



Year 2020

Management Report



International Observatory on
Participatory Democracy





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INTRODUCTION

In November 2001, the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy was set up within the framework of the European Commission's decentralised cooperation projects. Since then, the network of local governments, municipal bodies, research centres and civil society organisations that make up the IOPD has broadened its membership, creating new meeting spaces and deepening reflection and knowledge exchange on participatory democracy.

The technical secretariat of the OI DP has been provided by Barcelona City Council since the network's creation. Since 2006, the OI DP has been working in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) through an agreement for the operation and maintenance of the Technical Secretariat of the OI DP network.

The Technical Secretariat has worked to position the IOPD as a global reference centre for the production of innovative knowledge and to consolidate it as a space for the exchange of experiences of participatory democracy at the global level.

The year 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which modified the IOPD's work plan, postponing the annual conference and other activities. Despite this, the IOPD secretariat continued to work within the UCLG World secretariat as a reference space on local participatory democracy at the global level.

Due to these circumstances, we have organised this management report to present first the activities prior to the impact of the pandemic and then the work of the rest of the year.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

On 22 January the first ordinary meeting of the year of the coordination committee, formed by the co-presidencies (Iztapalapa and Cocody), the general secretariat (Barcelona) and the promoting members (Grenoble, Montreal and Valongo) was held to approve the documents for the 2019 conference and the 2020 work plan.

TECHNICAL VISIT TO ABIDJAN



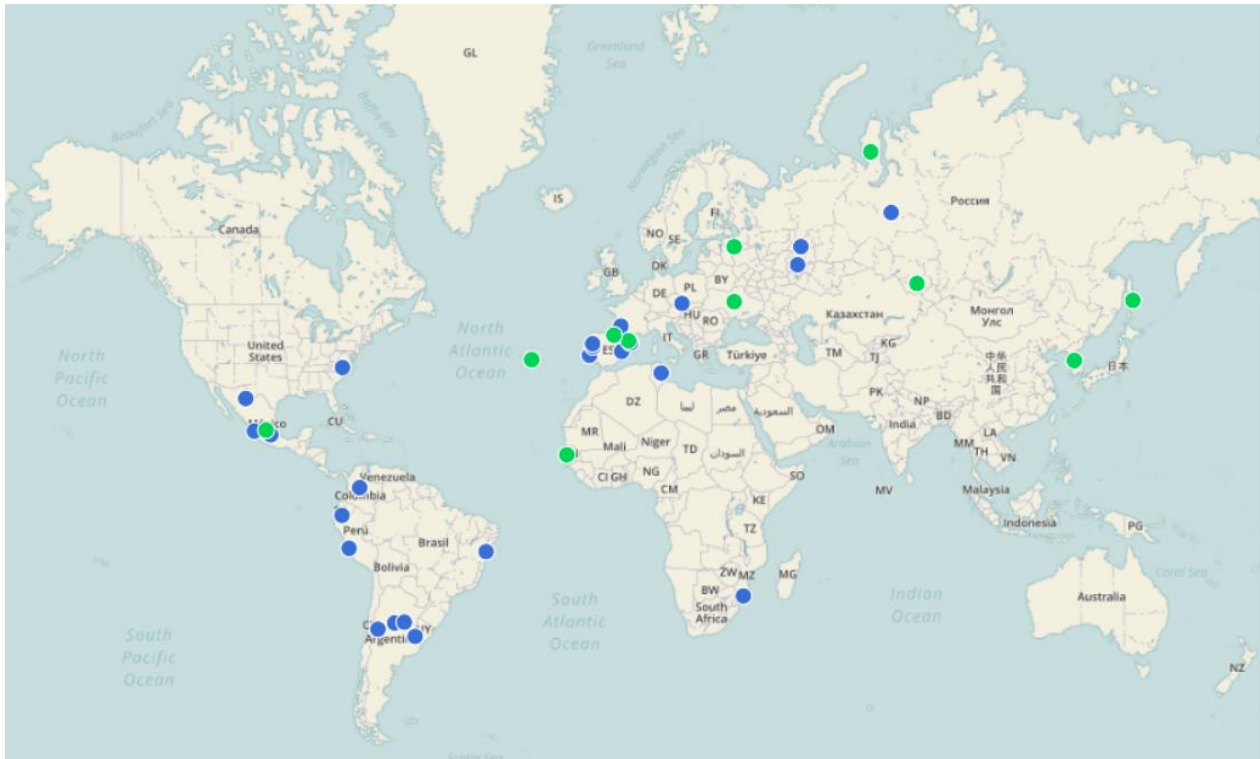
A [technical visit to Abidjan](#) took place between 27 and 31 January to prepare the 2020 conference. The coordinator of the technical secretariat, Adrià Duarte, travelled to the host city of the conference to meet with teams from the Cocody municipal council, relevant Ivorian ministries, as well as potential partners such as UN-Women, the Belgian and the EU embassy, among others. The proposed conference venues were also visited.

14th AWARD BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

On 23 January 2020, the IOPD opened the [call for applications](#) for the 14th Award. After an extraordinary extension due to the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic, the deadline was 24 March at 12:00 GMT. A total of 39 nominations from 17 countries were submitted via the [ParticipateOIDP](#) platform in French, Spanish and English, thanks to the translation assistance of the Technical Secretariat.

The [initial peer-review phase](#), aimed at giving visibility to all proposals and collecting feedback from members on all submitted practices, allowed ParticipateOIDP registered members to comment on the proposals, ask questions and cast 3 votes before 16 April.

On the following page, you can find out the geographical distribution of all the proposals submitted to the evaluation phase.



The top 21 nominations (the most voted 50%) were selected as finalists ([see the complete list here](#)) and were submitted to the international jury, selected following a [public call for nominations](#) on 29 April. The jury, composed of 10 experts in the field of citizen participation, evaluated the experiences of the finalists on the basis of the criteria set out in the [terms of the Award](#). You will find below a brief description of the members of this edition:

- Cristina Bloj: Professor of Social Anthropology and researcher at the National University of Rosario. Consultant at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC/United Nations).
- Andrew Coulson: Senior promoter of community participation in Australia.
- Bruno de Andrade: Assistant Professor at the UNESCO Chair of Heritage and Values (Heritage and Architecture Section), Faculty of Architecture and Built Environment, TU Delft.
- Larissa G. de Magalhães: Postdoctoral Research Associate at CyberBRICS, Getúlio Vargas Foundation. Senior Consultant in Public Policy, Internet Governance, Open Data and Open Government.
- Amanda Flety: Coordinator of UCLG's Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.
- Bruno Kaufmann: President of the World Forum for Modern Direct Democracy.
- Josh Lerner: Co-Executive Director of People Powered
- Florence Nda Konan: international consultant on territorial social development, gender, human rights, children's rights and citizen participation.

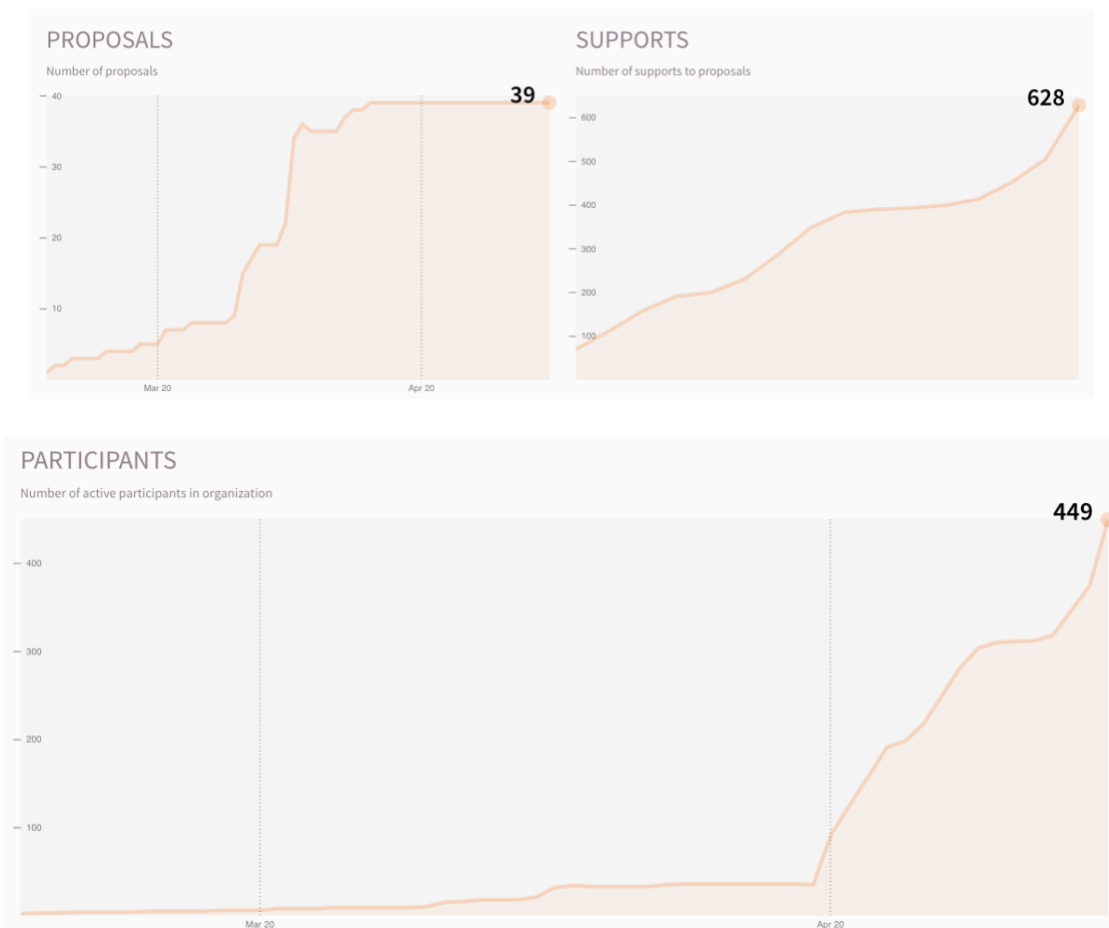


- Fernando Pindado: adviser and consultant on public policy, community action and citizen participation. Secretary General of the IOPD 2016-2019.
- Katharina Zügel: Co-director of Décider ensemble.

On the basis of the scores awarded by the jury, the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires received the distinction for the experience "[Play and Participate. When children are the protagonists of urban planning](#)". Five other cities/regions received special mentions, including "Gender Perspective" and "Climate Change". The [distinguished cities](#) were the following:

- Participatory Rural Budget, Cuenca, Ecuador
- Gender Mainstreaming Strategy for Citizen Participation, Catalonia
- Citizen Guardians, Chihuahua
- Esplugues Participa: Guaranteeing Inclusion, Esplugues de Llobregat
- Humanising the Budgeting Process, Durham

The rest of the finalists' nominations are available in the "[experiences](#)" section of our website. Here are some key facts about participating in the selection process:





WORLD URBAN FORUM

The [10th World Urban Forum](#) was held from 8 to 13 February in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, with the participation of more than 13,000 people from 168 countries. The event was organized and convened by UN-Habitat under the theme "Cities of Opportunity: Connecting Culture and Innovation". 500 participants from all regions of the world met on 8 February at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments organised by the Global Taskforce. 50 speakers from local, regional, national governments and other stakeholders debated, shared and presented experiences, proposals and solutions in six thematic roundtables.



The IOPD organised and actively participated in the following sessions, emphasising the message of the importance of citizen participation and the localisation of SDGs for their effective implementation:

- City governance, culture and localisation of the SDG.
- Participatory practices and the right to the city at the heart of urban innovation
- Integrating climate change adaptation into participatory budgeting practices
- Implementing SDG 11 and the new urban agenda through participatory budgeting

The [Declaration of the 20th World Urban Forum](#) by the World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities was based on all the discussions that took place. Participants stated that national and global representatives must work together with local governments to create a more inclusive, humane, cultural, democratic and sustainable society for citizens, and therefore encourage and support multi-level and collaborative action.

UCLG RETREAT

The [6th edition of the UCLG Retreat and Campus](#) took place in Tangier, Morocco, from 24 to 28 February. It was an opportunity to build on the strength of the global network of local governments and to continue the collaborative work and achievements of recent years, focusing on joint planning and co-creation of the organisation in the decade of localisation. Particular emphasis was placed on creating synergies through the Waves of Action and the formation of Local4Action Hubs.

The IOPD had the opportunity to facilitate a session on local democracy. Adrià Duarte, coordinator of the IOPD, led this session on Tuesday 25, together with Djamel Sandid (Municipality of Nanterre, France and FALP), Sylvain Boka (Municipality of Cocody, Ivory Coast), Javier Ayala mayor of Fuenlabrada (UCLG Community of practice on transparency and open government), Xolile George (CEO of SALGA), Elisenda Balleste Buxo (International IDEA) and Carola Gunnarsson mayor of Sala and UCLG vice-president for Europe.



The IOPD also showed its involvement in the #UN75 campaign launched during the retreat and on the UCLG campus to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and invite local governments and civil society to reflect on the future of the world.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY



As a network of local and regional governments, actors and representatives of civil society working to promote participatory democracy, the IOPD is actively involved in the struggle for women's rights. The IOPD and its members have made gender issues in local participation one of the priorities of the 2020 work plan. On the occasion of [International Women's Day](#), Clara Brugada, IOPD Co-

President and Mayor of Iztapalapa (Mexico), issued a [statement](#) to show her commitment to the eradication of gender-based violence for an egalitarian society, of which local governments and civil society are key.

In the framework of the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration, the IOPD joined the activities organised throughout the week of 8 to 13 March by the organisation United Cities and Local Governments.

On this occasion, UCLG issued a [statement](#) in which mayors, representatives of local and regional governments and associations reiterated their commitment to the implementation and promotion of the priorities for action for a just, equal and safe society.



COVID-19 SPECIAL

As of 16 March, the UCLG world secretariat team, including the IOPD secretariat, started working remotely due to the state of emergency decreed by the COVID-19 pandemic. On 26 March, an extraordinary meeting of the IOPD Coordination Committee (Iztapalapa, Cocody, Barcelona, Grenoble, Montreal and Valongo) was held, during which it was agreed to postpone the 20th IOPD Conference to 2021, and to try to respect the work plan as much as possible.



The Technical Secretariat organised a compilation of experiences, publications and solidarity and participation initiatives that have emerged in the context of the pandemic. This special section was entitled "[Facing isolation, citizens strength their solidarity](#)", based on the contributions of members and the work of the technical secretariat.

First of all, the special section includes a page dedicated to "[Cooperation experiences between civil society and local/regional governments](#)" geolocated from many countries, including initiatives from our promoting cities, such as "Barcelona des de casa" or "Grenoble Voisins Voisins".

On the other hand, a section for [relevant documents/articles](#) was activated, organised in different categories: the impact on elections around the world, local/regional governance and the right to the city (media), local/regional governance and the right to the city (institutional), democracy, the right to information and participation, citizen solidarity and community organisations, reflections/future and other compilations and resources. Some figures on the COVID-19 special on our website:

2,088 visits to the main page in 9 months

978 visits to the resources section

674 visits to the experiences section

In parallel, the [Cities for Global Health](#) initiatives, co-led by Metropolis and the Euro-Latin American Alliance for Cooperation between Cities, AL-LA, and [Live Learning Experience: Beyond the immediate response to the outbreak](#), developed by UCLG with the support of UN-Habitat and Metropolis, completed the coverage of the local response to the pandemic.

LIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE: LOCAL DEMOCRACY



On Thursday 18 June, the [session on local democracy](#) took place in the framework of the Live Learning Experiences, organised by UCLG, Metropolis and UN-Habitat. It addressed the impact of the pandemic on local democracies from different angles, such as human rights or the risk of increased recentralisation or authoritarianism.

The session brought together local and regional elected officials and experts from around the world to demonstrate their political commitment to local decision-making in order to fulfil their role as drivers of change. The solidarity, local democracy and protection of common goods demonstrated by local and regional authorities will be essential in rethinking our societies in the aftermath of the pandemic. Here are the interventions of our promoter cities:

- Pascal Clouaire, Deputy Mayor of Grenoble, presented the actions they have put in place to maintain and deepen local and participatory democracy since the beginning of the pandemic thanks to online tools: participatory budgets through videoconferences with project leaders, citizen collaboration platform, etc.
- Laia Bonet, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, stressed the value of democracies over populism, since the former combat inequalities, guarantee the rights of the entire population and protect the most vulnerable, such as women and the LGBTQ community, in the face of the lack of services.



- Nelly Ouassenan, Deputy Mayor of Cocody, Abidjan, was proud that in Cocody, the pandemic has served to strengthen local democracy, because they understood that to fight against the former, one cannot do without the latter.
- José Manuel Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo, focused his intervention on the need to resist and avoid the fear that emerges more than ever from the current situation: on the one hand, cities and their inhabitants must resist physical, mental and democratic problems, but also previous problems such as inequalities.

The session gathered the assessments of many other experts and local politicians: Emilia Saiz (Secretary General of UCLG), Thembisile Nkadimeng (Mayor of Polokwane, President of SALGA and Co-President of UCLG), Amalinda Savirani (Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia), Annika Silva-Leander (Head of Democracy Assessment and Political Analysis at International IDEA), Octavi de la Varga (Secretary General of Metropolis), Elkin Velásquez (UN-Habitat Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean), Johnny Araya (Mayor of San José and Co-President of UCLG), Carola Gunnarsson (Mayor of Sala and UCLG Vice-President for Europe), Paola Pabón (Prefect of Pichincha), Valérie Dumontet (Vice-President of Aude), Camilo Romero (former Governor of Nariño and winner of the ODP 2019 "Best Practice in Citizen Participation" award, Imen Ouardani (Deputy Mayor of Sousse), Edwin Miño (Executive Director of CONGOPE), Emilio Jatón (Mayor of Santa Fe), Shi Qi (Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the city of Xi'an) and Gennady Ryabov (President of the Public Chamber of the city of Nizhny Novgorod).

CHALLENGES OF PARTICIPATION WITH THE IECM

The International Forum on the Challenges of Citizen Participation, organised by the Electoral Institute of Mexico (IECM), was held on 29 and 30 June 2020 under the title "[The Challenges of Citizen Participation, in Innovative Patterns and Extraordinary Contexts](#)".

The first day of the forum, moderated by electoral adviser Mauricio Huesca Rodriguez, was attended by the rector of the Autonomous University of Mexico (UACM), Tania Hogla Rodriguez Mora, and the co-president of the World Forum on Modern Direct Democracy, Bruno Kaufmann.

The second day, moderated by electoral adviser Carolina del Angel Cruz, was entitled "Modalities of participation, conceptions and new forms of virtual participation". It was attended by the national coordinator of the slowU initiative of the School of Humanities and Education of the Tec de Monterrey, David Gómez Abad, the academic, the researcher from the Autonomous University of Baja California, Alejandra Leonor Salado Íñiguez, and the coordinator of the technical secretariat of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy, Adrià Duarte Griño, who presented the Local Democracy Agenda structured around seven fundamental axes of participation : local





democracy as an ecosystem; inclusion; common goods, empowerment of communities and citizens; digital infrastructures; evaluation of policies and programmes; local autonomy and relations with other levels; and strategic plans for the improvement of democratic quality.

On citizen participation in the COVID-19 period, Adrià Duarte pointed out that the necessary physical distance should not be a social one, and that this step derived from the pandemic cannot be an excuse to weaken democracy.

NEW IDENTITY, REVAMPED WEBSITE

The Technical Secretariat worked with several suppliers to update the IOPD's image and the Observatory's website. The [new identity](#) retains the global and multicultural essence of the IOPD as reflected in the organisation's colours, but conveys it in a more simplified manner. In addition, a new visual language is created through multiple symbols that represent the main activities of the Observatory.

The new logo, image and website are part of the communication strategy aimed at sharing and effectively disseminating the contents on which the Observatory is working. The website is regularly updated with news on the activities of the Observatory and its members, sharing publications and experiences of interest.

Beyond the website, the Technical Secretariat sends a monthly newsletter to members and subscribers using the Mailchimp platform and actively uses social media profiles on Facebook and Twitter. Here are some key figures on our communication channels:

- Website [oidp.net](#):

27,318 visits

67,347 pages seen

3,960 downloads

- Twitter account [@oidpoidp](#)

5,240 followers on 22 January 2021

More data about @oidpoidp, see the annex.

- Facebook account

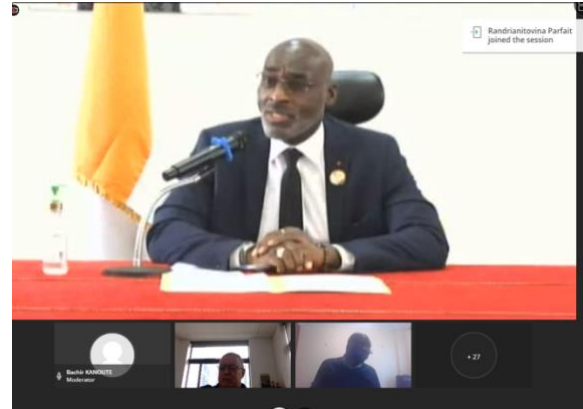
1,835 likes

2,006 page followers



IOPD-AFRICA'S WEBINARS

The [launching webinar](#) on 14 July brought together partner institutions and authorities representing the different sub-regions of Africa. Interventions and testimonies from IOPD members and local authority representatives were presented in round tables and open debate with the public. Participants were invited to participate in the seminar by providing their contribution in English or French.



Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, Oumar Sylla, Acting Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa, Luc Doray, Secretary General of the Montreal Public Consultation Office, Bleue Régine, Mayor of Ngomedzap and Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen and Minata S. Cessouma, Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union were present. Modération was in charge of Bachir Kanouté, Executive Director of Enda ECOPOP and Coordinator of the ODP-Africa.

Following this event, five other webinars were organised, one for each of the African sub-regions, bringing together elected officials, decentralised services, civil society organisations and researchers.

CLIMATE CHANGE SPECIAL

The last IOPD General Assembly established climate change and the ecological transition as a thematic priority from the perspective of citizen participation. In addition to the sessions on this issue, the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy published in September the study "[Contributions of Participatory Budgeting to Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation](#)" coordinated by Professor Yves Cabannes (The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London).

The study is based on the summaries, exchanges and contributions of two international sessions on participatory budgeting and climate change adaptation and mitigation, such as the IOPD [Conference in Mexico City](#) (December 2019) and [the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi](#) (February 2020). It also builds on climate-friendly participatory budgeting initiatives in 15 participating cities and regions from different continents, which have willingly documented their ongoing experiences. The executive summary and the executive summary are available [here](#).



In addition, the IOPD has set up [a special website](#) in English, French and Spanish, dedicated to the intersection between climate action and citizen participation, which includes the experiences published on our website dedicated to climate action (SDG 13) and numerous digital resources, including a compilation of the agreements of international institutions, a specific section on the climate change spaces of the cities promoting the IOPD, and a series of press articles and publications related to this theme. Some figures on the climate change special on our website:

2,679 visits to Yves Cabannes’ study in **3 months** (18 September to 31 December)

1,071 downloads of the full document

441 visits to the Climate Change special in **just 10 days** (21 to 31 Dec)

PILOT PROJECT ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

Part of the celebration of World Metropolis Day, the first public meeting of the [pilot project on participatory democracy](#) led by the cities of Córdoba, Madrid, Barcelona and Montreal, co-organised by Metropolis and the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy, took place on 5 October.

The objective of this meeting was to reflect on the challenges of participation in large cities and metropolitan areas, as well as to share and exchange experiences of citizen participation and to disseminate lessons learned in order to promote the active participation of citizens in public affairs in the 4 cities, thus increasing institutional capacity.





The opening of the session on 5 October, organised by the Municipality of Córdoba, Argentina, was attended by the Secretary of Government, Miguel Siciliano, the Secretary of Planning, Modernisation and International Relations, Alejandra Torres, and the Secretary General of Metropolis, Octavi de la Varga, who made the main intervention on citizen participation in large metropolises. Each of the participating cities spoke to present the different initiatives in the field of participatory democracy that their governments are carrying out, in a round table moderated by IOPD coordinator Adrià Duarte.

On behalf of the city of Córdoba, the Undersecretary of Planning and Management for an Inclusive City, Liliana Montero, presented the map of the city's socio-economic and social infrastructures. On behalf of Barcelona City Council, Pau González Val, Councillor of the Department of Rights and Citizen Participation, explained the municipal participation system and the role of the Decidim platform in this system. Representing Madrid City Council, Sara Aranda, Director General of Citizen Participation, also explained that the processes underway are mainly based on the City Council's online platform. Representing Montreal, Luc Doray, Secretary General of the Public Consultation Office, explained the functioning of the entity, an independent office that ensures the effective realisation of the rights related to citizen participation. The day was also marked by the announcement of the winners of the IOPD's 14th distinction, due to the cancellation of the IOPD 2020 conference due to health contingencies.

The second day of the project, which took place on 6 October, brought together the technical teams from each city. The case of the Decidim platform and its experience in different contexts was studied in more detail. On the basis of this case, the challenges of digital participation were discussed in general terms, highlighting the need to combine it with face-to-face strategies and the strengthening of digital rights.

RENCONTRES NATIONALES DE LA PARTICIPATION



The [Rencontres Nationales de la Participation](#) took place from 19 to 23 October. The theme of the meeting was "Shaken out democracy", and it took place in Mulhouse, France in a blended format (distance and face-to-face), organised by the French think tank Décider ensemble. This is an annual meeting of professionals and non-professionals in the field of consultation. For three days,



decision-makers, experts, activists, practitioners and citizens explore the implications of participatory tools and mechanisms in today's and tomorrow's world.

After having been rescheduled due to the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting finally took place in Mulhouse (Grand Est), but was readjusted to comply with public health measures. The event was therefore adapted to remote participants, through the transmission of plenary sessions and round tables and the organisation of ad hoc online workshops open to the public.

The meeting was an opportunity to discuss the future after the Covid-19 crisis and how to co-construct tomorrow, drawing lessons from this exceptional situation. This year's theme was subdivided into 5 questions:

- What future after the health crisis? What kind of democratic renewal do we want?
- Democratic innovations: what are the tools of deliberation that strengthen participation? How are new technologies transforming relations in our society?
- Democracy in the territories: after municipal governments, what kind of renewal of participation? How can we co-construct transitions in the territories?
- Ecological and energy transition: can participation be a driving force in response to climate problems?
- Inclusion: what methods for an inclusive participation? How to involve the absent public and overcome divisions?

The International Observatory of Participatory Democracy took the opportunity to organise a meeting of French members, including the cities of Grenoble, Lyon, Bordeaux, Nanterre, Lille, Rennes and others, on 20 October to discuss the articulation of the French branch of the IOPD, to prepare future actions and to launch the organisation of the IOPD conference to be held in Grenoble in 2022, the year when the city will be the Green Capital of Europe.

Within the framework of these meetings, on 21 October the OIOP organised the workshop "Changing gender perspectives and fostering citizen participation" and offered coverage of two online workshops: "Ecological transition in cities", with a European perspective (interventions by the city councils of Edinburgh, Madrid and Poitiers) and "Participatory metropolises".

“PATHS TO FOLLOW” CONFERENCE

The [4th International Conference "Paths to Follow"](#) was held on 19 and 20 October in Valongo, the city promoting the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy. This event was part of a series of events organised in the framework of the European Local Democracy Week by the Council of Europe during the week of 15 October.

On Monday 19 October, the session "A Global World - Participation Networks and Financing Citizenship" was co-organised by the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy and moderated by Adrià Duarte (IOPD coordinator) and Nelson



Dias (Portugal Participa). On 20 October, the results of a research between cities from Spain, Portugal and France were presented during the session "Why do some people not participate?"

The research concluded that people who are reluctant to participate have a number of misconceptions about what the process involves and their role in it, such as the complexity of the process, which requires commitment and continuity, and budgets that they often see as insufficient and minor. On the other hand, the study found that those who participate in a timely manner do so mainly to submit proposals and vote. The study also identified some opportunities to improve the margins of participation in the processes:

- Improved communication and dissemination of the ongoing process.
- Creation of specialised technical teams
- Articulation with other participatory processes
- Strengthening information on achievements

COVID-19: LESSONS FOR DEMOCRACY

In order to advance the implementation of the Pact for the Future that UCLG agreed to develop at its last World Council in Guangzhou, [the #CitiesAreListening experience](#) that took place on 14 December addressed the renewal of local democracy, an integral aspect of the Pact, and how the lessons learned during the pandemic could enable us to implement the UCLG Decalogue for the post-COVID-19 era.

The event was organised in cooperation with the ICLD, in the framework of its Academy of Local Democracy, and was facilitated by UCLG, Metropolis, the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD) and UN-Habitat. The session built on the Live Learning Experience on local democracy held earlier in the year and brought together





stakeholders to discuss the impact of the pandemic on our democratic systems and what local and regional leaders can do to advance the renewal of local democracy in a way that leaves no one behind.

The session, introduced by IOPD coordinator Adrià Duarte and UCLG Secretary General Emilia Saiz and moderated by Ana María Vargas, Research Director of the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy, was attended by Anders Knape, President of the Swedish Association of Municipalities and Regions, Imen Ouadani, Deputy Mayor of Sousse and James Manor, Professor Emeritus of the School of Advanced Studies at the University of London.

Emilia Saiz took the opportunity of her intervention to share some reflections on the research carried out by UCLG with the London School of Economics and Political Science on governance initiatives in emergency situations in more than 50 local governments in 37 countries.

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The International Observatory of Participatory Democracy, as UCLG's consultative mechanism for local democracy, is committed to its strategy and work plan. We review some of the key elements in 2020:

- In April, the [Decalogue for the post-COVID-19](#), UCLG's political charter for times of crisis, based on the Durban Declaration and focusing on the commitment of local and regional governments to build a world of solidarity, was unveiled.
- In the aftermath of the health crisis, UCLG, together with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, launched the [Live Learning Experience](#) first-hand with local and regional governments who, through their solidarity and political will, are striving more than ever to fulfil their fundamental role. Fifteen sessions were organised, covering a wide range of topics, resulting in more than 40 hours of brainstorming with case studies from 130 cities and regions.
- In November, the [World Council](#) was held under the theme "The role of the international municipal and regional movement in the times of COVID". It brought together local and regional leaders and experts from around the world and agreed to develop the Pact for the Future.

The #CitiesAreListening experiment aims to advance the implementation of the Covenant for the Future and is currently underway. In addition to the session on local democracy, a session on migrant and displaced children and young people took place this month. Visit [UCLG's website](#) to keep up to date with the next sessions.

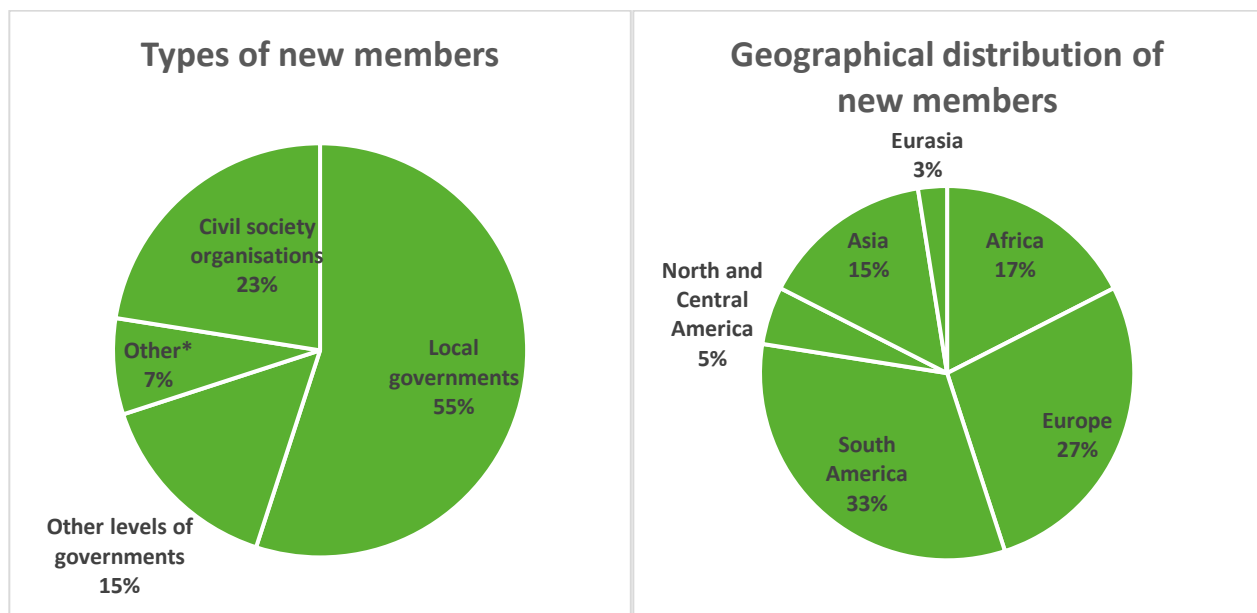
OUR NETWORK KEEPS GROWING

In 2020, the IOPD received dozens of applications for membership. In total, the Coordination Committee accepted 41 new members of all kinds (local governments, regional governments, associations, NGOs...) from more than 20 countries. Currently, the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy has more than 1,000 members. The complete list is available [here](#). On the next page you will find some key figures.



1,243 International Observatory on Participatory Democracy members

40 accepted members in 2020



* Research centres, international organisations, local associations

ANNEX: TWITTER ACCOUNT

The @oidpoipd Twitter account is, together with the web, our main channel of diffusion and communication. Below you will find more detailed information about our audience:

