

ECOD APPLICATION

# Barcelona

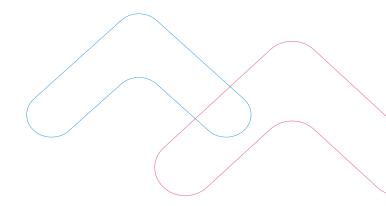
December 2022

# **Supporting Documents**



- > ECoD Compliance Guidelines
- > ECoD Confidentiality Agreement
- > ECoD Data Processing Agreement
- > ECoD Data Security Guidelines
- > Council resolution for participation

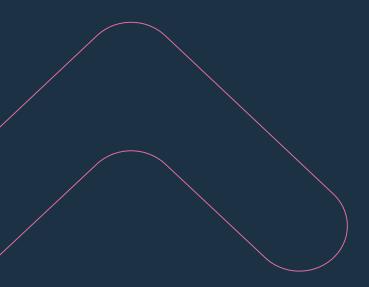
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#### **Mission Statement**

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### Democratic innovation for democratic city

Teaser

In a scenario of multiple crises and a quick transformation of society, democratic innovation presents itself as a necessary opportunity to provide collective responses. The challenges are: Redefining democracy, strengthening spaces for collaboration and cooperation between citizens and public authorities, through effective participation, is urgent. Innovating in the systems of deliberation, in mechanisms of collaboration and empowerment of society in the face of attempts at individualisation.

Summary

In a context of global uncertainty and social polarisation, democratic innovation is a great opportunity for cities. Exploring new models to build public policies together with citizens and strengthen the bonds of the communities that sustain the city is a priority to collectively face the great challenges of this decade: climate change, inequality, economic recession, technological change, etc.... At the same time, it is necessary to generate new possible democratic futures that empower (engage) citizens and involve and co-responsibilise society as a whole in public affairs. Barcelona has a long tradition of participation and a rich and active civil society in the city's major participatory processes. Over the last few years it has led numerous projects and initiatives with an enormous local and international impact, such as the decidim platform, the superblock project and the participatory budgets. But Barcelona not only wants to consolidate some of its main successes, it wants to go further. At a time when digital innovation allows us a great capacity for collecting and processing city data, we must be able to put this data and this knowledge at the service of citizens and participation in an open, fair and democratic way. We must assume and develop the challenge of opening and exploring new models of digital and in person deliberation, together with a virtuous deployment of participatory technologies, and the activation of different mechanisms for citizen collaboration, consolidating a comprehensive model of participation that makes Barcelona a democratic city. This is why Barcelona has managed to strengthen its participation mechanisms with a robust and innovative participation regulation, has opened permanent spaces for deliberation, has worked together with citizens on the city's strategy and its investments, and at the same time has opened numerous innovative initiatives such as the deliberative assembly by drawing lots for young people, the digital and democratic innovation laboratory, the decidim platform or the major processes of urban transformation that are the superblocks. Many actions have been carried out, but there is also a long way to go.



#### Summary

Following the guidelines of diversity, inclusion, accessibility and equal opportunities in political participation, it is essential to guarantee the right to participation by deploying the necessary actions to ensure that no one in the city is left behind as a mechanism to address the growing social inequalities. Moreover, taking advantage of the existing network of public spaces for the mediation of participation is an opportunity not only to strengthen the culture of participation but also to generate public resources at the service of citizens and civil society to help generate alliances and public-community collaboration processes that respond to the impact of the multiple crises that are already affecting the city today.

#### Democratic Ambitions

Through democratic innovation, Barcelona seeks greater participation, both quantitatively and qualitatively, in public affairs, as well as to empower citizens and strengthen their capacity for self-management and autonomy. At the same time, it seeks to increase trust in municipal government through a greater commitment to citizen participation and open processes, strengthening the ties between citizens and city government, and above all building, developing and deploying new mechanisms for collaboration, cooperation and public-community-citizen shared work. Democratic innovation does not reject what already exists, but rather builds on current social processes in a complementary way, recognising their legacy and trajectory in order to reinforce and expand them. Democratic innovation is not only public, it belongs to society as a whole. Democratic innovation is open and allows spaces for experimentation, trial and error method, to be generated in order to build a real democracy in the city. Innovation looks for greater participation, but it also seeks qualitative participation. Democratic innovation uses the potential of digital technologies as long as they are free, open and democratic. With the development of the decidim.barcelona platform, Barcelona has consolidated a model of open citizen participation, where fundamental rights such as transparency, traceability, privacy and accessibility are guaranteed, but it also constitutes a model of flexible participation that allows multiple participation needs to be channelled: proposals, debates, meetings, surveys, public consultations, citizen assemblies, citizen initiatives, voting, etc...

Decidim therefore also exports a model of participation. With the extension of decidim we seek to continue to expand the project's community on an international scale and that this platform continues to develop in an open and collaborative way. This is why we are not only using Decidim for large citizen participation processes such as participatory budgets focused on a very specific issue such as climate emergency, but we are also extending its technological development to strengthen collaboration between platforms in different cities, and specifically in the metropolitan area of Barcelona, so that through the federation of these platforms, shared participation spaces can be generated.



#### Democratic Ambitions

Finally, and to ensure maximum inclusion and accessibility to participation, we want to develop, from the network of more than 400 public facilities in the city (libraries, civic centres, neighbourhood centres, innovation laboratories...), points of support for citizen participation, mediation points for participation and meeting points for organised civil society, which strengthen community bonds and citizen cooperation to face many of the challenges that cities will have to take on in the coming decades.

#### Achieved Successes

In recent years Barcelona has consolidated its own participation platform decidim.barcelona, with more than 150,000 registered citizens. More than 3,800 in person meetings have been held: informative meetings, debate and deliberation sessions, workshops, etc, leaving a compilation for the city's memory and an account for all citizens, with all the documentation generated. These in person meetings have taken place in the neighbourhood councils, public hearings and specific the working sessions on participatory budgets. In this way, it's not surprising that 28,000 citizen proposals have been collected, 14,000 of which have been accepted by the City Council and incorporated into the different municipal actions, and of which it's been possible to monitor their implementation. Currently, more than 33,000 comments and arguments have been collected, 40,000 responses to surveys, highlighting the 250,000 supports given to the different proposals. This is a model of participation that has been consolidated in the city of Barcelona. The platform has made great leaps in quality with the city's major participatory processes such as the participatory budgets or the citizen assemblies. Recent participatory budgeting process has enabled massive participation in deciding major investment projects in the city's ten districts and mobilising civil society: schools, families, sports associations, neighbourhood associations and councils and sustainable mobility. It's also been a success the 1st Citizens' Assembly for young people, in which 100 Barcelona citizens btw 16 and 29 years, chosen by lottery, deliberated for 3 months on the main problems affecting them: mental health, education and emancipation (work and housing). This innovative process has succeeded in mobilising a wide range of young people who had never before participated in public affairs. In addition, the city of Barcelona has committed to implementing 20 of the 27 proposals made. Alongside these processes, multiple other participatory initiatives have been carried out over the last few years such as Barcelona superblock project It's also worth highlighting the effective response during the 1st months of the impact of the COViD-19 pandemic, where regular spaces for participation were maintained in digital format, through the Decidim platform. Finally, it's important to highlight the role of citizen initiatives and the online collection of signatures through decidim.barcelona, a mechanism that allows any citizen or organisation in the city to promote a proposal for the municipal plenary, a participatory process and even a citizen consultation. Furthermore, the Decidim platform has also been extended to social organisations for its internal democracy to NGOs, federations, cooperatives, schools, public facilities, etc., providing democratic IT services to the civil society rein-



#### Achieved Successes

forcing their democratic capacities and practices. The international impact of the Decidim platform is another success of the city; 450 instances in 30 countries, and more than 1.3 millions of people using the platform around the world. For this reason, Barcelona has not only contributed to improving participation in the city of Barcelona, but also participation on a global scale. Finally, and as a pioneering proposal, the Canòdrom: centre for digital and democratic innovation, was set up to develop projects, initiatives and research related to the intersection btw technology and democracy. This space hosts today more than 20 projects and 100 people working and researching processes of digital and democratic innovation applied to the city of Barcelona on such crucial issues as data for participation, digital rights, technologies from a gender perspective, transformations of urban space, and the promotion of video games with a social perspective. In addition, the space has become a reference open to all citizens of Barcelona.

#### Future Challenges

Since 2016, Decidim project and platform has had a great impact both in the city and in the world, consolidating and standardising a more transparent, open and participatory way of organising and articulating citizen participation. At the same time, it has opened an important path on how to develop open and democratic technologies from public administrations under the principles of sustainability, scalability and collaboration. But this is only a big 1st step, and there are still many challenges in the face of overwhelming current events that it's essential to address. In the context of climate crisis and social confrontation, especially accentuated by the spread of false content on a global scale and the rise of the far right and hate speech, it's a priority to bet on systems of reconstruction of social ties, deliberative processes, collaboration and cooperation from and with citizens and the whole social fabric of cities, for a shoring up and reconstruction of democratic spaces and communities. Strengthening democratic culture and ecosystems on a global scale implies reinforcing the capacity of citizens to face the scenario of climate emergency and energy crisis, which allows us to imagine new possible futures beyond the imaginaries of collapse, individualisation and isolation of people. We decided to point in this direction, while continuing to evolve its democratic governance model, allowing for the incorporation of diverse voices and adapting to rapidly changing contexts. In terms of the platform's development, Decidim continues to face the challenge of becoming a democratic and public-community alternative to the large corporations that today control the global technology market. For this reason, it will be essential to continue investing in the continuous improvement of the code and its stabilisation, a better modularisation of its architecture and, above all, to continue improving the technical conditions that facilitate its installation. It will also be necessary to study decentralised models that help the sustainability and scalability of the project, together with new forms of federation of different instances, enabling them to share information with each other and mutually enrich each other.

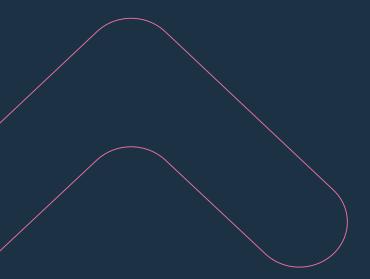


#### Future Challenges

It will be relevant to think about how to incorporate automatic natural language processing systems, to synthesise deliberative processes and mass participation, while designing algorithms in a participatory, transparent and democratic way. Following and learning from the Decidim experience, new democratic public technological solutions will have to be developed to respond to some of the main urban challenges, such as access to housing, the development of sustainable tourism models, urban mobility, local commerce, training and education for children and, above all, the digital transformation of the City Council itself, which still has a great deal of work ahead of it. In terms of democratic innovation, it will be necessary to move forward by connecting and facilitating access to data that will allow us to obtain information about the city to guarantee informed and robust participation based on evidence and to counteract communication noise or false content. Equally, it will be necessary to ensure an intersectional, diverse and inclusive approach to participation that leaves no one behind, facilitating the necessary mediation channels. This will require taking advantage of existing networks of municipal facilities such as libraries, civic centres, community centres, creative factories and manufacturing centres, and converting them into spaces for democratic innovation and the promotion of citizen participation. This should allow for a greater capacity for citizen influence, bringing democratic quality to all public policies that are taken forward. Fostering the empowerment of citizens and involving them through all these mechanisms, channels and forms of participation also fosters their autonomy and capacity for self-management.

# **Projects**





TOOL | PERMANENT |

URL1: HTTPS://DECIDIM.ORG

URL2: HTTPS://META.DECIDIM.ORG

# Decidim. Free open-source participatory democracy for cities and organisations

Brief description

Decidim is a digital platform for participation that has been designed to articulate any type of democratic process so that it can be easily used by other institutions and organisations. Its design and flexibility, the fact that it is free software, its modular architecture and the open development model, have generated an enormous extension, so that, after 6 years, there are more than 200 local and regional governments and more than 100 social organisations that have opted for this platform. It currently has 1.372.880 participants and 120.256 proposals. As a free software project, anyone can view, copy, modify and disseminate the code, as long as they maintain the same licence (AGPLv3). In addition, Decidim is also a community of people and organisations that seeks and designs mechanisms for the democratic governance of the project, which has transcended the city of Barcelona itself and is now a project of international scope. Its most notable use is in Decidim.barcelona, the digital participation platform of the city of Barcelona. It was launched on 1 February 2016 and today it already has more than 110,000 registered participants, 28,020 proposals, 3,928 face-to-face meetings, 258,335 supports collected and more than 14,199 citizen proposals accepted. Decidim has become a key digital infrastructure at city level. It operates as a public service for social organisations and also for social and solidarity economy organisations and as a public service for the democratic governance of municipal facilities. The project has transcended the local scale and has spread to public administrations and social organisations, both in Catalonia and the rest of Spain, as well as to other countries such as France, Mexico, Belgium, Switzerland, Japan and Finland. Decidim has been translated into more than 50 languages worldwide, having currently more than 450 active instances (institutions and organisations)



# Detailed description

The context of the Decidim project's origin is defined by two key connected phenomena. On the one hand, in recent decades there has been a global crisis of representative democracy in Western countries and, specifically, in Spain (with a weakening of the welfare state, a growing distrust of the political classes, or the inability to address problems such as the increase in inequality or climate change,...). On the other hand, in the digital era, a digital economic model based on the exploitation of information, knowledge and data has become widespread, where relationships and social networks have become the main core of the generation of economic value, prioritising it over fundamental rights such as the defence of privacy and the protection of personal data, or the technological dependence of governments and public institutions on large international corporations, where their commitment to democracy has often been questioned. The crisis of Western democracies and the threats of the digital era for democracy itself are in the initial diagnosis of the Decidim project, converted into challenges and opportunities for democracy itself. Therefore, Decidim is born to deepen and enrich the democratic processes and quality of Western societies and does so with a clear commitment to technological sovereignty, free software, open knowledge and the defence of the digital rights of citizens.

#### Decidim main characteristics:

- \*A platform for participation Decidim [https://decidim.org] is a digital infrastructure for participatory democracy, built entirely and collaboratively as free software. All members and partners of the Decidim project have to approve and follow a "social contract" https://decidim.org/contract that defines a set of democratic guiding principles. The social contract can be summarised as follows:
  - · Free software and open content
  - · Transparency, traceability and integrity
  - Equal opportunities, democratic quality and inclusion: the platform has to guarantee democratic quality, non-discrimination and equal opportunities for each participant.
  - · Privacy with verification
- · Democratic engagement, accountability and collaboration
- \*A free, open and collaborative software project. Anyone can view, copy, modify and distribute the software as long as the same licence is maintained. The development has always been done openly on the Github platform facilitating collaboration on the project. Decidim also has a multitenant architecture, which means that with a single installation you can have as many active instances as you want.



# Detailed description

\*Metadecidim, the democratic community of the project Decidim This community is a prototype of democratic participation that aims to empower citizens to take ownership of the tool, to contribute to its development and to participate in its construction. Currently, the Metadecidim [meta.decidim.org] community has a wide social representation, with more than 10.000 participants registered, including citizens, developers and researchers, companies and institutions from all over the world. It is also a space of experimentation since it is the place to test new functionalities of the platform, detect improvements and collect proposals.

\*Digital and Democratic Innovation Center (Canòdrom) Canòdrom is a reference space in:

- · the factory of the decidim project
- · tecnopolitical ecosystem of Barcelona
- Centre for thought and research in democratic innovation and digital innovation decidim.barcelona

\*Decidim Barcelona is the digital platform for citizen engagement and participation of the City of Barcelona. It was founded in 2016 facing the Barcelona City Council's need to open up a technologically mediated citizen-participation process to define the strategy of the city during the period 2016-2019. It was created with three major goals: making a process transparent and traceable, expanding participation through the digital platform and integrating face-to-face and digital participation. Decidim.barcelona is also a free software project and it is the first instance of Decidim platform and the origin of the project. In 2017 Decidim.org was created with the main goal to allow other organisations and public institutions to copy, reuse, and contribute to improve the platform. After 5 years the platform has been translated into more than 50 languages and it's used currently by more than 450 organisations in 30 different countries around the world. From 2016 Decidim.barcelona has hosted more than 70 participatory processes (as participatory budgeting or Young deliberative Assembly) and 100 participatory councils. The platform articulates the participation of the city with more than 100,000 participants and more than 27,000 proposals received from citizens. The platform has allowed to consolidate a Hybrid participation model (digital and physical) promoting broader citizen participation and inclusive model of participation facilitating the access to any kind of participatory action to the whole city. The impacts of Decidim project can be summarised as follows:

\*Improvement of citizen relations' systems It structures and helps to organise the different mechanisms for public administration participation, developing quality standards in the different participation channels: processes, bodies, initiatives and citizen consultations.



# Detailed description

\*Increase of citizen participation Decidim allows us to define levels of participation: access to obtain information only, registration to make proposals or participate in the participatory process, verification through the residents' census to vote, etc. The Decidim platform enables the participation of all residents in the municipality, regardless of their legal or citizenship status. Decidim facilitates greater direct citizen participation, but it can also amplify its impact among sectors of the population that do not normally participate or are excluded from democratic decision-making.

\*Improving the transparency and accountability of public institutions Decidim provides total transparency to all of an organisation's participatory processes. The traceability and accountability system allows any citizen to trace the path of a proposal from the moment it enters the platform. Decidim guarantees the non-manipulation of content thanks to a system for controlling changes and versions, and the digital footprint of each proposal, with the aim of generating systems of trust with the platform itself and with digital technologies.

\*Contribution to the strengthening of integrity and ethical values of public organisations All organisations that want to use the Decidim platform must accept the Social Contract, preserving, in this way, the values of the project and at the same time multiplying its effect.

\*Creativity and knowledge We highlight the value of the platform as a driver of change in the administration itself at different levels:

- The transversal work with very diverse departments and directorates.
- The necessary redesign of the administrative processes of participation in order to digitalise them forces us to rethink them in order to simplify, objectify and reduce internal bureaucracy, that is, to improve and simplify them, orienting their design towards a better visibility and experience of citizen participation.

\*Transferability and dissemination Decidim is Free Software and is accessible on the Github platform. Currently, Decidim software has been transferred to more than 450 organisations. Decidim has been awarded at the European Commission's Sharing & Reuse Awards in the category "Most Innovative Open Source Software", held on 11 June 2019 in Bucharest.

\*Effectiveness It currently has 1.372.880 participants and 120.256 proposals. Decidim has been translated into more than 50 languages worldwide, having currently more than 450 active instances (institutions and organisations)



# Detailed description

\*Efficiency In economic terms, it should be underlined that the greatest investment in the creation of the platform has been made by Barcelona City Council as the driving force behind it, but its current extension is enabling other administrations to carry out specific developments that are then passed on to all the administrations and organisations that use the platform. From this point of view, Decidim represents considerable savings, although this is not the project's greatest success. The main success lies in the quality of the platform itself, a quality that is increasing and improving with the collaboration of an entire networked community, which also guarantees its continuity.

\*Complexity Decidim responds to the necessity of improving democracy in all types of organisations. As an example of that we have Decidim Community that consists of:

- · National and international administrations
- · Social organisations using Decidim
- Small companies that provide auxiliary and development services adapted to the Decidim project.
- Researchers
- Developers
- Activists

\*Sustainability Two elements contribute to the sustainability of the project:

- · The existence of an organised Community.
- The shared and networked experience with administrations from all over the world. In the event of institutional changes in Barcelona City Council, the network of administrations and Community that has been established, guarantees the continuity of the project. At an economic level, a legal Association has been established that will be able to obtain external funding that will also contribute to the maintenance of the project.

#### Contribution

Decidim.org contributes to the overall mission statement since it is related to the activation of diff mechanisms of citizen collaboration. It is a digital platform for citizen participation and a community that is a prototype of democratic participation that aims to empower citizens to take ownership of the tool, to contribute to its development and to participate in its construction. Firstly, the main innovation of the Decidim platform consists in the possibilities for citizens to interact with public policies. Secondly, its innovation lies in the fact that it is a free software project promoted by a municipal government that can be easily used by other institutions and organisations due to its design. Finally, It can be distinguished by its democratic community that aims to empower citizens to take ownership of the tool, to contribute to its development and to participate in its construction. Decidim.org can be used to structure the axis of the Progr Year and also to document it



#### **Target Group**

It is targeted at citizens as a whole Currently, there are 1,372,880 participants and 120.256 proposals. Decidim has been translated into more than 50 languages worldwide, having currently more than 450 active instances (institutions and organisations) around the world. It is possible to deploy a participatory democratic system like Decidim in any organisation (local city council, association, university, NGO, neighbourhood or cooperative). It is a free, open and collaborative software project which means that anyone can view, copy, modify and distribute the software as long as the same licence is maintained. The development has always been done openly on the Github platform facilitating collaboration on the project.

#### Collaboration

The Decidim platform can be used as a tool for democratic inclusion in diff ways: 1.- It allows the participation of people who find difficult to attend face-to-face meetings, so it can favour the democratic inclusion of groups such as people with family responsibilities (mostly women), people with functional diversity and mobility difficulties, teenagers and young people who prefer to express themselves through digital means and people without the right to vote in electoral processes, especially teenagers and the resident population without nationality. 2.- Through training and capacity actions and with the support of mediators, Decidim has also proved to be a tool for social and democratic inclusion for groups with special difficulties such as people with disabilities, mental health or groups at risk of social exclusion. 3.- It is also a useful tool for those people who, for different reasons, may reside in institutions: homes, penitentiary institutions, juvenile centres, hospitals,

#### Communication

The project is disseminated worldwide through its web page decidim.org and that of its community, meta.decidim.org, through which a monthly newsletter is sent. It also has a presence on the main social media platforms: <a href="https://twitter.com/decidim\_org/">https://twitter.com/decidim\_org/</a> https://twitter.com/decidim\_org/</a> https://txrcb.cat/ca/radio/radio-decidim https://matrix.to/#/#decidim:matrix.org https://t.me/decidim Also through its annual event Decidim Fest: https://meta.decidim.org/conferences/</a> The main strategy is to try to establish empathetic communication with citizens. The evaluation of the project and its impact in the case of social networks is seen through the movement around each piece of information. We also evaluate the impact through the requests we receive daily to visit us and to explain what decidim is to different institutions both national and international level, as well as the different invitations to participate in conferences explaining our use cases.



#### **Project Setup**

Directorate for Democratic Innovation Services leads the project and the following departments are also part of it: Active Democracy, Urban Ecology participation Depart., Social Rights participation Depart. And Community Action. The external partner are: Associació decidim: responsible for organising, caring for and involving the community Fundació Ferrer i Guàrdia: dynamization entity Codegram, platoniq and populate tools are programmer Companies

#### Description

Several Universities and research centres have developed more than 20 research projects on the evaluation of the processes deployed in Decidim, on the improvement of the deliberation systems, cryptography and security of electronic voting and also on indicators of democratic quality in Decidim. Since 2017, 17 research laboratories have been carried out on different topics related to the project (UX, Urban planning, participatory Design, Electronic voting, digital culture, gender gap, gamification, digital identity, etc.). Activists, researchers, experts, municipal technicians, developers, etc. have participated in these laboratories. Finally, as the Decidim platform is used by many social organisations for their internal democracy, all these organisations have also been involved in the community and in the different open spaces for participation in the project. These organisations include cooperatives, human rights associations, community organisations, educational centres, etc

#### **Budget**

Planning & initial costs (2016) Planning and implementation	104,000€
Maintenance & dynamization Operating costs	215,220€
Communication & managementPlanning and implementation	33,500€
Structuring & documentation Extra budget	30,000€

Total Budget 382,720€

#### **Funding**

Ordinary budget Barcelona's City Council (through Culture, Education, Science and Community Area and Municipal Institute for Information Technology)

#### Democracy Dimension

Technology

STRATEGY | ONE-OFF | 01.11.2020-30.01.2022 | URL1: HTTPS://AJUNTAMENT.BARCELONA.CAT/SUPERILLES/EN/\_URL2: HTTPS://WWW.DECIDIM.BARCELONA/PROCESSES/SUPERILLABARCELONA?PARTICIPATORY\_PROCESS\_SLUG=SUPERILLABARCELONA

#### Barcelona Superblock: Eixample

Brief Description

The Barcelona Superblock project proposes an important challenge; to achieve changes in the design and uses of the city that will bring us closer to a more sustainable and resilient city, while also working with existing resistance to the changes in habits that this new urban model implies. Barcelona is moving towards a more sustainable, efficient, safe, healthy and equitable collective mobility model since the first Superblock project was carried out in 2016 with Poblenou Superblock. During the Barcelona Superblock project's participatory process there were 12 information and debate sessions about the New Public Space Model of Green Hub (November 2020- June 2021). The main purpose of these sessions was to explain the superblock model expansion to participative spaces established in the City incorporating neighbours' views. Between May and November 2021 the participatory process deployed 23 participative actions divided into three phases: diagnosis, proposal and feedback phases where 1.513 participacions took place. First, within the diagnosis phase (13 actions), the different participations focused on 4 thematic areas: mobility, quality, environment and activities. Secondly, at the proposal phase (8 actions), participations were about 7 thematic areas: green, mobility, accessibility, trade, activities and uses, street furniture and urban elements and infrastructures. Finally, two feedback sessions were held in November 2021 to share the conclusions of the participatory process and how the reflections and proposals made in the previous phases have been incorporated. At the end of the process, between December 2021 and January 2022, there was an evaluation of the whole process through a survey. As a result of this evaluation between 60% and 70% of people felt that it was easy to express their opinions and positions throughout the process and 75% considered that it was useful to learn about other visions of neighbours and entities.



# Detailed Description

The 21st-century street model that has been designed and which will be implemented in every green hub in the Barcelona Superblock represents a paradigm shift with regard to the way the urbanisation of public space had been conceived up to now: it involves moving away from streets designed for cars to streets designed for people, reversing priorities and uses. The section of the city designed by Ildefons Cerdà, especially the Eixample, is an internationally recognised symbol of innovative urban planning. However, this area of Barcelona is subjected to the greatest pressure from motorised transport; it suffers the most pollution and noise, with everything that this implies for city residents. Furthermore, it is the district with the lowest number of green areas. Applying the Superblock model in Cerda's part of the city makes it possible to define a new vision and project for the future, reorganising the city's general mobility in order to create new green streets and new squares at city crossroads. The aim is for Eixample residents to have a square or green street within 200 metres of their homes, with an especially significant increase in the number of meeting and relaxation areas available in the centre of the district. This street model is the result of a green-hub competition recently held by the City Council. The winner of the competition, along with the three runners-up, have been working together to create this model under the coordination of the Barcelona Superblock Technical Office. In addition, contributions have also been incorporated from an Advisory Board, made up of experts and organisations in the framework of a participatory process as well as neighbours' proposals. The Barcelona Superblock participatory process is remarkable for the diversity of perspectives that have been taken into account: gender, children and young people, accessibility, people with functional diversity, the elderly and the commercial sector. This participatory process consisted on the one hand, in working sessions that combined technical presentations with group discussions to facilitate debate on the content presented and on the other hand, in exploratory walks with neighbours and workshops in schools. These sessions were based on a hybrid model of participation (digital and face-to-face) that deployed a multiplicity of channels to participate. Barcelona digital platform decidim.barcelona has been used to structure the axis of the process and also to document it. The thematic areas on which the debates took place

- · mobility, quality of public space, environment and activities
- were held in 3 work spaces:
  - \*internal workspace: superblocks technical office worked on the analysis of results, documents, technical design, dynamisation,...
  - \*restricted workspace: work has been carried out with the agents closest to the theme, such as neighbourhood, social and commercial entities that are part of the Driving Group.
  - \*open workspace: to all those interested in participating.



# Detailed Description

These 3 types of meetings were present in the whole process and mixed between them in each phase. The participatory process deployed 35 participatory actions with 1.959 participants in total and has been divided into 2 different spaces:

- 1.-Information and Debate sessions about the New Public Space Model of Green Hub (Novembre 2020-June 2021). The main objective of this space was to explain the superblock model expansion to participative spaces established in the City incorporating neighbours' views.
- 2.-The debate about the model that has served as a reference for specific actions in projects. This space was divided into 3 different phases:
- 2.a.-Diagnostic phase whose main objective was to inform about the overall planning and timing of the participatory process, and to incorporate specific perspectives of key actors to establish the criteria to be included in the development of the axes and square projects.
- 2.b.-In the proposal phase the main objective was to present the preliminary projects for green hubs and squares in the Barcelona Superblock programme: Eixample, to inform on the planning and general schedule of the transformation of public spaces, and to debate and propose the mechanisms for the implementation and change management.
- 2.c.-The feedback phase took place in November 2021 where conclusions were exposed in two open plenary sessions of the participatory process. In these sessions questions were answered and suggestions from the public were incorporated. The diagnostic phase began with the dissemination of the criteria for the new superblock public space model, followed by walks with the neighbours and ended with workshops where the diagnostic contributions on specific areas of intervention of the projects were worked on. During the development of this phase 13 sessions took place, 11 of them in person and 2 digital. 8 sessions were restricted, 3 were open and 1 was a dissemination session, there was also a survey to shopkeepers. One of the actions that we can highlight is the direct information offered to traders. A total of 455 shops were visited to provide information and answer questions about the project.

The shared narrative that emerged from the participatory sessions was structured along 4 thematic axes and these were the conclusions:

- \*Mobility.
- Positive tactical urban planning actions to improve coexistence with Personal Mobility Vehicles: bicycles and scooters
- Broad agreement for traffic calming having in mind the consequences and try to resolve them
- · Resolving school environments in a comprehensive way
- Need to guarantee the logistics of the shops.



#### \*Quality:

- · Sensory pollution
- · More and better street furniture
- · Lack of public meeting spaces
- · Lack of public toilets
- · Need for orientation and urban identity elements

#### \*Environment

- · Insufficient maintenance of public space
- The provision of increased green space is seen as positive. It needs to be comprehensive and integrated
- · Specific need for green areas at crossroads.

#### \*Activities

- · Need for security and security perception
- · Meeting places for the whole life cycle
- Avoiding tourist-hotel "monopoly"
- · Community management of public space
- Guarantees of integral accessibility of public space

\*Proposal phase: There were workshops where the draft projects were presented and the perspectives of the participants were incorporated and sectoral actions were carried out with educational centres and traders. During this phase 8 sessions were carried out, all of them were face to face and within them 2 were open sessions and 3 participatory workshops in schools.

The shared narrative that emerged from these participatory sessions was structured along 7 thematic axes:

- Green Areas: the proposals were about the Green Areas' increase, location and maintenance, the diversity of plant species and community management
- Mobility: 9 proposals, most of them were about bike's movement regulations
- Accessibility: accessible routes, special transport and gravel pavements' proposals were made
- · Trade: proposals related to loading and unloading zones and parking spaces
- Activities and Uses: the proposals were related to space for activities, occupation of bar terraces and children's playground
- Street furniture and urban elements: benches and chairs, singular furniture, rubbish containers, fountains and litter bins' proposals.
- Infrastructure: there were proposals about rainwater drainage, lighting, energy and underground installations



\*Feedback phase: the main objective of this phase was to expose conclusions of the participatory process and explain how proposals and reflections of participants were incorporated to the project. There were two face to face open sessions and a report was also sent to the participating schools so that they could work with the students on the analysis and implementation of the proposals they made in the workshops. At the end of the process, between December 2021 and January 2022, a survey was carried out to evaluate the Barcelona Superblock: Eixample's participatory process. This survey had two parts: the first one asked questions about the profile of the participants (age, gender, etc.) and the second one asked them about the accessibility of the project, plurality, quality of the debate, etc. The survey was answered by 25% of the participants. In terms of accessibility, between 60 and 70% think that the language used was clear, as well as the timetable for the different sessions. Related to plurality, 42% feel that the debates were not sufficiently plural, compared to 58% who think that they were. Regarding the quality of debate, 65% think that the different issues related to the implementation of the Barcelona Superblock have been addressed and 75% consider that it has been useful to know the different opinions of their neighbours.

#### Contribution

The contribution of this project to the overall mission is related to community empowerment since citizens are in the middle of this new model of participation, making a decisive contribution to defining the city's new space. Citizen particip has been essential to the implementation of the Superblock(Sb) program in the city of Barcelona making the project special and innovative due to: Thematic discussion and systemic and operational change at a city level Spaced shared with citizens to discuss and clarify the Sb model, generating positive synergies. The New Public Space Model of Green Hub has been worked on in the city and district spaces and with the neighbourhood on the projects of the streets and squares. We've been focused on working with the community, in particular with shopkeepers (they've a specific impact on this new model), women and children in terms of accessibility. During the P.Y., Sb will be under construction and it will be possible to take tours inside and debate

#### **Target Group**

This process is targeted at Eixample District's Neighbourhood, in particular at the citizens living in the transformed streets and squares. More than 1,900 people have taken part in the process. The design of the process, the different evaluations and the use of the digital platform decidim.barcelona, where the whole process has been documented, can help to apply the project everywhere.

#### Collaboration

This project is inclusive as long as it has incorporated citizens' different points of view having in mind the different uses and activities as well as their necessities. The process has been monitored by the Gender and Accessibility Departments to ensure that the different views of diversity were incorporated into the process.



#### Communication

The superblock model has been recognised by the UN as an example of the fight against climate change and the United Nations has named the city of Barcelona as an "Urban Resilience Hub". During 2021, 170 international activities that took place in Barcelona, 100 of them responded to requests to learn about the new Barcelona Superblock city model. Cities such as London, Berlin and Vienna have implemented road calming programmes, urban revitalisation and improved liveability in public space using the Barcelona Superblock model as a reference. In the period 2017-2020, more than 5,000 people interested in the Superblock model have been informed: a total of 546 international actions, 60% from Europe. At a local level, it was based on posters and notices on buildings in the area as well as news on municipal websites and social networks with videos, photographs, etc. There were also exhibitions and large canvases on buildings. The impact is related to citizen's participation alr explained.

#### **Project Setup**

The following departments were part of the project team: Superblock Technical Office and Management of the Chief Architect Urbans projects department Mobility department Municipal Institute of Parks and Gardens Eixample District BIMSA (Barcelona Municipal Infrastructures Company) Foment de Ciutat (City Development Company) Democratic Innovation Directorate Participation Department of Urban Ecology The external partners: Technical assistance: VAIC Mobility: https://vaicmobility.com/en/ Dynamisation cooperative: Pla Estel: https://plaestel.org/en/home-eng/ Dynamisation cooperative: monoDestudio: www.monodestudio.es

#### Description

The participation of civil society was taken into account through the participation sessions in spaces set up by organisations such as the Mobility Pact, the Eixample Women's Council, the Climate Emergency Committee, etc. Many of the participating organisations were represented in the Superblock Barcelona Driving Group and citizens were also able to participate in the different open sessions that took place throughout the process.

#### Budget

Project coordination	Planning & implementation	22,430€
Process dynamisation	Operating costs	33,080€
Posters, brochures, merchan- dising, videos, photography	Communication costs	19,680€
Walk & discussion Superblock	Extra Budget	500,000€

Total Budget 575,190€



**Funding** 

Ordinary budget Barcelona's City Council and City Development municipal Com-

pany

Democracy Dimension Sustainability

STRATEGY | PERMANENT

URL1: HTTPS://CANODROM.BARCELONA/

URL2: HTTPS://COMUNITAT.CANODROM.BARCELONA/

### Canòdrom. Digital and Democratic Innovation Center

Brief Description

The Canòdrom - Digital and Democratic Innovation Center is a municipal facility that depends on the Directorate for Digital and Democratic Innovation of Barcelona's City Council, an athenaeum-laboratory that opened in 2021. Its aim is to be an open space in the neighbourhood, in the city and in the world, to be the meeting point between digital culture, free technologies, digital rights and democratic participation. Through this confluence, it works on a wide range of issues such as feminism, human rights, social justice, diversity, the urban model and sustainability. Since its opening, its task is to bring digital culture and democratic innovation to the city and to be a meeting place for organised communities, social projects, research centres and citizens in general. The Canòdrom has 7 main lines of action or programmes: 1. Digital and democratic literacy and empowerment programme. 2. Residency programme and support for an ecosystem of projects. 3. Programme of activities open and free: "Canòdrom Obert" 4. Programme of support for research in technology, science and democracy. 5. Service for the dynamisation and facilitation of democratic innovation. 6. Democratic governance. 7. Service for the transfer of spaces. The opening year of the Canòdrom has been marked by the pandemic period and the restrictions on capacity and activity recommended by the health authorities for all cultural and social activities. But even in this context, the Canòdrom has developed its first activities with great success.

Detailed Description The Canòdrom, as a space of reference in the neighbourhood and in the city presents a series of ideal characteristics for the Canòdrom project - Digital and Democratic Innovation Center:

\*It is a space of reference in the field of digital culture but untapped in terms of its uses and potential for the city as a whole and in the sector in which it is developed.

\*It is a complex facility, due to its history and architectural characteristics, but at the same time it has dimensions that make possible the deployment of a sustainable project in its management and governance, on a medium scale, reducing many of the existing risks as well as its costs.



# Detailed Description

- \*It is a city facility, grounded and rooted in its neighbourhood (Congrés-Indians), which makes it possible to work on a triple scale of neighbourhood-city-world intervention.
  \*It is a historical claim of the neighbourhood to have a more open, fluid and cooperative
- \*It is a historical claim of the neighbourhood to have a more open, fluid and cooperative relationship with the space. In this context, the Canòdrom project is established, a Digital and Democratic Innovation Center open to citizens, an applied research centre and an ecosystem of city initiatives around free technologies, democracy and digital culture. The design of the project is based on different layers of intervention:
- \*An open space specialising in digital technologies and citizen participation.
- \*A centre for applied research and innovation of global reference and leadership.
- \*An ecosystem of city projects and initiatives, being the Decidim project and its communities one of its main assets.
- \*A training programme and a set of training actions that bring the project's reference themes closer to the citizens as a whole, with special emphasis on the neighbourhood's area of influence, from the neighbourhood to the city and vice versa.
- \*A space connected to a network of innovation in the city of Barcelona, to the network of public facilities where training projects, applied research projects, and those projects related to the city that work on similar themes are shared.

These different layers are materialised in 7 main lines of action or programmes that have been carried out during 2021:

- 1. Digital and democratic literacy and empowerment programme. The Canòdrom has 2 training rooms equipped with wifi and computers. Thanks to the agreement with Barcelona Activa, signed in February 2021, the Canòdrom is a Cibernàrium Antenna, that is to say, a training point in a wider network of basic training in technology spread throughout the city. As an identifying feature, the Canòdrom provides training entirely with free software, understanding that free software is essential for true empowerment and digital autonomy.
- 2. Residency programme and support for an ecosystem of projects. The residency programme is one of the fundamental lines of work of the Canòdrom. In February 2021, the first call for projects was launched and it has been continued for 2022 where the following project won the calls:
- \*Governance time with a gender perspective project How much time is devoted to volunteering? Which people are likely to devote more time to community work and for what purpose? These are some of the questions that this project asks, giving value to the time we dedicate to volunteering.
- \*Alia. Towards a more feminist, free and safe digital world project This project aims to identify and address mass violence online, promote the visibility of feminist self-defence women and promote training on digital security from a cyberfeminist perspective.



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- \*TechnovationCAT, Spiral of Change project Due to the under-representation of women in the Information and Communication Technologies sector, "TechnovationCAT: Spiral of change" proposes a technology and entrepreneurship programme for companies. It is based on learning with a female ecosystem, with an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable approach.
- \*Gender Data Lab project Gender Data Lab is a project to compile massive databases with a gender perspective and open source, which the NGO Digital Fems wants to promote from Canada. The aim of this project is to generate open knowledge in order to put an end to misinformation and/or data that do not allow us to have a picture of the reality of gender equality or inequality.
- \*FemDevs project The association of women video game developers FemDevs plans to promote the interest, participation and presence of women in the field of video game development. To achieve this, the association proposes a series of activities aimed at young people in the neighbourhood, such as to create their first video game, as well as Game Jams in which video games are tested with neighbours and interested people in the city.
- \*Ars Games project A more critical and supportive view of the video game industry is possible. Ars Games is an international non-profit organisation that promotes and manages cultural projects related to video games, based on actions with citizen participation, pedagogy and digital inclusion.
- \*CoActuem. Improving mental health and citizen science. It seeks to understand how we relate to mental health and wants to do so through a totally innovative use of digital conversations in the form of a chatbot. The chatbot "CoActuem per la Salut Mental", the first citizen science chatbot.
- \*Becoming common. Thinking about what the city could be like It focuses on studying community actions carried out within the framework of municipalism, and analysing the strategies developed by the social and institutional actors involved in the experiences.
- \*A caring city. Accompaniment at the end of life This project aims to design instruments, including digital tools, that facilitate conversations between people about what is important to them in chronic disease processes or at the end of life. The aim is to obtain information about the real needs of people and socio-cultural communities in terms of end-of-life care and mourning, contributing to the creation of knowledge and the development of policies for social transformation.
- \*La Hidra. Realista: a fair, safe and quality real estate portal Realista is a portal that will improve access to rental housing, overcoming the asymmetry of information and generating a close, safe and quality user experience. The idea is to allow both landlords and residents and users of the homes to share their experience in the properties they have lived in, as is already the case in other markets.
- \*Makea tu vida. Between the worlds of open design, social innovation, circular economy and artisanal, industrial and digital manufacturing processes. They propose processes



# Detailed Description

of citizen co-production in which citizen co-diagnosis, co-design, collective construction and collective definition of citizen management models take place.

- \*Young IT Girls. Girls Make it Happen Young IT Girls is a non-profit association committed to breaking gender stereotypes, bringing technology closer to girls and boys and motivating them to choose education in the STEAM field (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts/Architecture, Mathematics). We carry out these tasks through free activities in schools and institutions throughout Catalonia.
- 3. Programme of activities open and free: "Canòdrom Obert" Canòdrom Obert refers to the set of activities open to the participation of citizens that are programmed at the Canòdrom-Digital and Democratic Innovation Center. These activities are designed around 5 topics: digital culture, democracy, feminisms, historical memory and open technologies.
- 4. Programme of support for research in technology, science and democracy. For the specific support service for research projects, the Canòdrom is advised by IN3 UOC, a research team from the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya with whom the City Council has signed a collaboration agreement.
- 5. Service for the dynamisation and facilitation of democratic innovation. The Canòdrom also has the service of dynamisation and facilitation of democratic innovation, which is created to advise organisations and social movements of all kinds on democracy and technology, facilitating the use of digital media for the internal democracy of social organisations. In recent months a new project has been launched: open network of neighbourhoods. A project that helps people to have a quality Internet connection, with a social and community basis, ensuring in a first phase of the process the access to the network as a universal right.
- 6. Democratic governance. Among the most relevant actions for 2021, we would like to highlight democratic governance of the facility project, through the different spaces for participation:
- \*Institutional relationship with Barcelona City Council.
- \*Relationship with the community of resident projects.
- \*Relationship with organisations in the surrounding area.
- \*National and international relationship with spaces with common objectives.
- 7. Service for the transfer of spaces. During the second semester of 2021 44 activities have taken place with the service for the transfer of spaces. These activities have been related to digital culture, democracy, feminisms, and open technologies. The challenges established for 2022 and that are currently being carried out can be summarised into:



# Detailed Description

- \*Making a new call for the selection of projects in residence at the Canòdrom.
- \*Open the facility to the public, through the opening of stands and terraces every day with free circulation.
- \*Publicising the facility and its project in the neighbourhoods nearby.
- \*Setting up and disseminating the historical memory participation project.

#### Contribution

The project contribution to the mission statement is related to the activation of different mechanisms of citizen collaboration. It is a Digital and Democratic Innovation Center open to citizens, an applied research centre and an ecosystem of city initiatives around free technologies, democracy and digital culture. It is the meeting point between digital culture, free technologies, digital rights and democratic participation. This project is innovative since Barcelona does not have a centre of reference in the city dedicated to applied research and development with a critical and ethical perspective on issues such as governance and ownership of digital infrastructures, citizens' control and sovereignty over data and its uses. The spaces of Canòdrom can be used for some of the activities deployed within the ECoD Programme Year.

#### **Target Group**

The activities carried out at the Canòdrom programme are targeted at the neighbourhood, and citizens coming from different places of the city of Barcelona interested in the impact of technology on society and ways to improve it through democratic innovation. During 2021, 4,570 people have participated in the different activities that the Canòdrom project has launched. As an innovative project several previous experiences have become benchmark in terms of Democratic Innovation such as Medialab Prado in Madrid, Co-LAB in A Corunya, Etopia space in Zaragoza or Les Naus in Valencia. In this respect, it is easy to think that the project can be applied in other cities in and out the country.

#### Collaboration

This project is inclusive and just since it is focused on a a wide range of issues such as feminism, human rights, social justice, diversity, the urban model and sustainability. Since its opening, its task is to bring digital culture and democratic innovation to the city and to be a meeting place for organised communities, social projects, research centres and citizens in general. The project has a strong participatory aspect. The creation of the cultural programme (Canòdrom Obert) is done in a collaborative way between the different agents (City Council and the management office) seeking to actively introduce proposals from the resident projects and the Canòdrom ecosystem. Democratic Innovation leads the project and the following areas are part of it: Area of the Culture, Education, Science and Community Area, Sant Andreu's District, Culture Institute of Barcelona and Barcelona Activa.



#### Communication

The canodrom.barcelona portal is the main web of the project Comunitat.canodrom.barcelona is where all the digital interaction btw citizens, residences and the facility takes place and the Community Board interacts having meetings, events, ect We're using free tools to monitor the communication impacts of our web and the participation platform Matomo gives us a measurement of the impact of our digital presence and being a free software that respects the privacy of people consulting our digital spaces. As a participatory and open project, we are committed to carrying out evaluations of content and web usability. The Canòdrom resident projects are a great source of feedback, through follow-up meetings and periodic assemblies. We also add the process of redesigning the community itself, where all the interaction with citizens takes place. This process seeks to simplify and improve the experience of the people with whom we want to generate community

#### **Project Setup**

The Canòdrom depends on the Directorate for Digital and Democratic Innovation of Barcelona's City Council. Two people of the Directorate are involved in the project team. The Canòdrom is managed by Colectic SCCL, the company that won the tender for the management of the Technical Office in November 2020. The maintenance of the building is carried out by Clece, a company which won the tender in June 2022.

#### Description

The Canòdrom's governance model is open and participatory. Civil society participates in 3 ways: 1. Through the residency programmes where different organisations and city projects are involved in the management of the Canòdrom. 2. Individual residents and through neighbourhood associations, also through the neighbourhood council. 3. Through community projects such as: memory projects (working with the neighbourhood, research centres and centres for the recovery of the city's memory and historical archives), open network projects in the neighbourhoods (working directly with neighbours in the immediate vicinity of Canòdrom with difficulties in accessing the internet). In this way, new models of management of public facilities with citizen participation are being explored in an innovative way.



#### Budget

Technical office & insurance	Planning & implementation	256,640€
Building consumption ,clenli- ness and security	Operating costs	199,670€
Layout, printing flyers, rollups	Communication costs	5,380€
Extra technical support	Extra Budget	10,000€

Total Budget 471,690€

#### **Funding**

Own incomes from service for the transfer of spaces. (30,000 € yearly) Ordinary budget Barcelona's City Council (Management of the Culture, Education, Science and Community Area)

#### Democracy Dimension

Community

BEST PRACTICE | ONE-OFF | 13.05.2022 - 03.03.2022 URL: HTTPS://WWW.DECIDIM.BARCELONA/PROCESSES/FORUMJOVEBCN

#### **Barcelona Youth Forum**

Brief Description

The Bcn Youth Forum is a deliberative process in which 99 young people between 16 and 29 years of age, selected through civic lottery, have been convened to collaboratively address the situation of youth in the city and reach a consensus on public policy proposals to present to the municipal government. This is the first experience of a citizen assembly in Barcelona. The people selected were a representative group of the sociological reality of the city's youth. The method of drawing lots with guarantees of being a descriptive sample of the population, together with the payment of remuneration for participation and the deliberative methodology, represent an unprecedented innovation in Barcelona City Council's participatory processes. The quality, inclusiveness and legitimacy of the deliberative process is assured by forming a representative group regardless of their interests, their knowledge or predisposition to participate. This assembly started in May 2021, when 20,000 young people received a letter from the Mayor inviting them to participate in this citizens' assembly. Among the 1,618 who responded, a draw was made to choose 99 young people to represent the diversity of Barcelona (according to gender, age, origin, level of education and neighbourhood). The participants, organised in working groups, prioritised the thematic areas that affect them. The areas prioritised were: mental health, education and emancipation. They worked on public policy proposals and finally voted to approve 22 of these proposals and raised them to the municipal government. These 22 proposals were evaluated and studied by the corresponding departments of Barcelona City Council. In February 2022, Barcelona Youth Forum culminated with the presentation of the final report to the participants in an event where the Mayor and councillors of the City Council informed them about the City Council's commitment to implement 20 of the 22 recommendations presented.



Detailed Description

The Bcn Youth Forum was developed between May 2021 and March 2022 and it was based on two main objectives: improving public youth policies through young people's active participation. It was considered that the citizen assembly mechanism could help to design policies closer to Barcelona's youth reality, incorporating diversity as a criterion of inclusion, ensuring the participation of young people from different backgrounds and conditions in the same proportion as the sociological reality of the city, in order to debate public youth policies and devise solutions to their needs. To this end, participation was remunerated. The process was divided into 5 phases and the digital platform decidim.barcelona was used to structure and centralise the different activities promoted throughout the whole process and also keep all participants informed and connected. These phases were: Phase 1: Participants' election: 20,000 young people received a letter from the Mayor inviting them to participate in this citizens' assembly, 1,618 accepted to participate and a draw was made to choose 99 young people to represent the diversity of Barcelona. Phase 2: Agenda and definition of the topics for discussion: there were 3 in person meetings from July to September to define these topics. Phase 3: Discussion and proposals generation: during December there were 8 more in person meetings where different experts on the topics proposed (Mental Health, Emancipation and Education) were invited to participate. Phase 4: Study of the recommendations: the different City Council's departments involved on the topics proposed study the recommendations made by participants. Phase 5: Return: a session was held with political representatives and the participants of the Bcn Youth Forum where there was feedback of the evaluation that the City Council made of the recommendations received. The young people selected formed a representative group of the reality in Barcelona. The method of drawing lots with guarantees of being a descriptive sample of the population, together with the payment of an established quantity for participation and the deliberative methodology, represent an unprecedented innovation in Barcelona City Council's participatory processes. The quality, inclusiveness and legitimacy of the deliberative process is assured by forming a representative group regardless of their interests, their knowledge or predisposition to participate. To ensure the socio-demographic diversity of the young people participating in the Forum, 34 different sociological strata were established, including variables such as gender, age range (16-19, 20-24 and 25-29), diversity of origin (place of birth) and socio-economic level (through the average income of the neighbourhood of residence). In each case, the number of young people in each of the possible combinations was established in the same proportion as in the city's census of residence. To organise and manage the process a working team was created, it was composed of technical staff from three different departments of the City Council: Youth, Active Democracy and Democratic Innovation. This team was in charge of designing the operational aspects of the process and carrying out all the organisational and management tasks. For the dynamization of the work sessions with the young people, a company specialised in children and youth dynamization was hired.



It was also hired a methodological consultancy expert in deliberative processes. There was also a monitoring committee set up for the BCN Youth Forum, it was made up of members of all the political groups in the city council, Youth and Participacion Councillors, municipal technicians, the methodology consultant, representatives of three youth city associations (Catalan National Youth Council, Catalan Youth Centres Association and Muslim Multicultural Youth) and three participants in the Forum. This committee was in charge of monitoring the methodology and the sessions and also of implementing improvements. The Forum Monitoring Committee met 3 times and they evaluated the sessions and the methodology used in the process and as a result of every evaluation different changes were introduced to improve implementation. The municipal technicians also made a methodological and operational evaluation at the end of the process, deriving different recommendations for the implementation of similar processes in the future. The participants evaluated the process in each of the sessions by answering 5 questions related to the development, spaces and logistics. The answers obtained were analysed and taken into account for the next session. At the end of the whole process, a more complete questionnaire was drawn up, and this is a summary of the most relevant results: Methodology: 92.68% of participants approved it, 44.41% considered it excellent. Dynamisation and facilitation of the process: 92.68% approved it, 48.78% considered it excellent. Information obtained to carry out the task: 17.07% considered it insufficient and 70.74% considered it good or very good. Information provided by the experts: 60.98% considered it clear or very clear, while 24.39% gave a neutral response. This process can help citizens to participate more in public affairs: almost 100% agree with this statement. Participation in a similar experience in the future: 85.37% would participate again. Participants elaborated 27 proposals and 22 of them obtained more than 70% (percentage agreed by participants to approve the proposals). These proposals were related to the topics they chose at the beginning of the process: Mental Health: 9 proposals (some of them are about strengthening mental health services to avoid waiting lists and generate a closer relationship with the therapist and actions to involve the family and educational environment and generate support communities) Education: 5 proposals (most of them are related to post-compulsory education, improving channels for information about resources and help with bureaucratic procedures) Emancipation: 8 proposals (young people are worried about their job opportunities, housing and studies other than University, so the majority of their proposals are about these worries) These 22 proposals were evaluated and studied by the corresponding departments of Barcelona City Council and 20 of them have been accepted and will be included in the Adolescence and Youth Plan 2022-2030 to be implemented. Based on the success of this process, a high percentage of participants (85.37%) will get involved in a similar experience in the future and 100% agrees with the fact that this process can help citizens to participate more in public affairs, and thanks to the different evaluations and recommendations made by the municipal technicians, the municipal government has currently



initiated a new deliberative process: Citizen Climate Assembly The aim of this deliberative assembly is to specify the necessary municipal policies on the 3 topics chosen by the participants to tackle the climate crisis in the city of Barcelona. The debates will serve to make informed recommendations to Barcelona City Council, and the City Council will have to respond to and implement those that are technically feasible. From 24 June to 1st of September, phase 1 is taking place where 20,000 people between 16 and 75 years old have received a letter from the Mayor inviting them to participate in this citizens' assembly.

#### Contribution

"Barcelona Youth Forum contributes the overall mission statement since this deliberative assembly by civil lottery is part of the City mission of exploring new models of digital and face-to-face deliberation and democratic innovation. It is also part of the necessity of generating new possible democratic practices to engage citizens in public affairs. This project is innovative since the young people selected formed a representative group of the reality in Barcelona. The method of drawing lots with guarantees of being a descriptive sample of the population, together with the payment of an established quantity for participation and the deliberative methodology, represent an unprecedented innovation in Barcelona City Council's participatory processes. The new deliberative process: Citizen Climate Assembly that is now taking place and is based on the Barcelona Youth Forum will be at the follow up phase by the time of the Programme Year so lessons learnt about the experience can be presented

#### **Target Group**

The activity was targeted at young people between 16 and 29 years of age in Barcelona City. The approved proposals aim to benefit the whole young people from Barcelona. The design of the process, the different evaluations and the use of the digital platform decidim.barcelona, where the whole process has been documented, makes the project easy to apply everywhere.

#### Collaboration

The method of drawing lots with guarantees of being a descriptive sample of the population makes that the young people selected formed a representative group of the reality in Barcelona. The working team was composed of technical staff from three different departments of the City Council: Youth, Active Democracy and Democratic Innovation. There was also a monitoring committee set up for the BCN Youth Forum, it was made up of members of all the political groups in the city council, Youth and Participacion Councillors, municipal technicians, the methodology consultant, representatives of three youth city associations (Catalan National Youth Council, Catalan Youth Centres Association and Muslim Multicultural Youth) and three young participants in the Forum.



#### Communication

The dissemination was local, a letter was sent to 20,000 young people living in Barcelona. The digital platform decidim. barcelona was used to centralise the activities promoted throughout the process and to keep all participants informed and connected. Social networks were also used to disseminate information about the project. A Monitoring Committee was created to follow up the project, they met 3 times to evaluate the sessions and the methodology used and each time they elaborated a report proposing changes to improve the process. The participants evaluated the process in terms of development, spaces and logistics. The results of the evaluation were analysed and taken into account for the next session. The municipal technicians also made a methodological and operational evaluation at the end of the process, deriving different recommendations for similar processes in the future. Related to the impact, all the proposals approved will be included in the Adolescence and Youth Plan 2022-30

#### **Project Setup**

The project team was composed of 10 people from 3 different departments. There were two external partners. A dynamization company specialised in children and youth was hired for the dynamization of the work sessions with the young people (https://www.espaiconeix.org/?lang=es) and also a methodological consultancy expert in deliberative processes (https://deliberativa.org/en/).

#### Description

Civil Society is involved since three youth city associations took part of the monitoring committee: Catalan National Youth Council,: https://cnjc.cat/ca/qui-som Catalan Youth Centres Association: http://casalsdejoves.org/actitud-casalera/ Muslim Multicultural Youth: https://twitter.com/jmulticultural

#### **Budget**

Process dynamization and deli- berative process design	Planning & implementation	60,750€
Renting of infrastructure and payment for participation	Operating costs	46,000€
Layout, printing flyers, rollups, stickers, certificates etc.	Communication costs	15,210€

Total Budget 121,950€



Funding

Ordinary budget Barcelona's City Council (Management of the Culture, Education, Science and Community Area)

Democracy Dimension Empowerment

STRATEGY | REGULAR | 03.02.2020-31.12.2023 | URL: HTTPS://WWW.DECIDIM.BARCELONA/PROCESSES/PRESSUPOSTOSPARTICIPATIUS

### **Barcelona's Participatory Budgeting**

Brief Description

The Participatory Budgeting 2020-2023 constitutes an innovative participatory process in Barcelona, being the first time that a participatory experience of these characteristics has been carried out in the city. The Participatory Budgeting has allowed citizens to choose directly which projects to invest in for each of Barcelona's ten districts, and which will run until 2024. The process, which began on the 3rd of February 2020, has 30 million euros from the municipal budget to invest in the 76 projects finally chosen by citizens. The participatory process has been proposed from a transversal and innovative approach and it has been specified in the methodology and structure, and particularly: Lowering the minimum age of participation to 14 years old in order to facilitate young people's participation. Proposing a hybrid model of participation (digital and face-to-face) that deploys a multiplicity of channels to participate. Opening debates and spaces aimed at facilitating the participation of people or groups that generally do not take part in participatory processes, such as people of diverse origins, children, youth or people with functional diversity. Allocating a specific budget for each district of the city, guaranteeing a balanced territorial distribution, and taking into account socio-demographic variables. Incorporating a project specification phase aimed at sharing the visions of promoters with municipal technicians, encouraging collective co-production with the public-citizen. 1,982 citizen proposals were received in the first phase of the process, 823 were technically validated, 204 were prioritised and 184 passed the specification phase directly to the final vote phase. Finally, 76 projects were selected in the voting, which are currently being carried out. In relation to participation, 706 participation spaces have been generated (meetings, itinerant and fixed information points), 73,490 interactions (20,772 faceto-face and 52,718 through decidim.barcelona) and 39,433 people took part in the final vote.



### Detailed Description

The Participatory Budgeting 2020-2023 constitutes an innovative participatory process in Barcelona. This first edition of the Participatory Budgeting has been deployed in parallel and complementary to the participatory process for the preparation of the Municipal Action Programme (PAM) and the District Action Programmes (PADs), with which, for the first time, a participatory process aimed at influencing the main strategic programmes of the city of Barcelona has been proposed to the citizens: the Municipal Investment Plan (PIM) - with whose resources the projects of the selected Participatory Budgeting will be deployed - and the aforementioned PAM/PAD. Due to the innovative nature of this initiative, several previous experiences have been taken into account to design the process. On the one hand, the pilot tests carried out in the Eixample and Gracia districts between October 2016 and March 2017, each one based on different methodologies in order to make a comparative assessment; and on the other hand, the experiences of cities that have become benchmarks in terms of Participatory Budgeting, such as New York, Paris, Madrid, Seville or Cascais, have been analysed. In this first edition of the Participatory Budgeting, the existence since 2016 of the digital platform for citizen participation decidim.barcelona has been fundamental, as the structuring axis of the process that has allowed to expand citizen participation despite the health restrictions derived from Covid-19 pandemic period. Barcelona's participatory budgeting began in February 2020 and is currently executing and monitoring the projects selected.

The process has been developed bearing in mind three main goals: Expanding citizens' rights related to political participation: participatory budgeting involves the direct participation of citizens in the proposal and implementation of projects. This process empowers citizens, whether they are organised or not, enabling their active participation in public policies. Strengthening unorganised citizens: making a proposal is available to anyone, and the decicim.barcelona platform facilitates the participation of people and groups that are not formally organised or are not used to participating. Community empowerment: budget's distribution throughout the territory favours citizens' mobilisation to defend projects at the neighbourhood level.

The process has been divided into 7 different phases:

Phase 1: Debate and collection of projects: between February and May 2020, 1,982 citizen proposals were received.

Phase 2: Technical evaluation of the projects: the development of this phase was interrupted by the pandemic period. There were 823 proposals technically validated by the end of March 2021. Some of them were accepted subject to technical adjustments to be worked on in phase 4 if they go finally to this phase.



Phase 3: Prioritisation by collecting supports: the 20 projects from each of Barcelona's 10 districts that achieved the most support were moved on to the next stages of the process, after applying the territorial distribution criteria that ensured balance between neighbourhoods.

This phase was held between 22 March and 5 April 2021. Investments in educational facilities and the improvement of public spaces received the most support and also projects linked to school facilities and environments that represented one quarter of support.

Phase 4: Specification of projects: the aim of this phase is to specify the projects to be developed and to quantify their cost as accurately as possible. The details and the cost of the projects should facilitate their subsequent implementation and development, if they are the most voted projects in the district during the next phase. At the end of this phase, time was allowed for rejected projects to make pleads. In some cases the technical assessment was reviewed and the project was accepted. Between 14 April and 7 May 2021, individualised meetings are held to specify the investment projects, in which the projects are worked on by citizens and municipal staff in relation to the scope of the project.

Phase 5: Final vote: citizens can choose the projects that will ultimately be implemented in each district. They can vote for as many projects as they consider appropriate, starting from a minimum of 2, and until the budget allocated in the district is used up. However, it is not necessary to use up all the budget allocated to a district in order to cast the vote. The voting phase was held between 10 and 20 June 2021.

Phase 6: Return and communication of results: the results of the participatory process are reported and disseminated at the end of June.

Phase 7: Promotion and monitoring of projects: currently the project is in this phase of the process. During the months of February and March 2020, monitoring committees were set up in each of the 10 districts of the city. The objectives of these committees were: Promoting and monitoring the development of the projects. Being informed about the status and content of the projects that do not have promoters. Detecting incompatible actions. Monitoring the development of the works. Being informed about the planning of the inaugurations. The decidim.barcelona platform has created a new permanent space for monitoring the execution of the different projects. In this space it can be seen the level of execution of the different projects by district.

It is also possible to consult the documentation related to each of the projects: https://www.decidim.barcelona/processes/PressupostosParticipatius/f/4688/



#### Contribution

This project contributes the overall mission statement as long as has been aimed at: Expanding citizens' rights related to political participation Strengthening unorganised citizens Community empowerment The following charact. of the project makes it innovative: Two processes were initiated simultaneously to enrich each other: the Municipal Action Plan and the participatory budgeting A specific budget was established for each district taking into account socio-demographic variables, guaranteeing a balanced territorial distribution and promoting community mobilisation of citizens at neighbourhood level A project specification phase was incorporated, aimed at sharing the visions of promoters with municipal technicians For the 1st time, the minimum age of participation was lowered to 14 years to facilitate young people's participation It's quite sure that there will be a new edition of Participatory Budgeting due to the great impact and positive assessment of the process and its result.

### Target group

This activity is targeted at residents from Barcelona City over 14 years old. The objective was to reach as many people as possible but it is difficult to quantify it. What we can quantify is that there were 73,490 interactions (20,772 face-to-face and 52,718 through Decidim.Barcelona) and 39,433 people took part in the final vote. Certainly, this project can be applied to other parts of the country or abroad. The way the process has been structured and centralised through the digital platform decidim.barcelona facilitates the application to any place as well as the documentation of all the project that has been carried out.

#### Collaboration

The participation of people with functional diversity, children & teenagers has been actively promoted. Specifically, in each district: Sessions in occupational centres & day centres for people with functional diversity Debate sessions with children in primary schools Debate sessions with teenagers in secondary schools Regarding people of diverse origin, inclusive communication has been promoted especially designed to incorporate these groups and material was distributed in 8 languages, including Mandarin Chinese, Tagal, Urdu and Arabic Democratic Innovation & Active Democracy's Directorates, both belonging to the Area Management of Culture, Education, Science and Community, have been responsible for the organisation and development of the participatory process In the political sphere, the department involved is the Councillor's Office for Participation. The involvement of all the areas and districts of Barcelona City Council was necessary for the deployment of the participatory process



#### Communication

The communication strategy has been local and was based on a totally inclusive image campaign incorporating groups that were not used to participating in similar processes. The aim was to empower citizens to present and defend their proposals. Leaflets in 8 languages, bags, pens and roll ups were distributed. Advertising has been done on banners, Illuminated Advertising Targets (OPIS), buses and metro, advertisements in the media and banners on municipal websites and social networks, as well as decidim. barcelona. The 12 participation trolleys with the image of the communication campaign have been used. For the voting phase:

- · Banners and OPIS on public transport.
- Individualised explanatory totems for each project located in the places where each project was located. An exhibition was set up in each district where the different projects could be viewed, as well as a video. As we have previously explained, monitoring committees were set up in each of the 10 districts of the city.

### **Project Setup**

Employees from Democratic Innovation and Active Democracy's Directorates have been the core of the project as well as Councillor's Office for Participation (7 people in total) The involvement of all the areas & districts of Barcelona City Council was necessary for the deployment of the participatory process Each area and district had a person in charge of the process, who has been in contact with both the Municipal Management and the person in charge of Active Democracy in the sector or district Fund Ferrer i Guàrdia: coordination A different entity worked in each district: Raons Públiques: Ciutat Vella Delibera Serveis de Participació: Eixample & Sarrià-St Gervasi Fund Ferrer i Guàrdia: Sants-Montjuïc & St Martí Arc Mediació Ambiental: Les Corts Raons Públiques: Gràcia Quòrum Consultors: Horta-Guinardó Jordi Quiñonero Oltra: Nou Barris Raons Públiques: St Andreu Espai d'Anàlisi Social, SL worked at a city level and Tàndem Social, SCCL worked issues related to functional divers

### Description

The process has generated a great mobilisation of organised civil society, especially in the education, sports, sustainable mobility and green spaces sectors. That is why the projects that received the most votes and are being implemented have been promoted by organised civil society, such as: associations of pupils' families, sports associations, cycling associations, environmental groups and all the organisations and neighbours through the neighbourhood councils.



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Logistics, accessibility and events	Operating costs	75,220€
Markings, retractable bollards, signalization, street furniture (flower boxes, etc.)	Planning & implementation	103,890€
Animation of public space	Extra Budget	120,430€

Total Budget 299,550€

### Funding

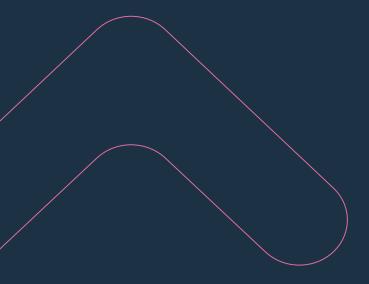
Barcelona's City Council regular investment budget.

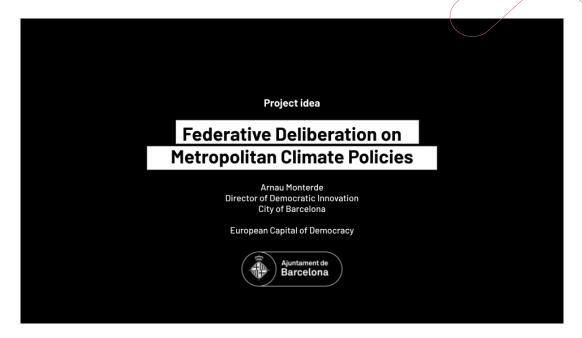
### Democracy Dimension

Participation

# **Project Ideas**







#### PRESENTATION VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/4LVCA7DWH5Q

### Federative Deliberation on Metropolitan climate policies

### Challenge

The metropolitan region of Barcelona has 5 million inhabitants and is made up of more than 150 municipalities. The challenge citizens are facing is the deployment of a participation infrastructure to generate deliberative processes, define policies on a metropolitan scale and between the different municipalities in close relation to policies to deal with climate emergencies: mobility, pollution, green corridors, etc. Most of the municipalities that make up the metropolitan region already use the decidim platform but only at their municipality level. This proposal seeks to generate spaces for participation and debate between the different municipalities of the metropolitan region through mechanisms of federation of the different Decidim platforms. The most significant challenge citizens are facing is to enhance social bonds between citizens from different municipalities focusing on issues they have in common looking for collective responses to shared issues using a shared participation infrastructure: decidim.metropolis and deploying in person debates throughout the region. Barcelona is one of the 100 climateneutral cities chosen by the European Commission for 2030. Many of the actions that the city has to implement affect the metropolitan region and that is why there has to be co-responsibility between municipalities. The Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan (PEMB) has carried out prior diagnostic work identifying the needs and potential of the territory in the medium term.

### Solution

Through the Decidim platform, a virtuous combination of digital and face-to-face participation between the different municipalities is proposed to address issues of utmost relevance currently that affect the daily life of citizens. Citizens stop losing out on the opportunity to get involved in defining the main public policies of the metropolitan region and to explore new forms of digital and face-to-face participation and deliberation.



#### Solution

They will also miss out on deploying a project that provides specific solutions to real problems, problems that affect their daily lives.

### **Impact**

Citizen participation will be fundamental in the diagnosis, information and debate phases, as well as in the construction and elaboration of subsequent proposals. It will also be important for citizens to be able to monitor the agreements, the results of the process and their implementation. The potential population to be reached by this project will be between 50,000 and 150,000 inhabitants between all the Decidim platforms of the different municipalities. Priority will be given to the participation of all municipalities. The Barcelona Metropolitan Strategic Plan has established 5 principles as a result of the process of research and identification of strategic axes. These principles will be the guide for action and will give coherence to the projects and actions to work with a strategic vision:

- · the Barcelona metropolitan region is established arriving at 5 million inhabitants
- the central objective of reducing inequalities and urban segregation, in a context of climate emergency, is adopted
- incorporating the media into the "quadruple helix" scheme (public administration, academia/research, private sector and citizens)
- · proactivity and positivism
- · collaborative and inclusive work

### **Implementation**

The project will be disseminated mainly through a digital platform for citizen participation: decidim.metropolis. It will structure and centralise the different local platforms and will articulate all the processes through debates, meetings and proposals. Although resources exist for the infrastructure, specific resources will be needed to develop and improve the federation systems between the different platforms decided upon as well as for the dynamisation of the whole process. We are aiming for developing a specific and detailed action plan on the above-mentioned issues that sets out the main projects to be carried out and that is agreed upon by the metropolitan region as a whole.

### Support

Coordination is needed through a technical office, it will be necessary to invest in development and dynamisation and to generate a good organisational structure between the main actors in the metropolitan region: city governments, metropolitan actors, organised civil society, economic actors, universities and research centres, and citizens.

### Democracy Dimension

Technology



#### PRESENTATION VIDEO: HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/R2D0DC2GS0E

### **Climate Participatory Budgeting**

### Challenge

The main challenge citizens are facing is the expansion of their rights related to direct political participation. This project also strengthens the role of unorganised citizens, young people and new social organisations taking co-responsibility for the project implementation process, involving themselves in the decision-making process and enhances community engagement through collective responses and social bonds in the face of the consequences of climate change in the city. These 3 challenges come together to deal with the ever-closer reality of the climate crisis. The process we are proposing to face these challenges is Climate Participatory Budgeting. We encourage citizens to propose projects related to issues to face Climate crisis at district and city level. Projects that help to mitigate the consequences of the climate crisis that affect their daily life. The single most significant challenge is strengthening collective responses and social bonds in the face of consequences of climate change in the city promoting public community collaboration. Barcelona is immersed in a process of specifying the municipal policies needed to tackle the climate emergency in the city. In this line, the implementation of participatory climate budgets is part of the city's commitment to address the climate crisis and to consolidate this new model of citizen participation involving citizens in the whole decision making process.

### Solution

Barcelona already has a successful experience in implementing participatory budgets, it will be updated and strengthened on a highly relevant issue as it is the climate crisis, extending the municipal budget. More resources will be available for mediating more diverse and inclusive participation. Barcelona has also a track record of working together with citizens on climate emergency issues.



#### Solution

Citizen engagement in the political participation of their city and on climate issues has been proven if we bear in mind the previous participation in Climate Plan in 2017 (https://www.decidim.barcelona/processes/placlima?locale=es), let's change for the climate Plan 2030 (https://www.decidim.barcelona/processes/canviempelclima?locale=es) and Citizens' Climate Assembly: a deliberative process now in progress (https://www.decidim.barcelona/processes/AssembleaClima?locale=es). Citizens stop losing out on the possibility of carrying out a project of their own or with which they sympathise as well as the possibility of exercising new forms of direct democracy by being part of a co-decision process. If citizens decide not to participate in the project they will miss out on building a democratic culture of co-production of public policies between citizens, social organisations and municipal government. They will also miss out on deploying a project that provides specific solutions to real problems, problems that affect their daily lives.

#### **Impact**

Citizen participation is prior to the start of the project, since participatory sessions are held with citizens and civil organisations to present the first process proposal, where the evaluation of the previous participatory budgeting process is taken into account. Participation begins in the design phase of the process, validating and improving the proposal. It is also important that citizens follow the agreements, results and projects implementation. The objective is to reach as many people as possible, in the previous participatory budgeting, about 70,000 citizens took part in the process. Our goal is to exceed this level of participation arriving at 100,000 participants. The following data shows us the necessity of this project: According to Barcelona's biannual barometer of July 2022, citizens perceive pollution and the environment as the 7th most serious problem in the city. In Barcelona, as in other European cities, the annual average concentration limits for nitrogen and particulate matter under 10 set by the EU to protect health are currently exceeded, and the cost of energy is rising steadily. Previous Participatory Budgeting was the process with the highest participation rate in 2019-2023

#### **Implementation**

Digital platform for citizen participation: decidim.barcelona will structure and centralise the different activities promoted throughout the whole process and will also keep all participants informed and connected. We will also disseminate the project with a communication campaign with an inclusive design, focusing on citizens and its diversity. The informative documentation in different media will be translated into the 8 most common languages in the city. The campaign will be reinforced by distributing the information on municipal websites and social networks as well as on public transport and in the places where the different proposed projects are located. There will be in person sessions using spaces of participation in the city and generating new ones and workshops to support the design of projects. Both activities will involve the network of more than 400 public municipal facilities: civil centres, public libraries, communitarian centres, fablabs, etc.



### **Implementation**

The previous participatory budget had its own budget line and for this project a reserve will be made in the next municipal budget. We are aiming for: a significant increase in the available municipal budget achieving a high level of social mobilisation prioritisation of projects that will shape a new green and sustainable city to face the complex challenges of the climate crisis.

### Support

In terms of consulting: investing in participatory design, a good dynamisation of the design process and identifying and developing participatory improvements in decidim.barcelona Related to financing: increasing 20-30 million € to a total budget of 50-60 million € and a 20% increase in the budget for the management of the participatory process. With regard to partners: building strong partnerships in areas and districts of the municipality, especially districts and the area of urban ecology. We will also build partnerships with civil society through the pre-design process.

### Democracy Dimension

**Empowerment** 

