory workshops to assess various service aspects, and compiling proposals for policy improvement. In 2024, over a thousand citizens applied to participate. The initiative focuses on social, environmental, and territorial dimensions, ensuring policies are more inclusive and effective. The final output is a citizens' report with recommendations for improving public services.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3493>

A PARADISE OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - CITIZEN CONVERSATION STRATEGY

Valle del Cauca Department, Colombia

Citizen Conversations is a citizen participation initiative launched by the Government of Valle del Cauca in 2016 to enhance dialogue between the state and the community. It promotes inclusion, transparency, and accountability, engaging citizens from all backgrounds. The process is divided into three phases: preparation, conversation, and follow-up. In 2024, over 130,000 people participated in 24 conversations across municipalities, leading to more than 1,250 commitments. This initiative has improved trust, social cohesion, and public management, addressing key local issues. It uses technology for participation and monitoring, fostering a culture of transparency and collaboration, with notable success in reducing poverty and enhancing civic engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3548>

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Valongo, Portugal



The Children's Council of Valongo, part of the "La Città dei Bambini" program, empowers children (8-9 years old) to participate in municipal decision-making. Through biweekly meetings, selected children debate issues, propose ideas, and contribute to policy development. The project promotes gender equity and inclusivity by considering diverse representation. It enhances critical thinking, teamwork, and civic responsibility, and has led to real contributions, such as children's involvement in sustainability-focused workshops. This initiative strengthens local democracy and fosters a sense of responsibility, making children's voices an integral part of policy-making.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3587>





VALONGO YOUTH PARTICIPATORY BUDGET

Valongo, Portugal

The Valongo Youth Participatory Budget (OPJV) empowers young people (6-35 years old) to decide how €250,000 of the municipal budget is spent. Since its launch in 2014, the program has grown, with €10,000 allocated to each of 25 winning projects annually. Participants can propose ideas in four categories: "School", "Generations", "Community", and "Green". The process includes proposal submission, evaluation, voting, and project implementation. Over 11 cycles, 147 projects have been funded, totaling €1.47 million. The OPJV encourages youth engagement and directly addresses their needs, leaving visible markers of their contributions in the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3582>

EMPREENDE VILA JOVEN

Vila Real, Portugal

The Empreende@Villa.Jovem program is a municipal initiative that supports innovative projects from young people, youth associations (RNAJ), or informal youth groups in Vila Real. The program includes capacity-building workshops and a contest offering a €5,000 prize for the best entrepreneurial project. This initiative aims to encourage sustainable local projects and business development by providing financial support and tools to help youth bring their ideas to life. It strengthens youth engagement and business confidence in the community, fostering entrepreneurship.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3511>

LINE F PROGRAM

Vila Real, Portugal



The Line F Program, initiated by the Municipality of Vila Real, aims to engage young people in local government and promote equity between rural and urban areas. It encourages youth aged 14-30 to present proposals that address local needs, with projects evaluated and voted on at parish councils. The program promotes participatory democracy by fostering dialogue between youth, elected officials, and municipal technicians. Winning proposals receive financial support up to €500 to help implement the projects, enhancing civic education and integrating rural concerns into public policies. This initiative empowers youth to actively shape their communities and contribute to local development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3542>

TESTERS OF THE CITIZEN SERVICE MODEL

Viladecans, Spain

Testers is an initiative designed to evaluate municipal services and propose improvements based on citizen input. It involves workshops where participants, including a diverse group of citizens, test and suggest enhancements to local services. The program uses communication campaigns to recruit participants and ensures inclusivity by targeting people without internet access or those with language barriers. Workshops are followed by an implementation phase where suggested improvements are enacted. In 2024, the program engaged 170 participants, achieving 90% attendance and collecting 162 proposals for improvement, promoting direct citizen involvement in local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3490>

COLLECTIVE CONSTRUCTION OF AN URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR THE CITY AND GUIDELINES FOR THE REFORM OF THE URBAN ZONING CODE

Yerba Buena, Argentina



The Municipality of Yerba Buena initiated a participatory process to reform the Urban Zoning Code (COU), involving diverse stakeholders such as government officials, NGOs, businesses, and residents. Over eight months, three workshops, interviews, and focus groups helped identify urban issues and strengths, guiding the development of new urban policies. This collaborative approach fostered a strong sense of community and commitment to sustainable development. The process led to a city diagnosis, strategic development guidelines, and a proposal for the COU reform. The participatory process will continue to inform city management, ensuring its sustainability.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/297/proposals/3601>





CATEGORY URBAN MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE



CATEGORY URBAN MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC SPACE

PUBLIC WORKS WITH A PEDAGOGICAL PURPOSE

Bogotá, Colombia

The "Works with a Pedagogical Purpose" methodology by IDPAC in Bogotá promotes citizen participation in public works, aiming to improve both infrastructure and community skills. It has led to the enhancement of parks and public spaces, benefiting local residents. The approach raises awareness of citizen involvement and has trained new community leaders to engage in democratic processes. It strengthens leadership, teamwork, and participatory culture, resulting in long-term benefits for infrastructure, social cohesion, and local democracy.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3488>

INFRASTRUCTURE WITH PURPOSE IN ACTION: A MODEL FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION ON AVENIDA 68 BOGOTÁ

Bogotá, Colombia

The IDU's "Infrastructure with Purpose in Action" project on Avenida 68 spans 17.07 km, impacting over a million residents across 10 localities and 58 neighborhoods. It integrates infrastructure with social transformation, strengthening community ties and promoting citizen responsibility. The project included three phases: "Memories of My Neighborhood" focused on local identity, "I Build My City" encouraged citizen participation, and "I Commit to My City" ensured the sustainability of the project. This initiative highlights IDU's commitment to a more integrated Bogotá.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3584>

EARTHQUAKE RISK MITIGATION, PREVENTION AND PLANNING PROJECT

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey

The "Bursa Metropolitan Municipality Earthquake Risk Mitigation, Prevention and Planning Project" aims to minimize earthquake damage and loss of life in Bursa, Turkey. In collaboration with JICA and other organizations, the project analyzes urban vulnerabilities, including buildings, roads, and public structures. It will create an Urban Resilience Plan, with results to be announced in February 2025. The project covers Bursa's 17 districts, with a population of over 3.2 million, and aims to develop the "Bursa Model" for disaster risk reduction, integrating it in the municipality's Environmental Plan.

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

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET - CROSS-CUTTING AXIS OF PUBLIC MANAGEMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESCOBAR

Escobar, Argentina

The Participatory Budget (PB) in Escobar allocates 1.5% of the municipal budget to 27 Community Management Units (UGCs), promoting local development and citizen involvement. Since 2016, 9,480 projects have been submitted, with 749 executed. The budget grew 70 times, from \$500,000 per UGC in 2016 to \$35,000,000 in 2024. Key project areas include public space, sustainability, security, and urban access. The PB complements municipal development plans and fosters transparent, citizen-driven governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3522>

PRIMARY SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM CO-CONSTRUCTED WITH THE POPULATION OF KHOMBOLE

Khombole, Senegal



The elementary school modernization program in Khombole, Senegal, launched in 2024 under the Ouby Tay Diang Tay policy, aims to modernize schools through a participatory approach involving citizens, workers, associations, and authorities. The program focuses on creating accessible, eco-friendly educational infrastructure and raising environmental awareness through tree planting. The Touba Fall school has been modernized, improving the learning environment and reducing delays in the school year. The initiative promotes citizen participation, strengthens governance, and serves as a model for other communities in education and sustainable development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3515>

LOS RÍOS, A 6G PROVINCE

Los Ríos Province, Ecuador

The "Los Ríos, a 6G Province!" initiative (2020-2024) aimed to improve governance in the province of Los Ríos, Ecuador (898,652 people). It focused on six components: Participatory, Digital, Green, Social Innovation, and Resilient governments. Key actions included participatory budgeting, ICT for transparency, environmental regulations, and crisis management. The initiative ensures sustainability through public policies and citizen participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3579>





LET'S MAKE A SQUARE

Luján de Cuyo, Argentina

"Let's Make a Square" involves the community of Luján de Cuyo in co-designing, managing, and owning public spaces, transforming squares into hubs for social connection. The initiative breaks the tradition of unilateral decision-making by giving residents a voice in the planning and use of these spaces. The process unfolds in four phases: co-design, validation, inauguration, and appropriation, with community-led activities fostering sustained engagement. This model strengthens the social fabric, promotes local identity, and encourages a culture of participation, making it a sustainable and replicable approach.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3546>

SOBROTHERHOOD - REBUILD THE LOST SENSE OF COMMUNITY IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SOBREIRO BY RECONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH BIOPHILIC DESIGN

Maia Municipality, Portugal

"Sobrotherhood" is a project aimed at rebuilding the sense of community in the Bairro do Sobreiro neighborhood through biophilic design, aligning with the principles of the New European Bauhaus (NEB). It involved co-creation activities connecting residents over 55 with the local school community to enhance belonging and social ties. The project focused on revitalizing a public space within the neighborhood, using sustainable design principles to create a more connected and environmentally-conscious future for the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3501>

THINKING OUR CITY

Maia Municipality, Portugal

"Maia - Thinking Our City" is a civic participation project aimed at children and young people, encouraging their involvement in community life. Participants identify and analyze issues in their local area, discussing them in groups and proposing solutions. The final phase, "Experimental Action," involves implementing chosen solutions with minimal resources to foster a democratic spirit and community participation. Through this process, young people develop critical thinking, discussion skills, and a sense of responsibility for their community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3510>



THE NEIGHBORHOOD TABLES: A STRATEGY FOR INTEGRATION AND COMMUNITY PROTECTION IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF MONTEVIDEO

Montevideo, Uruguay

The "Neighborhood Tables" initiative, launched in 2022, aims to improve living conditions in socially excluded neighborhoods in Montevideo through community organization and inclusive urban projects. It focuses on territorial integration, recognizing existing community efforts, and fostering collective participation. Over 3,000 people have contributed to actions like infrastructure improvements, community spaces, and urban services. The initiative strengthens communication, trust in public management, and resource coordination. Its success has led to a replicable model for other areas, promoting social inclusion and participatory governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3508>

CLAIMING THE USE OF PUBLIC SPACE

Morón, Argentina

The "La Manzana de los Clubes" project, launched to address conflicts and neglect, focused on decentralization and citizen participation. From 2021 to 2022, local actors and residents formed an Interinstitutional Table to agree on space use and provide subsidies. By 2023, the space hosted a Childhood Center, workshops, and benefited over 2,500 children and youth daily. The project highlights the power of collective action and community-driven transformation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3569>



MAIS COMUNIDADE PROGRAM

Porto Alegre, Brazil

The Mais Comunidade Program, launched by Porto Alegre's City Council, strengthens citizen participation through active listening, territorial presence, and local pacts for public space conservation. Since 2021, it has involved the Mayor and secretaries in improving urban spaces, integrating citizen demands and participatory budgeting. The program focuses on decentralized action, combining technical visits, service days, and community pacts, fostering collaborative governance for better urban development.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3525>





PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Posadas, Argentina

Posadas Participatory Budgeting, launched in 2016, engages citizens in proposing, voting, and monitoring urban projects. It focuses on three areas: infrastructure, environment, and culture/education. Each year, around 200 proposals are analyzed, with 11 projects selected for implementation, representing each municipal delegation. On average, 16,000 citizens participate annually in the process, ensuring broad public involvement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3595>

VIRTUOUS ARTICULATIONS OF ACTORS TOWARD INCLUSIVE POLICIES IN AN INTERMEDIATE CITY IN ARGENTINA

Río Cuarto, Argentina



Since 2020, Río Cuarto's government, in collaboration with CISCSA, has implemented a practice to expand the rights of women and diverse groups to the city. The project includes participatory mapping, training workshops, and the creation of a local multi-actor table to design more egalitarian urban policies. Innovative tools like Women's Maps, Cartographies, and an Urban Indicators Observatory are used to inform public policy, emphasizing the involvement of women and diverse groups in the process. This initiative strengthens their participation in shaping local governance and addressing territorial inequalities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3547>

PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES IN HABITAT INTERVENTIONS IN THE CITY OF ROSARIO (2020-2024). NEIGHBORHOODS: BANANA-CORDON AYACUCHO-CULLEN-MORENO

Rosario, Argentina



In Rosario, 39,101 families live in 114 informal settlements. From 2020-2024, a Participatory Approach Plan was implemented in 4 neighborhoods, involving residents, government, service providers, and civil society. Around 3,010 families participated in 4 public hearings, 40 management roundtables, and 120 meetings, with an effectiveness index of 70 or higher. The plan has led to the institutionalization of participatory design processes in other public spaces.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3565?locale=en>

LOCAL COMMITTEE OF THE CAMINHO LEGAL PROGRAM

Salvador, Brazil

The Caminho Legal Program in the Doron neighborhood of Salvador, Brazil, revitalized public spaces with a focus on social inclusion and empowering children. Approximately 500 people were impacted, with 12 members forming an autonomous Local Committee (7 residents, 5 professionals). Children from the Olga Benário Municipal Early Childhood Education Center actively participated in creative workshops, contributing to a safer, more inclusive environment. The project represents a model of participatory democracy and has the potential for replication in other communities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3551>

NEIGHBOR ATTENTION CENTER OF THE CITY OF SAN JUAN

San Juan, Argentina

Launched in July 2020, the "Neighbor Attention Center (CAV)" in San Juan, Argentina, improved citizen interaction with local authorities. By early 2024, a digital "Complaint System" was implemented, speeding up response times. The system serves all residents, with multiple communication channels, and has improved public policies, benefiting citizens across all city districts.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3609>

PARTICIPATORY DIAGNOSIS IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

San Miguel de Tucuman, Argentina

In March 2024, the "Participatory Diagnosis in Your Neighborhood" project in the Costanera del Río Salí area involved local residents in addressing urban issues. Over 9 months, 1,500,000 kg of waste were removed, and over 150 trees, 60 palm trees, and 25 palapas were planted. The project improved local infrastructure and strengthened community ties, and it is now being expanded to other neighborhoods as part of the city's Master Plan.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3600>



CULTURA CUSCATLÁN

San Salvador, El Salvador

Cultura Cuscatlán focuses on community engagement to enhance public spaces, with initiatives involving all ages. Volunteers have been key in maintaining and improving the park, while children's programs like "Juega y Aprende" promote environmental and social awareness. The project has transformed Parque Cuscatlán into a model for urban recovery, with plans to replicate the approach in other public spaces.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3607>

I AM THE MAYOR

Tehran, Iran

This project in "District 4" of the Iranian capital Tehran is designed to give citizens a voice and thus strengthen participatory democracy. It is an approach to urban management in which citizens are consulted to decide on the budget for urban projects and which should be given priority over others.

REALIZATION OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN THE FORM OF THE "I AM THE MAYOR 3" PROJECT

Tehran (District 4), Iran

The "I am the Mayor" participatory budgeting project in Tehran's District 4 began in January 2022, with 41,468 citizens selecting 41 projects worth over 370 billion rials. The second cycle in 2023 saw 114,187 citizens choose 187 projects with a budget of 940 billion rials, implemented in 2024. The ongoing third cycle, starting in late 2024, continues with citizens submitting ideas, voting, and prioritizing projects to improve local governance, resource allocation, and social justice in the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3544>

TIRANA'S CYCLING TRANSFORMATION

Tirana, Albania



Tirana's cycling transformation has created over 62 kilometers of protected bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly streets, promoting cycling as a sustainable urban mobility mode. The initiative, involving workshops and a citywide campaign, has led to 17% of transport trips being made by bike and introduced the first protected intersection in the Balkans. It aligns with multiple Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 11, 3, and 13, while fostering gender-inclusive mobility and community engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3499?locale=en>

REVITALISING RESIDENTIAL AREA AGÁTKA IN TRNAVA

Trnava, Slovakia

The revitalization of Agátka courtyard in Trnava involved extensive citizen engagement from 2017 through 2022, including public meetings, surveys, and a transparent online platform. Key features of the redesigned space include a 250-meter artificial stream, community garden, playground, and improved accessibility. The project, which integrated community feedback at every stage, has fostered inclusivity and strengthened the relationship between the city and its residents.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3593>

YOU'VE BEEN ASKED, TOO! Trogir, Croatia

Since 2018, the city of Trogir has implemented a participatory budgeting project with a total budget of €240,000 annually, aimed at improving communal infrastructure across 9 local boards. Citizens submit proposals, which are evaluated and voted on in public forums, with 250 projects implemented from 2,000 proposals over six editions. These projects, focusing on green areas, public lighting, and road rehabilitation, have seen an investment of 1 million euros, improving the quality of life for citizens and fostering trust in local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3484>

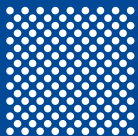
VIÑA ES TUYA: PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC SPACES IN THE VIÑA DEL MAR COMMUNE

Viña del Mar, Chile

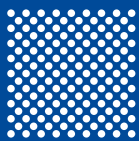
The "Viña es Tuya" program in Viña del Mar promotes citizen participation in public space management across 12 city sectors. It prioritizes historically excluded areas through workshops and engages residents in decisions about their environment, fostering community ties and empowering citizens. The program has also influenced municipal processes, ensuring that technical information is accessible to all residents, enhancing public space design and participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/298/proposals/3598>





CATEGORY GENDER AND CARE



CATEGORY GENDER AND CARE

UMM EL BENIN ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S RIGHTS Azilal Province, Morocco

The Umm Al-Baneen Association in Morocco has been promoting participatory democracy since 2017, focusing on empowering local citizens, particularly youth and women, to engage in decision-making and local development. Through training, community meetings, and advocacy, the association has helped establish 40 local organizations and fostered democratic values, citizen participation, and gender equality. The initiative aims to create sustainable development by addressing social, economic, and environmental issues in the region.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3575>

EQUITY COMMUNITIES, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PROVINCIAL PLAN FOR THE PROMOTION OF RIGHTS CARAVANS FOR LIFE Azuay Province, Ecuador



The "Communities of Equity and Rights" project, launched in 2022 by the Provincial GAD of Azuay, aims to improve the quality of life and social inclusion for vulnerable groups, particularly rural women affected by gender-based violence. It has created 30 "Equity Communities", reaching over 3,000 people with training in productive skills, personal development, and emotional healing. The project is expanding to 33 rural communities and aims to cover all 61 parish councils in Azuay, promoting gender equity and social inclusion through community engagement and partnerships.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3486>

ADDRESSING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN THE CATTLE FATTENING PROJECT Intercommunalité du Bassin du Sankarani, Mali

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/award2025/f/299/proposals/3552>



WOMEN CARERS: HEARTS THAT CARE

Despeñaderos Municipality, Argentina

The "Women Carers: Hearts that Care" project focuses on supporting women who care for people with disabilities, many of whom are single parents. The initiative involves collecting and recycling textile waste to create and sell products such as handbags and placemats. This project provides emotional, intellectual, and financial resources, creating a space for personal growth, empowerment, and the development of support networks. It also promotes environmental sustainability and gender equality, while contributing to economic growth in the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3564>

LET'S IMAGINE THE SCHOOL OF TOMORROW!

Evron, France

The project focused on creating a participatory process for redesigning a school merger plan, involving local authority staff, teachers, school principals, and the French Ministry of Education. It led to creative, pragmatic ideas, with strong dialogue between participants, directors, and elected officials, addressing issues like cycling and safety. The project cost €9,999 plus €100 for snacks, and included three workshops. Despite initial mistrust, the process helped reshape local work habits and will be independently evaluated for future participatory projects.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3478>

CUIDANDO VIDAS - GUAYAS CARE SYSTEM

Guayas Province, Ecuador

Cuidando Vidas is Ecuador's first Care System and a pioneering initiative in Latin America, aiming to recognize, reduce, and redistribute the unpaid care work, primarily performed by women. It addresses the time poverty women face due to care duties and provides services like training, well-being support, and income generation for caregivers. The program uses mobile Care Convoys and Care Neighborhoods to reach underserved areas, empowering caregivers and improving their personal development and well-being, while also promoting collective efforts to recognize the value of care work.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3539>



OUR HOME ISTANBUL

Istanbul, Turkey

"Our Home Istanbul Children's Activity Centers", led by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, focuses on providing equal access to education, promoting gender equality, and empowering women. The centers offer play-based learning and parental workshops, supporting children's development and fostering active family involvement. The initiative also employs female educators, promotes women's economic independence, and provides low-cost education to vulnerable groups, making it a model for inclusive, participatory social transformation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3608>

PILOT PROJECT HEALTH PROMOTION TO COMBAT SCHOOL DROPOUTS

Itanhaém, Brazil

The "Health Promotion to Combat School Dropouts" project, initiated by Itanhaém City Hall in São Paulo, targeted 500 socially vulnerable teenagers aged 13-17 to reduce school dropouts, particularly during menstruation. The 12-month pilot offered physical activities, nutrition talks, medical consultations, and menstrual health education. The project successfully improved students' quality of life, reduced dropouts, and raised awareness of menstrual health, contributing to the inclusion of this issue in the municipal agenda.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3535>

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIALIZED ATTENTION TO THE COMPLEMENTARY NEEDS OF THE USERS OF THE WOMEN'S JUSTICE CENTERS OF THE STATE OF JALISCO

Jalisco, Mexico

The project in Jalisco aims to empower women and children who are victims of gender-based violence by providing non-returnable economic and in-kind support. Between 2022 and 2024, 1,425 women received a total of 16,805,804.08 Mexican pesos to cover urgent needs like food, medical care, and housing. The initiative helps break the cycle of violence by promoting economic autonomy and supporting access to justice for these women and their children.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3480>



CHILDREN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Jounieh, Lebanon

The Children's Municipal Council (CMC) of Jounieh, established in 2023, empowers youth aged 15-17 to engage in local governance and decision-making. In collaboration with the municipality and NGOs, the council has contributed to projects like a Child Protection Policy, public park construction, and various community events. The initiative promotes youth leadership, gender equality, and inclusive decision-making, and serves as a model for other municipalities in Lebanon.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3586>



EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING HOLIDAYS (VEFP) Khombole, Senegal

The Educational and Vocational Training Holidays (VEFP) is a program by the Khombole Town Council aimed at improving youth employability and skills. Launched with over 80 participants, the program offers practical training in response to market needs, with a strong focus on women and youth aged 15-25. It has boosted self-confidence and employment prospects, and is now a recurring part of the municipality's development plan, inspiring other communities to adopt a similar model.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3507>

EUROPEAN INTEGRATION UNIT: UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUTH OF LUSHNJA Lushnja, Albania

The "Unleashing the Potential of Youth of Lushnja" project, supported by the European Union, led to the creation of the Multifunctional Youth Center in Lushnje, Albania. This initiative transformed youth engagement by providing a space for education, creativity, and participation in decision-making through the Local Youth Council. It has empowered young people, fostered community cohesion, and promoted activities such as coding, painting, and environmental projects, significantly enhancing the town's social and cultural life.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3599>

STRENGTHENING SPACES FOR THE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE THROUGH WOMEN'S COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORKS Manabí Province, Ecuador



The project "Phase Two: Strengthening Spaces for the Prevention and Response to Gender-Based Violence" aims to transform the support and care for women facing violence. It established 14 comprehensive care centers providing psychological, legal, social, and medical support, and strengthened women's community support networks for resilience. The project also included community-based psychosocial interventions and promoted new masculinities to prevent violence and promote gender equality, ultimately fostering women's economic autonomy and social transformation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3528?locale=en>



GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN THE FAMILY CONTEXT

Marracuene Municipal Village, Mozambique

The project focuses on addressing the challenges faced by women, especially the poor and vulnerable, in areas like political participation, water, and food security. It emphasizes the importance of integrating Women, Peace, and Security programs into urban and rural planning, where women and girls are central to decision-making and solutions. The initiative also highlights the role of civil society and local organizations in advocating for women's rights and resilience.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3534>

“MENSTRUATION: THIS IS WHAT WE TALK ABOUT”

Morón, Argentina

The program aimed to educate participants about menstrual health, addressing taboos and misconceptions, and promoting body comfort. It revealed a lack of knowledge on the menstrual cycle and raised awareness about issues like menstrual pain and the need for gynecological check-ups. The program led to concrete outcomes, such as proposals for menstrual products in the 2024 Participatory Budget and the delivery of 123 workshops to 1800 participants, significantly contributing to social transformation, equality, and sustainability.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3571>

TABAL GASTRONOMY HOUSE

Niğde, Turkey

The Niğde Tabal Gastronomy House project in Turkey empowers disadvantaged women through culinary and entrepreneurship training, creating jobs and boosting local economic development. By preserving and promoting regional food heritage, it enhances Niğde's visibility as a gastronomic tourism hub. This initiative strengthens participatory democracy by fostering inclusive decision-making, community collaboration, and sustainable development through cultural identity and social equity.

SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN BASED ON DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Noepé, Ave 2, Togo

AVEDEC TOGO's program focuses on promoting citizen participation, especially for vulnerable groups like children and women. The initiative educates children in peace and acceptance, while addressing the lack of supportive environments for their success. It also empowers women by promoting leadership and raising awareness of their rights, aiming to foster a more inclusive and peaceful society with a positive impact on local governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3612>

MAKANI INNOVATION HUB: A CATALYST FOR COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INNOVATION

Ramallah Municipality, Palestinian Territory



The Makani Innovation Hub, launched by the Ramallah Municipality in 2024, supports startups, young entrepreneurs, and marginalized groups, including women, youth, and people with disabilities. Offering affordable co-working spaces and training facilities, it fosters economic growth and inclusivity. In its first three months, it hosted 162 participants, with 60% of them being women, and the hub has played a crucial role in promoting gender equality and local development. The hub also engages citizens in decision-making, reinforcing participatory democracy and sustainable growth.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3496>

RAMALLAH MUSIC SPACE

Ramallah Municipality, Palestinian Territory

The Ramallah Music Space, as part of the city's Music Hub, provides Palestinian musicians with a space to develop their skills, collaborate, and express themselves despite political and economic challenges. The initiative fosters local development by creating job opportunities, promoting music education, and supporting marginalized groups, including women and youth. It empowers artists to use music for advocacy and community engagement while preserving Palestinian cultural identity and contributing to economic sustainability.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3549>

ACCESSIBLE SERVICE IN SALVADOR

Salvador, Brazil



The Accessible Service in Salvador, developed by the Directorate of Policies for People with Disabilities (DPCD), aimed to integrate and expand accessible public policies for people with disabilities (PWD). Key actions included the creation of the Communication Accessibility Center (CACS), accessibility guides for employees and services, and the development of the Municipal Plan for People with Disabilities (PMPCD) through community participation. The initiative also addressed gender issues, focusing on the challenges faced by mothers of PWDs in areas such as employment and education.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3586>

CON NOSOTRAS (WITH US) San Luis Potosí, Mexico

"WITH US" is a gender equality program in San Luis Potosí, launched in October 2024, aimed at reducing inequalities and preventing violence against women. Key actions included training 4,294 brigade members, establishing 160 Violet Points in high-risk areas, and creating community murals to strengthen local identity. The program successfully empowered women, built support networks, and integrated gender equality into municipal policies, ensuring the continuation and sustainability of the initiative in 2025.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3506>

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL Torres Vedras, Portugal

The Children's Council of Torres Vedras empowers children to actively participate in transforming the city, using play as a tool for research, expression, and social change. Through two phases—co-creation of the council and the "City of Children" transformation—children co-create solutions, promote inclusivity, and engage in concrete actions to improve public spaces. This initiative has fostered active citizenship, increased autonomy, and a stronger sense of belonging, positioning Torres Vedras as a leader in children's participatory governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3591>

PARTICIPATORY BUDGET Yashnabad District, Uzbekistan

The project aims to expand educational opportunities for visually impaired and low-vision individuals by producing Braille books, ensuring equal access to textbooks, literary works, and information. This initiative promotes the right to education, fosters societal integration, and empowers individuals with disabilities to actively participate and contribute to their communities.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/299/proposals/3543>





CATEGORY ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND ENVIRONMENT



CATEGORY ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND ENVIRONMENT

STRENGTHENING CITIZEN PARTICIPATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AREAS

Benslimane, Morocco

In the In Slaiman region, participatory governance engaged citizens, especially youth, women, and farmers, to address socio-economic issues and promote sustainable agriculture. Through workshops and WhatsApp feedback, over 1,000 people contributed to shaping local policies and strengthening collaboration between authorities and communities. However, challenges remain in securing sustainable funding and maintaining rural participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3476?locale=en>

DRIP IRRIGATION PIPE PRODUCTION

Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey

This project in Turkey aims to support farmers by providing grants for drip irrigation pipes, promoting modern agricultural techniques to reduce costs and improve water efficiency. The pipes are produced using 100% recycled plastic waste in a newly established facility, with an annual production capacity of 7,600 km for flat pipes and 28,500 km for round pipes. This initiative helps reduce input costs for farmers while encouraging environmental sustainability through recycling.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3610>

“HOUSE OF FRIENDS WHO BUY, USE, AND DON’T THROW AWAY”

Cartagena de Indias, Colombia

The “Casa de Amigos que Compra, Usa y No Tira” initiative is a community-driven exchange model where people trade recyclable materials for goods and services, creating jobs and raising environmental awareness. Initially targeting vulnerable groups, it expanded to include young adults and women, promoting handicrafts and economic autonomy. The project uses fixed and mobile Eco-shops, and its success has been supported by a network of local actors, promoting sustainability, social inclusion, and circular economy strategies.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3518>



PROJECT FOR DEVELOPING ECO-FRIENDLY COOLING TECHNOLOGIES IN URBAN AREAS

Casablanca, Morocco

The “Sustainable Agriculture Improvement in the Ibn Suleiman Region” project, launched in 2010, trained over 500 farmers in smart irrigation and sustainable farming techniques to improve climate resilience and food security. The initiative boosted agricultural productivity by 30% and reduced water consumption by 25%, while promoting participatory democracy through community involvement in decision-making and fostering sustainable agricultural policies.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3604>



CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT FOR ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

Dougia, Chad

The “Raising Awareness of Ecological Transition and Reforestation in Dougia” project, launched in 2023, trained local farmers, herders, and community members in tree planting and sustainable land management. The initiative reached around 30,000 people, fostering better dialogue between farmers, herders, and local authorities while promoting environmental protection. Despite funding challenges, the project strengthened participatory democracy by involving diverse community groups, including women and youth, in environmental decision-making.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3605?locale=en>

FROM CASSAVA PROCESSING TO IMPROVING THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT BY PROTECTING AND REHABILITATING THE LAGOON BANKS AND GREEN SPACES

Cocody, Ivory Coast

The “Women Atchans Association of the 6 Villages of Cocody” project focuses on improving living conditions and environmental protection in Cocody, addressing hygiene and pollution issues linked to cassava production. The project trains 100 young people, mainly women, in gardening and environmental management, with a focus on replanting mangroves and transforming the Attiéké production process to be more ecological. This initiative enhances the local environment, creates job opportunities, and contributes to the sustainable development of the Cocody commune.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3485>



CARING FOR THE PARAMOS, PROTECTING THE WATER: A PATH TOWARDS ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION IN COTOPAXI

Cotopaxi Province, Ecuador

The “Caring for the Paramos, Protecting the Water” project in Cotopaxi focuses on boosting the sustainable production of mortiño wine while promoting environmental conservation and water protection. Over 100 families, particularly women and the elderly, have benefited through job creation and income generation, with a focus on ecological tourism and capacity-building. The project combines local economic development with conservation efforts, becoming a model of sustainability and citizen participation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3509>

ASSOCIATION MAROCAINE MOBADARA

Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra, Morocco

In the Laâyoune-Sakia El Hamra region, in the heart of the Moroccan Sahara, the Mobadara association plays an essential role in local social and economic development. The organisation works to empower young people, promote education and encourage the social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Through training workshops, awareness campaigns and volunteering initiatives, Mobadara strengthens the fabric of regional associations.

RECYCLING AND TRANSFORMATION OF WASTE INTO PLASTIC ART

Lomé, Commune de Golfe 2, Togo

The project aims to address environmental pollution and unemployment by recycling and transforming waste into art, focusing on plastic and other materials. It combines circular economy principles with eco-art, creating jobs for local artists and craftsmen while raising awareness about sustainable waste management. Partners include NEEMBA and FENAPAV-Togo, and the initiative promotes environmental responsibility among businesses, particularly in waste sorting and composting.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3520?locale=en>

PLANTING RESILIENCE - NURSERY PLANT PRODUCTION

Manabí Province, Ecuador

The “Planting Resilience” project, initiated in 2020 by GAD Provincial of Manabí, focuses on reforestation to combat deforestation and water scarcity. It has restored 1,000 hectares of land, benefiting over 1.5 million people by improving water quality and biodiversity. Through community engagement, environmental education, and collaboration, it has strengthened local capacities and influenced public policies on climate resilience and ecosystem conservation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3526?locale=en>

CLIMATE ASSEMBLIES ((RE)SURGENTES) OF THE CITY OF MAR DEL PLATA

Mar del Plata, Argentina



The Mar del Plata Climate Assembly engaged a randomly selected group of citizens in a deliberative process to address climate change, as part of the (Re)surgentes project. Participants, after training on climate issues, collaborated in working groups to create proposals for the city's Climate Action Plan, focusing on communication, waste management, and climate emergency prevention. The process strengthened participatory democracy and fostered a strong commitment to sustainable solutions in the community.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3572>

SAVING KAN – A LOVE STORY IN ORMOC BAY

Ormoc City, The Philippines



Ormoc City's Marine Mammal and Reptile Rehabilitation Center (OMMRRC) was established in 2017 after rescuing a green sea turtle named Kan. Since then, it has rehabilitated 40 endangered marine animals and gained support from 77 partner organizations. Recognized as one of the Philippines' Top 10 Outstanding Local Governance Programs in 2024, the center is expanding with a new on-shore facility and diagnostic center, reinforcing its mission to protect marine life and promote environmental stewardship.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3503>





GREENER NEIGHBORHOODS

Posadas, Argentina



The Greener Neighborhoods Program in Posadas focuses on enhancing the city's green infrastructure through community collaboration. In 2024, 15 neighborhood green spaces were transformed by planting 723 trees and adding substrate and chips to improve soil quality and tree survival rates, with 85% survival in the first year. This participatory initiative not only reduces temperatures and boosts biodiversity but also promotes urban forestry, with plans to expand to over 35% of neighborhood green spaces by 2025.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3597>

CLIMATE CENTER

Póvoa de Varzim, Portugal



The Climate Center of Póvoa de Varzim, established in 2023, fosters citizen participation in climate action through initiatives engaging over 1,500 people. It played a key role in developing the Municipal Climate Action Plan and has become a driving force for local sustainability strategies. By integrating scientific research, hands-on projects, and participatory governance, it ensures long-term community-led solutions and sets a model for collaborative climate resilience.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3596>

REFORESTA GUAYAS

Guayas Province, Ecuador

Reforesta Guayas is a participatory reforestation initiative that has planted over 235,500 native trees since 2023, engaging communities, farmers, companies, and local governments. It integrates urban greening, ecosystem restoration, and productive systems, aiming to plant 506,000 trees by 2027. The project strengthens environmental protection and sustainability in Guayas through strategic forest nurseries and broad stakeholder collaboration.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3538?locale=en>

RECYCLABLE WASTE MANAGEMENT - ENGAGING AND CITIZENS IN SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Roskovec, Albania

The Roskovec Municipality's waste management project improved solid waste disposal by introducing composting for green and cardboard waste, making it the second municipality in Albania to implement this practice. It reduced waste treatment costs, generated municipal revenue for farmer investments, and created jobs. Through public engagement and education, the initiative enhanced waste separation, gained national recognition, and modernized local environmental services.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3578>

NEUMATÓN SALTA, USED TIRE ELIMINATION PROGRAM

Salta, Argentina

Neumatón Salta is a participatory initiative addressing environmental and public health issues in Salta, Argentina, focusing on the recycling of used tires to combat the dengue outbreak. The program, which involved local and regional cooperation, encouraged citizens to exchange tires for rewards like museum tickets or discounts, helping recycle 608 tons of tires. The initiative engaged thousands of people, including municipal employees and local businesses, and contributed to the local circular economy, receiving widespread public support.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3550?locale=en>

ENVIRONMENTAL PROMOTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

Santa Fe, Argentina

Santa Fe de la Vera Cruz's Environmental Promotion and Education Program engaged 150 institutions to raise awareness on waste management, circular economy, and biodiversity, fostering cultural change. It introduced waste separation in municipal buildings, benefiting 800 employees, and ensured recyclables were properly processed. The program also adopted the "Yolanda Law" for mandatory environmental training of public servants, strengthening sustainable policymaking.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3568>



SEMEANDO NEGÓCIOS - FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

São Paulo, Brazil

The “Semeando Negócios” project, a partnership between Ade Sampa and the Municipal Secretariat for International Relations, aims to support small agricultural producers in São Paulo's southern region by improving property management and formalizing agricultural activities. The project focuses on local economic development, income generation, rural tourism, and ecological preservation, while enhancing access to public policies and strengthening the region's agricultural sector.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3573>

AKHAMM AMAZIGH ASSOCIATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY

Tounfit Region, Morocco

The Akhamm Amazigh Association is launching an environmental awareness project in Tounfit and Sidi Yahya Youssef to preserve the region's natural resources, especially the cedar tree. The project, running from January to August 2025, aims to engage 25,000 residents, focusing on youth and women, through campaigns, workshops, and modern communication tools. It seeks to promote sustainable practices, empower the community, and address climate change, with an emphasis on long-term environmental and social impact.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3570>

UNITED FOR VIÑA - PARTICIPATORY DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT AND CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Viña del Mar, Chile

The participatory risk co-management project in Viña del Mar involves the community in activities such as cleaning sand traps, repairing firebreaks, and weeding to prevent risks like forest fires. By engaging local residents, university volunteers, and municipal officials in collaborative, environmentally respectful work, the project fosters awareness and responsibility for disaster risk prevention and promotes cooperation between civil society and public institutions. This initiative helps protect natural areas while addressing the community's specific needs.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/300/proposals/3489>



CATEGORY CIVIC TECH



CATEGORY CIVIC TECH

“CERESITO” THE CHATBOT OF THE CERES CITY GOVERNMENT Ceres City Government, Argentina

Ceresito is the first municipal chatbot in Ceres, developed to improve communication between citizens and the local government through WhatsApp. Launched in April 2024, it provides easy access to information and services, handling over 5,000 conversations. The tool enhances transparency, administrative efficiency, and citizen participation, especially for vulnerable groups. With future updates planned, it serves as a model for other municipalities, promoting participatory democracy and modernization.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3483?locale=en>

SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE Salta, Argentina

IDEMSA is a geospatial data infrastructure initiative in Salta, launched in 2020, aimed at providing accessible, reliable information to improve transparency and efficiency in public management. It offers platforms like the IDEMSA Viewer, with 182 thematic layers covering various topics, enabling better decision-making and citizen participation. The system promotes administrative modernization and collaboration with local organizations, strengthening participatory democracy and transparency in municipal governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3553>

FASH PLATFORM Mashhad Municipality, Iran

The Mashhad Municipality FASH Platform, launched in 2020, aims to enhance transparency and citizen participation in urban management by providing easy access to information on projects, budgets, and contracts. The platform has improved public trust, empowered citizens, and reduced corruption, influencing policies and boosting public involvement in decision-making. Despite challenges like limited resources, the initiative serves as a model for transparent governance and encourages ongoing citizen engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3487>

PUBLIC POLICY EVALUATION AS A MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY TOOL IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF MATO GROSSO

Mato Grosso, Brazil

The state of Mato Grosso implemented a public policy evaluation process, using technology to enhance governance and transparency. Through tools like management dashboards, AI chatbots, and a unified portal, the state improved data accessibility, enabling better citizen engagement and accountability. This approach strengthens public management, promotes transparency, and fosters greater social participation in policy evaluation.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3580>

CITIZENS' CONVENTION "MONTPELLIER IN THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ERA"

Montpellier, France

The "Citizens' Convention on Artificial Intelligence (AI)" in Montpellier engaged 40 diverse residents to shape the future of AI in public services. Over four weekends, participants made recommendations on AI's role in areas like security and mobility, which were adopted into the Metropolis' AI strategy. This initiative promoted inclusivity, transparency, and citizen-driven policymaking, setting a new standard for participatory governance in AI.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3512>

COMPASS IS DIGITAL PARTICIPATION! "NILÜFER NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEES"

Nilüfer, Turkey



The "Compass is Digital Participation: Nilüfer Neighborhood Committees" in Turkey represent a pioneering model for digital democracy, engaging citizens in local elections and decision-making via a mobile app. This initiative brings together diverse community members to address local issues and influence the city's strategic plans, creating a direct link between citizens and municipal governance. The committees have successfully addressed various community concerns, from educational rights to environmental issues, setting an example for participatory governance.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3589>

DIGITAL HACKATHON FOR YOUNG INNOVATORS

Río Grande Municipality, Argentina

The Digital Hackathon Río Grande, launched in 2022, fosters collaboration among students, mentors, and the community to develop technological solutions for local challenges. Through a public voting process, citizens directly participate in selecting finalist projects, promoting participatory democracy. The event has strengthened youth skills, empowered educators, and driven innovation, positioning technology as a key pillar for local development and community engagement.

More info: <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2025/f/301/proposals/3477>



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