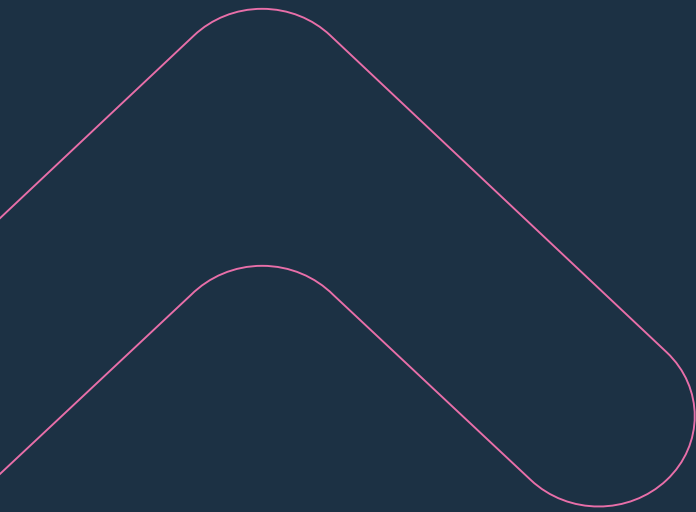
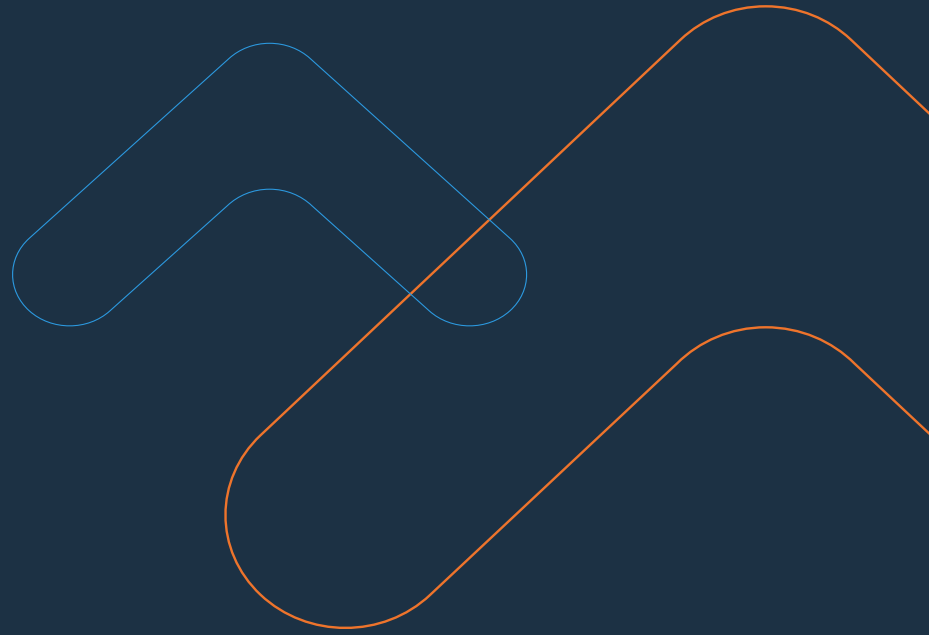




European Capital
of Democracy



ECOD APPLICATION

Braga

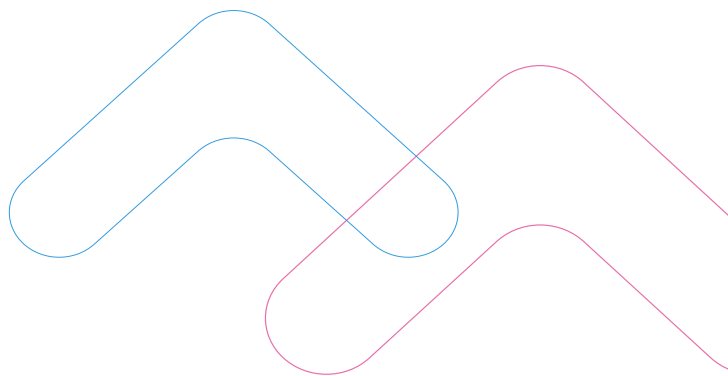
December 2022

Supporting Documents



- [ECoD Compliance Guidelines](#)
- [ECoD Confidentiality Agreement](#)
- [ECoD Data Processing Agreement](#)
- [ECoD Data Security Guidelines](#)
- [Council resolution for participation](#)

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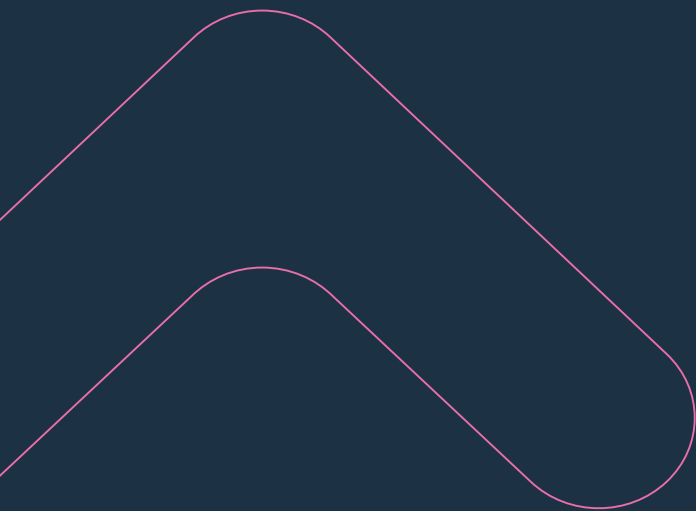
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ECOD APPLICATION BRAGA

Mission Statement





Braga – Mission Statement



Connective Intelligence Democracy

Teaser

Braga took democracy as a fundamental vector towards the future. There has always been the awareness that the future of Braga should be faced on a historical and identity evolutionary process of the city: connective intelligence. This evolutionary process results in a new governance model implemented in the city to foster democracy. It consists of decision-making resulting from the collaboration of a set of fields, based on the use of intelligence and individual knowledge of each one parts.

Summary

Founded by the Celts in 300 BC, it was named administrative center of the Roman Empire in 27 BC, the religious center of the Iberian Peninsula of the medieval period, Baroque city and ex-libris of this style in Portugal and throughout Europe. However, The Arco da Porta Nova is one of the most striking monuments of the city. As there was no war at the time and as the city grew beyond the walls, no doors were placed in that arch. This action determined one of the most main values of Braga, known as those who never close the door, that is, an unusual community and a connected spirit. Recently, at the beginning of the 21st century, in response to the crisis in the traditional industrial sectors, Braga managed to put this value into practice. The reinvention of its economic industry with the birth of a local and regional technological cluster paves the way for a new era. This ecosystem catapults it to the status of a city of innovation and knowledge, identified as the Portuguese Silicon Valley.

The brief description of the city's history serves to express that over time there was a transversal component of the city's evolutionary process. This component translates into the capacity of Braga's citizens to promote new solutions to their problems by connecting to collective networks of knowledge.

Braga took innovation as a fundamental vector to become a reference in terms of dynamism and quality of life for citizens. In 2014, for the first time, it joined forces of the City to develop a concerted strategy with a long-term vision, thinking about the territory and the future.

Braga – Mission Statement

Summary

There has always been the awareness that this vision of the future should be faced based on a historical and identity evolutionary process of the city: connective intelligence. This evolutionary process results in a new governance model implemented in the city to foster democracy. It consists of decision-making resulting from the collaboration of a set of parts, based on the use of intelligence and individual knowledge of each one parts.

As a result of the dynamism of this evolutionary process, it was possible to involve a vast group of entities that co-created, agreed and defined a set of actions with predetermined deadlines. For this, leaders were identified, measurable objectives and made monitorable in order to operationalize the defined democracy strategy.

In this time period, Braga's development success had one of the best performances at the European level.

The development advocated by the implementation of this new governance model was aimed at fostering job creation, encouraging sustainability, disseminating cosmopolitan and contemporary culture, attracting and retaining visitors and boosting trade. In short, converge to a "smart and trendy city".

Democratic Ambitions

Democracies in various global hubs are operating in a very different environment from the one in which they emerged. Non-state actors and hyperconnected networks are operating with deterministic effect beyond the reach of governments. The emergence of a large unregulated digital commons is providing new tools for manipulation and propaganda by nefarious forces hostile to democratic values. The personalized media market, combined with the hostile dialogue that social media thrives on, is robbing societies of a shared narrative and is deepening political divisions. As recent elections on both sides of the Atlantic have demonstrated, these forces are exerting pressure on institutions built for a simpler time, causing the decay of the state and the decline of competence rendered impotent by systemic changes over which they have little control. The government's powerlessness to protect people from uncontrolled migration, terrorist attacks and financial meltdowns, combined with perceived capture by elites, has led to anti-establishment movements and populist uprisings. The rise of authoritarianism is a symptom of the collapse of institutional trust on which democracy has long been based. The apparatus of democracy needs to be updated for the 21st century in order to preserve democratic values and the rule of law. Technology and globalization have brought about significant changes in society and the economy, which are not reflected in our institutions. Our challenges are global, but government is national or local. Power is increasingly in networks, but our institutions are still islands of hierarchy.

Braga – Mission Statement

Democratic Ambitions

As technology has created opportunities for connection and participation, social and cultural expectations have shifted in this direction, but our institutions have been slow to adopt new models of engagement. Institutions must operate with the transparency and responsiveness that citizens expect, while showing themselves competent to govern. Furthermore, the public square must be renewed to support the informed civil deliberation that a democracy requires. The Future of Democracy program will bring together leading thinkers and leaders to reimagine democracy for the new era. Together, we will develop new ideas on how to reinvent democratic institutions and rebuild the public square for the 21st century.

Achieved Successes

The concept of Connective Intelligence have been translate into the capacity of Braga's citizens to promote new solutions to their problems by connecting to collective networks of knowledge. The city's evolution, from the most distant to the most recent history, reflects a perfect parallel with this concept. It is in this sense that public policies are developed in collaboration with citizens, associations and experts regularly meeting in dedicated councils moderated by the local government.

To respond to this model a formal 3-step structure was developed, namely:

1. Strategic Councils - To promote discussion and advice on the strategy and lines of action for the development of Braga, ensuring the interaction of Braga City Council and strategic partners. The main objective of these bodies is to maintain a culture of dialogue in the implementation of innovative solutions and definition of actions to be taken, such as the InvestBraga Strategic Council, the Braga community involvement process for Sustainable Development.
2. Institutions - Promote and strengthen institutions and their democratic processes in the development of the city, providing participation and inclusion to all citizens. The engagement Matrix in the perception of Municipality for the expectation of the critical themes by the citizens, are a good examples.
3. Plans and Strategies - to ensure that the practices identified behind are integrated into the normal urban development process, the Municipality of Braga offers urban agents the possibility to take risks and experiment with the most innovative and creative solutions through Specific strategic plans. The Strategic Plan for Economic Development implemented in 2014, the recent strategic model for Sustainable Development as the basis for a strategy for the city future, Braga Media Arts and Braga'27, up to the Social Innovation, are some examples of plans and strategies with integrated actions to testing innovative solutions for the main urban challenges, see how they work in practice and respond to the complexity of real life.

Braga – Mission Statement

Future Challenges

In most parts of the world, where Braga is no exception, there is a general distancing with public and political institutions. The membership of traditional political parties is falling, turnout in elections is consistently lower than it was two decades ago, and people have little confidence in their elected representatives. There is a growing movement of populist movements in the western world. In the current model of governance and/or representative democracy, bureaucratic administration, occasional elections and government by elected or appointed “experts” – they seem to be little updated to the modern world, or rather to the expectations of citizens. The global nature of the challenges we face, new notions of specialization, a less different society, mass information available on demand, social media and new technologies for communication and organization – make this usual model seem outdated at best and at best. worst case scenario, simply archaic. Digital instruments and technologies have changed the way we perform any activity. There are still few, but existing, projects, initiatives and tools that point to a new governance model in which people’s perceptions, sensibilities and desires are involved. These have the potential to reform and reinvigorate our political institutions. Recent advances in digital technologies have made it possible to connect and diffuse to a greater number of people solving complex problems complex problems. At the same time, these technologies are helping assemblies, city governments and political parties to engage citizens in new ways.

For example, digitization to crowdsourcing, from collaborative policymaking to direct democracy or even large-scale deliberative exercises. Even with this digitization process in progress, the periodicity and the method of election of the representative process is carried out through the vote every 4 years. This process is the same as the beginnings of democracy itself. In addition to this archaic process in which we have presented alternatives, there are low-intensity democracies, which do not guarantee conditions of political equality, reduce participation in electoral votes and tend to recognize only individual identities, denying the importance of collective ones. This is typical of the hegemonic canon of democracy, which reduces citizens’ ability to elect their leaders and perpetuates a tense relationship between mobilization and institutionalization. In Braga we are now facing a historic opportunity to renew and reinvigorate our democratic processes. This candidacy could provide the impetus for parliament to reform its working practices and attract a wider range of perspectives in its deliberations and decisions. At the same time, decentralization can also encourage local councils to engage with citizens in new ways, allowing them to influence and shape local decisions. Digital tools and technologies offer parties, parliaments and local governments the greatest opportunity to engage the public in new and more meaningful ways. Another great challenge is to place sustainable development as a central role in a democratic process. The environmental crises are a good example of this where, at the same time, they intersect at multiple points.



Braga – Mission Statement

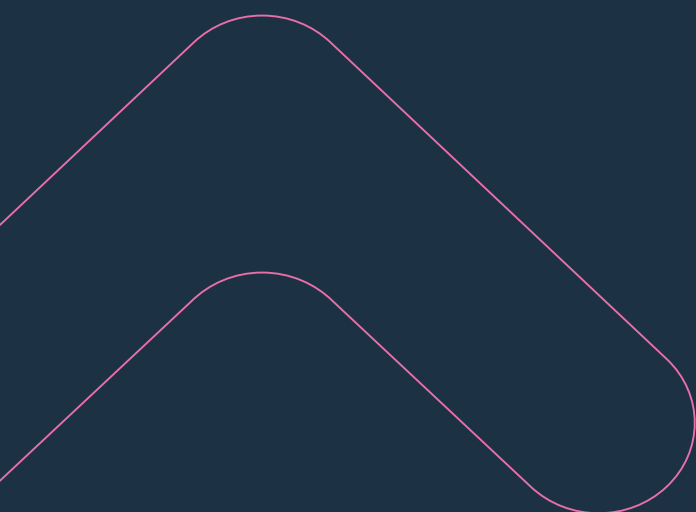
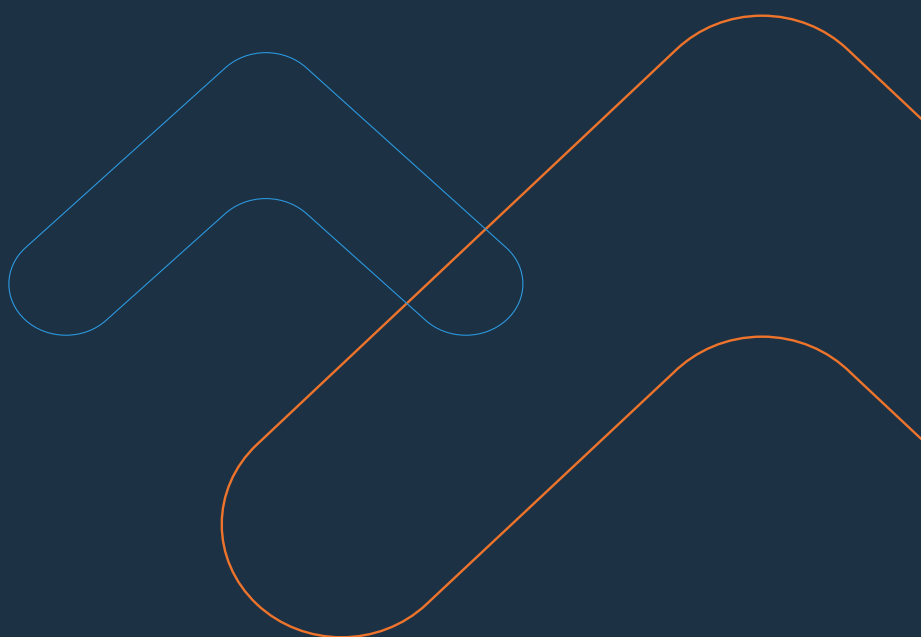


Future Challenges

One of these points concerns the narrative battles over the different meanings that the environmental crisis has, and how such arguments are shaped by the political strength of different social and economic groups. Another concerns the indeterminate results of the ecological crisis in relation to democracy, as the environmental crisis or sustainability development can lead either to more democratic practices.

ECOD APPLICATION BRAGA

Projects



Braga – Project 1

EVENT | PERMANENT

Academia Senior

Brief Description

The Braga Senior Academy (ASB) presents itself as a socio-educational and cultural project, promoted and managed by the Municipality of Braga, whose initiatives and activities take place in the premises located at Rua Dom Frei Caetano Brandão, n.o 161, Braga. ASB has as its goals an educational and training process for the full development of the senior population, namely through the updating of knowledge on various domains in a context of lifelong training, as well as organizing complementary events of a cultural, recreational, socializing nature. and leisure.

Detailed Description

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- a) Offer seniors a socially organized living space suited to their needs and interests, so that they can live according to their personality and social relationship;
- b) Stimulating active and healthy aging, the quality of life of seniors, and the acquisition/ updating of knowledge within a framework of lifelong learning;
- c) Provide seniors with classes and courses, and other initiatives, where their knowledge can be disseminated, valued and expanded;
- d) Promote spaces for meeting in the community, which become incentives for a healthy spirit of coexistence and human and social solidarity;
- e) Preserve and disseminate the history, culture, traditions and values, namely with regard to the city of Braga;
- f) Foster spaces and moments of conviviality and sharing among seniors, enhancing interpersonal connections and conditions of well-being, and combating the phenomena of loneliness, isolation and social exclusion;
- g) Encouraging social volunteering;
- h) Develop awareness-raising, information and dissemination of services, resources and rights of the senior population;

Braga – Project 1

Detailed Description

ASB carries out its activity and mission in the premises of the building located at Rua Dom Frei Caetano Brandão, no. 161, Braga. The initiatives and events carried out in the context of the ASB can also take place in the various municipal infrastructures and facilities. ASB, within the scope of its activity, promotes and develops theoretical and practical classes, in various subjects, in a non-formal teaching regime, such as History and Culture of Braga, Portuguese, English, Citizenship, Informatics, Emotional Intelligence, Physical Activity, Arts, Music and Dance. ASB also organizes the following initiatives and events:

- a) Multidisciplinary debates, conferences, seminars and workshops;
- b) Walks, study visits, and other activities that encourage interaction between seniors and contact with diverse cultural offerings;
- c) Information and dissemination of services aimed at the senior population;
- d) Activities to promote health and healthy living habits;
- e) Other sociocultural activities that are considered relevant.

Contribution

This initiative contributes to the inclusion of seniors in the active and democratic world. Aims to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of all people who are in retirement or pre-retirement, through the enrichment of their free time, namely in the areas of culture and sport.

Target Group

The ASB is intended for all people aged 55 or over, regardless of their level of education. Anyone who: a) Observe the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article; b) Possess adequate physical and psychological strength to carry out the activities; c) They expressly agree with ASB's principles, values and participation rules; d) Enroll by completing the application form; e) Pay personal accident insurance. The ASB may exceptionally admit people under the age of 55, in case the attendance of the same proves to be important for their physical and mental health, to be decided by the Mayor of Braga or Councilman with delegated competence.

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

The project has a local dimension and will be communicated accordingly.

Project Setup

1. The Braga Municipal Council is the promoter and manager of the ASB.
2. The ASB is coordinated by the Sports, Youth and Associativism and Civic Participation Division of the Braga Municipal Council.
3. It is incumbent upon the Division of Sport, Youth and Associations and Civic Participation to ensure the full functioning of the ASB, the planning

Braga – Project 1

N/A

Description

Budget

Municipal budget	Planning & implementation	30,000€
Total Budget		30,000€

Funding

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Empowerment

Braga – Project 2

STRATEGY | PERMANENT

Braga Voluntária - Municipal Volunteering Structure

Brief Description

At BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA, we believe that all Braga people can contribute to building the city where they want to live, and we are trying to create the conditions that allow us to promote and support impactful volunteering. In cooperation with organizations promoting volunteer activities and with the different local actors and agents, we will create a local volunteer network, capable of contributing to enhance the best of our city. The action of BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA is based on the values of Solidarity, expressed in the practice of an active Citizenship and a work of Proximity, in which relationships of Trust and commitment are established, where the same desire for Efficiency to do the best is shared, at the service of the community. Volunteering is an altruistic, thoughtful decision in which we take responsibility for the community of which we are a part.

Detailed Description

The promotion of a culture of community cohesion capable of contributing to a better quality of life, which reinforces the values of participation of all citizens in the most diverse fields of activity, based on the values of solidarity and proximity, reinforce the relevance of volunteering. in the harmonious development of society. The Braga City Council, within the scope of its competences and attributions, designates the Municipal Volunteering Structure - BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA, as a dynamic agent for the practice of volunteering, creating the conditions to promote and support volunteering. In the promotion and organization of volunteering, BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA, taking advantage of the knowledge of the characteristics of the community, assumes a relevant role that translates into greater efficiency in the use of resources and in the dynamization of local desires. The benefits of this project are easily attested, and of which the following stand out, namely: the opportunity for citizens to actively participate in the community; involvement and creation of synergies between local agents and actors; the reduction of social inequalities and the effective search for a fairer society; the contribution to the physical, social, emotional and psychological well-being of the population of Braga; the acquisition and development of informal and non-formal skills; reinforcing the feeling of belonging and security; the empowerment of vulnerable groups; increasing citizens' personal fulfillment and self-esteem; improving communication skills and interpersonal relationships, and jointly responding to community challenges.

Braga – Project 2

Contribution

The following are the objectives of BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA:

- a) Create an operating model that promotes and operates volunteer programs for impact on the Municipality of Braga;
- b) Promote the dissemination of volunteer projects through direct information to the public in general or other communication channels used by it, which it deems appropriate;
- c) Empower volunteer agents with the necessary resources and tools for a community impact volunteering;
- d) Involve volunteer agents in decision-making processes and include their proposals and contributions to the promotion of volunteering;
- e) Valuing, promoting and encouraging the practice of volunteering, as well as making known the good established practices;
- f) Ensure service to the general public, volunteers and organizations promoting volunteering based on the creation of a relationship of trust, reciprocity and proximity; g) Contribute to the deepening of volunteering knowledge

Target Group

Volunteers: Any resident or person who exercises a professional or educational activity in the Municipality of Braga and that shows particular motivation and interest in developing voluntary activities.

Organizations: All organizations based in the Municipality can be partners of BRAGAVOLUNTÁRIA de Braga and all those who work or develop activities in the Municipality, while public or private entities meet the conditions to integrate volunteers.

Private Entities: All legally constituted companies headquartered in the Municipality of Braga and all those that operate or carry out activities in the Municipality, which consciously intend to create a strategy of integrated social responsibility

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

A BRAGA VOLUNTÁRIA deverá promover uma reunião entre as partes (voluntário e organização promotora de voluntariado) com o objetivo de sensibilizar ambos para as questões mais relevantes, apresentando designadamente: a) O programa de voluntariado; b) Plano de formação e capacitação; t) Seguro obrigatório; d) Certificação do trabalho voluntário.

Project Setup

Volunteers: Any resident or person who exercises a professional or educational activity in the Municipality of Braga and that shows particular motivation and interest in developing voluntary activities.

Organizations: All organizations based in the Municipality can be partners of BRAGA-VOLUNTÁRIA de Braga and all those who work or develop activities in the Municipality, while public or private entities meet the conditions to integrate volunteers.

Braga – Project 2

Project Setup

Private Entities: All legally constituted companies headquartered in the Municipality of Braga and all those that operate or carry out activities in the Municipality, which consciously intend to create a strategy of integrated social responsibility, developing actions, support or incentives aimed at involving employees in the scope of voluntary activities in the community.

Description

N/A

Budget

Municipal budget

Operating costs

5,000€

Total Budget

5,000€

Funding

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Community

Braga – Project 3

EVENT | REGULAR | 01.02.2024–15.02.2024

Parlamento Concelhio – Pequenos Grandes Políticos

Brief Description

The Municipal Parliament – Little Big Politicians is an initiative aimed at young people from the 3rd cycle of basic education schools in the municipality of Braga. Taking into account the importance of training young people, especially in education for active and participatory citizenship, this activity is intended to stimulate and welcome original and creative proposals, reflecting the concerns and priorities of young citizens. The elaboration of these proposals implies research, reasoning and debate, appealing to imagination, critical thinking, sharing of ideas and experiences, and learning among young people. It is the intention of the Municipality of Braga to promote opportunities for young people to actively participate in the construction of their city, listening to and welcoming their ideas, proposals and projects. The Municipal Parliament ends with a Final Assembly, with the presence of the Municipal Executive and the Board of the Municipal Assembly, in which the proposals of the young citizens are presented and voted on.

Detailed Description

The Municipal Parliament – Little Big Politicians is a project organized by the Braga City Council, aimed at young people from the 3rd cycle of basic education schools in the municipality of Braga. With the Municipal Parliament, the City Council intends to promote yet another means of encouraging participation, active citizenship and the voice of young people in the municipality in the construction of their city. In this initiative, it is specifically intended that each group of young students prepare, present and discuss with the other groups, a proposal in the field of youth, sport, health, education, culture, social action, urbanism, heritage, public space, environment, sustainability, among several other topics that they consider appropriate and relevant for the city of Braga. All students attending the 3rd cycle of basic education in schools in the municipality of Braga can participate in this activity. The Municipal Parliament takes place in three phases: Registration phase; Stage of preparation and selection of the proposal; And phase of presentation and discussion of proposals. It should be noted that, during the presentation and discussion of proposals, groups of students from each school will have the opportunity to present and debate their ideas, in a joint session divided into two moments, a first for preparation and a second for discussion. The students of the winning group receive an individual prize, and will have the opportunity to visit the Municipality of Braga and to meet with the Mayor and the Members of its Executive, to learn about the work of municipal governance. Furthermore, the school that the group of students represents also receives a prize.

Braga – Project 3

Contribution	Encourage young people to get involved in political activities.
Target Group	The Municipal Parliament – Small Great Politicians is aimed at young people from the 3rd cycle of basic education schools in the municipality of Braga.
Collaboration	N/A
Communication	<p>Communication regarding the Municipality of Parliament – Small Great Politicians is carried out through the Braga Youth Portal, the Braga City Council website, the City Council's social networks and the Municipal Youth area, often through the local media, and together with schools in the municipality of Braga.</p> <p>The project teams consists of the staff of Braga Participation: 3 project coordinators, 2 terrain facilitators, 1 communication, 2 administrative agents and 1 logistical support officer. They accompany citizens who submit an idea along the way: they help to clarify the project idea and they are contact persons to reach out to other departments. Depending on the idea, departments such as urbanism, mobility, green spaces, etc. can be involved. They mainly intervene as experts of a specific topic. For the creation of the design of the methodological workshops, and the integration of the neighborhood council within the process of participatory budgeting, we were assisted by Belgian experts in citizen participation. As explained in the projects' description, the neighborhood council itself also plays an important role in the project setup, by identifying the needs of the neighborhood and by playing the role of a citizens' jury.</p>
Project Setup	The Municipality Parliament – Small Great Politicians is carried out by the Braga City Council, as part of the Municipal Council with the responsibility of Youth, Associativism, Citizenship and Participation. The Division of Sport, Youth, Associations and Civic Participation, and especially the Youth Unit, support and support the realization of the Municipal Parliament.
Description	N/A

Budget	<table> <tr> <td>Municipal budget</td> <td>Planning and implementation</td> <td>10,000€</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Total Budget</td> <td>10,000€</td> </tr> </table>	Municipal budget	Planning and implementation	10,000€	Total Budget		10,000€
Municipal budget	Planning and implementation	10,000€					
Total Budget		10,000€					



Braga – Project 3



Funding

N/A

Democracy
Dimension

Community

Braga – Project 4

TOOL | PERMANENT |

[URL: HTTP://PARTICIPE.CM-BRAGA.PT](http://participe.cm-braga.pt)

Braga Participatory Budget – General (PB Braga)

Brief Description

Braga City Council has made available, for several years, three major Participatory Budgets, in order to stimulate civic participation. The involvement of citizens, institutions, young people and schools, among other agents, drives an effective, active and growing community participation in the life of their street, their neighbourhood, their parish and their city. This materializes what is best and most important in democracy. Participatory Budgets have been an instrument of singular relevance to mobilize more and more citizens for an active and qualified intervention in the civic and political life of Braga. The success of Participatory Budgets has been guaranteed by a constant increase in the involvement of those who live, study and work in Braga, associations, institutions, primary and secondary education establishments and various other agents, who have identified aspirations, detected flaws and presented proposals that have contributed to qualify and develop the Municipality.

Detailed Description

With regard specifically to the Braga Participatory Budget, this project aims to stimulate an active, informed and responsible civic intervention by the citizens of Braga, encouraging them to propose and decide on the projects they want to see executed with financial resources from the Municipality. The PB Braga's objectives are: To adapt municipal public policies to people's needs, interests and expectations; Encourage dialogue between elected representatives, municipal technicians, citizens and organized civil society; Contribute to civic training and participation, raising awareness of the complexity of the problems, the finiteness of resources and the need to make options that benefit the common good as widely as possible; And increase the transparency of the Municipality's activity, the level of accountability of elected officials and the municipal structure. The PB Braga covers the municipality of Braga, and all intervention areas within the competence of the Municipality of Braga. For the implementation of the PB Braga, the Municipality of Braga foresees an amount of 650 thousand euros, to support projects with a value equal to or less than 85 thousand euros. All citizens aged 16 or over, who are registered, who reside, study or work in Braga, and who register on the Participatory Budgets Portal, can participate in the PB Braga. PB Braga comprises the following phases: Enrollment; Submission of proposals; Technical analysis by municipal services; Claims; Project voting; And public presentation of the winning projects. Regarding, in

Braga – Project 4

Detailed Description

particular, the Youth Participatory Budget, this initiative aims to promote, implement and deepen participatory democracy. The PB Jovem is a participatory process, which allows the youngest citizens of Braga to present and put to the vote projects to improve the quality of life and the development of the county. The Youth PB aims to: Bring younger citizens closer to municipal bodies; Promoting a greater approximation of public policies to the needs and ambitions of young people; Encourage the exercise of active and participatory citizenship among young people; Promote the personal, social and civic development of young people; And encourage dialogue between local authorities and young people. For PB Jovem, an amount of 75 thousand euros is foreseen, and each proposal must not exceed the amount of 25 thousand euros. In OP Jovem, young residents, students or workers in the municipality of Braga, aged between 14 and 35 years old, can participate and vote. The Youth OP is structured in these periods: Delivery of proposals; Technical analysis and validation of proposals; Claims; Publication of the calendar, exhibition locations and voting on proposals; Exhibition and voting of proposals; And presentation of the results. The implementation of the Youth OP is monitored by the Braga Youth Municipal Council. With regard, specifically, to the Participatory School Budget, this project is a tool conceived and designed for citizenship-oriented education, promoting the active participation of students from schools in Braga. The basic principle of the School OP is to involve school students in decision-making processes and encourage participatory democracy, with each school, considering the educational project, defining the most appropriate model to promote the mission of educating for citizenship. . The School OP has these stages: Presentation of proposals by schools; Technical validation of proposals; Selection process of the best proposals; And decision by the jury. For the School PB, an amount of 100 thousand euros is foreseen, and the projects presented will have a value equal to or less than 20 thousand euros.

Contribution

Participatory Budgets aim to contribute to a greater involvement of citizens in the distribution of Budgets with more participation.

Target Group

– Braga Participatory Budget: All citizens aged 16 or over, who are registered, who reside, study or work in Braga, and who register on the Participatory Budget Portal, can participate in the PB Braga. – Youth Participatory Budget: In the Youth OP, young residents, students or workers in the municipality of Braga, aged between 14 and 35 years old, can participate and vote. – Participatory School Budget: The School OP focuses on schools in Braga, students and the school community in the municipality.

Collaboration

„N/A

Braga – Project 4

Communication

582 / 5 000 Resultados da tradução star_border In the communication of the Participatory Budgets of Braga, resources such as the Portal of Participatory Budgets, the Portal of Youth of Braga, the website of the Municipality of Braga, the social networks of the Municipal Council and the Youth area of the Municipality are used, and often the local media. In addition, initiatives such as Participatory Assemblies are promoted, as well as other dissemination activities with the Braga Municipal Youth Council, youth associations, schools, higher education institutions and in the parishes of the municipality.

Project Setup

Braga's Participatory Budgets are implemented by the Braga City Council, and are covered by the Council's activities in the areas of Youth, Associativism, Citizenship and Participation.

Description

N/A

Budget

Operating costs

825,000€

Total Budget

825,000€

Funding

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Participation

Braga – Project 5

BEST PRACTICE | REGULAR | 01.09.2023–31.08.2024

Conselho Municipal da Juventude de Braga (CMJ Braga)

Brief Description

The Municipal Youth Council is the Municipal Council's (CMJ) advisory body on matters related to youth policy. The goals of the CMJ are to ensure the consultation, intervention, participation and representation of the young population, ensuring that their voice, their needs and aspirations are echoed by the Municipality. In addition, the CMJ promotes initiatives on youth at the local level and participates in activities and events of the Municipality, stimulating active and civic youth participation, in an environment of dialogue and sharing of ideas and experiences among all. The Municipality seeks to integrate, develop and implement the contributions and proposals of the CMJ in the definition and execution of municipal youth policies.

Detailed Description

The Municipal Youth Council, as mentioned above, is the Municipal Council's advisory body on matters relating to youth policies. The CMJ pursues the following purposes: Collaborate in the definition and execution of municipal youth policies; Ensure the hearing and representation of entities that, at the municipal level, carry out attributions related to youth; Contribute to the deepening of knowledge of indicators relating to youth; To promote the discussion of matters concerning the aspirations and needs of the young population; Promote the dissemination of works related to youth; Promote youth initiatives at the local level; Collaborate with the Municipal bodies in the exercise of competences concerning youth; Encourage and support youth associative activity; And promote collaboration between youth associations. In addition, the CMJ, with regard to consultative competences, pronounces and issues an opinion on the general guidelines of the municipal policy for youth and the municipal budget. The CMJ also issues an opinion on other municipal acts, documents and initiatives with an impact on youth policies. The CMJ, with regard to monitoring powers, monitors and issues recommendations to the Municipality bodies on the implementation of the municipal youth policy, the execution of the Municipality's budget policy on youth policies, the impact of the evolution of the Municipality's situation among the population youth, and the civic participation of the youth population of the Municipality. Furthermore, the CMJ elects its representative on the Municipal Council of Education, following the evolution of the education policy. The CMJ meets in plenary and may also meet in permanent specialized sections. The CMJ enshrines the constitution of a permanent commission, as well as occasional commissions of temporary duration.

Braga – Project 5

Detailed Description

The CMJ plenary ordinarily meets four times a year, two of which are intended to assess and issue an opinion in relation to the Municipality's annual activity plan and budget, and the other to review the Municipality's report of activities and accounts. The CMJ plenary also meets extraordinarily. The CMJ is regulated by law, municipal bylaws and bylaws.

Contribution

The contribution of this project will be to involve the interested parties, increase the processes of consultation and participation of young people.

Target group

The Municipal Youth Council is composed, namely, by: Members of the Municipal Assembly of each party or group of voting citizens; Representatives of each youth association in the Municipality; Representatives of each association of elementary and secondary education students in the Municipality; Representatives of each higher education student association in the Municipality; Representatives of each student federation; Representatives of each party youth organization; Representatives of associations equivalent to youth associations; And other local entities that develop activities related to youth, as well as informal youth groups.

Collaboration

N/A

Communication

Information regarding the Municipal Youth Council is publicized and disseminated on the Braga Youth Portal, on the Braga Municipal Council website, on the social networks of the Municipal Council and the Municipal Youth area, and frequently in the local media.

Project Setup

The Municipal Council of Youth has the administrative and logistical support of the Municipality of Braga, being integrated in the activity of the Council with the areas of Youth, Associativism, Citizenship and Participation. The Division of Sport, Youth, Associations and Civic Participation, and in particular the Youth Unit, have powers to support the CMJ.

Description

The Municipal Youth Council is composed, namely, by: Members of the Municipal Assembly of each party or group of voting citizens; Representatives of each youth association in the Municipality; Representatives of each association of elementary and secondary education students in the Municipality; Representatives of each higher education student association in the Municipality; Representatives of each student federation; Representatives of each party youth organization; Representatives of associations equivalent to youth associations; And other local entities that develop activities related to youth, as well as informal youth groups.

Braga – Project 5

Budget

Operating costs	Planning and implementation	1,000€
Total Budget		1,000€

Funding

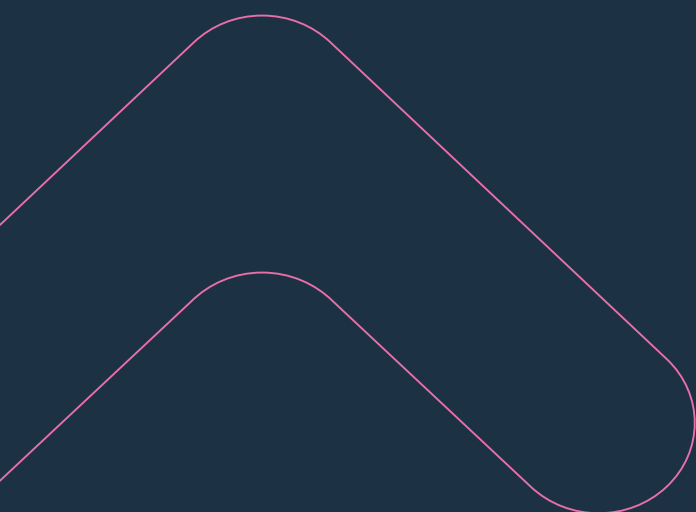
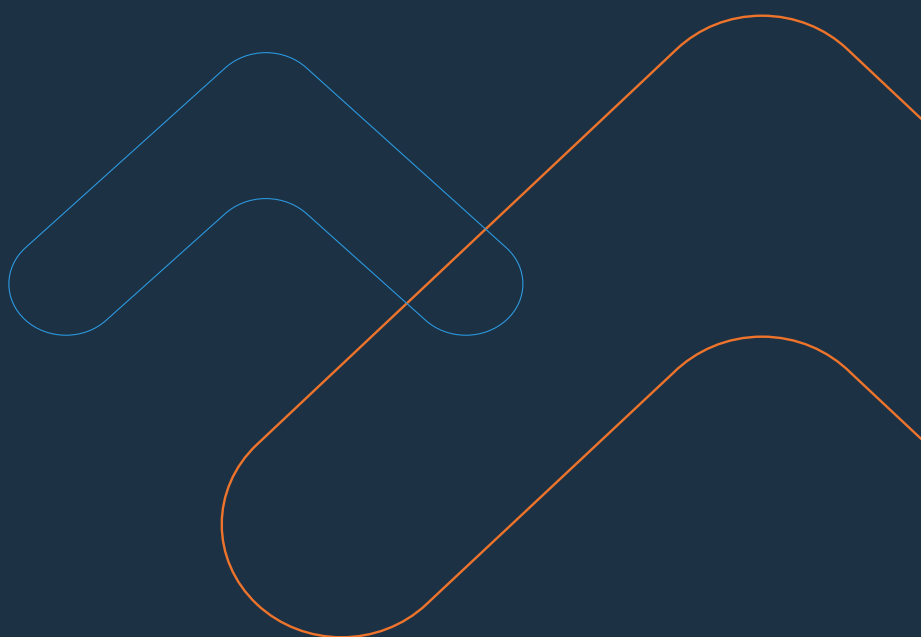
The financing of the Municipal Council of Youth is ensured through the budget of the Municipality of Braga for the youth sector.

Democracy Dimension

Community

ECOD APPLICATION BRAGA

Project Ideas



Braga - Project Idea 1

Future Court

Challenge

Braga Young People are judging the Future of their life in City, having the SDG's as baseline. Young People will evaluate and judge the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the Indicators that will bring a better future to younger generations. This is a unique initiative and give a future scenarios discussion the the agenda of Braga as European capital of Democracy. Better SDG's implementation, Critical Judgment and Critical Thinking.

Solution

Setting the Young People of Braga as a main Juri on the evaluation of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals during 17 Court Sessions, by listening best and neglected practices from the Lawyers regarding the implementation of the 2030 agenda in Braga. Young people leading critical thinking and Democracy awareness.

Temporary use is all about trying and testing, so the project can meet the needs of the citizens. For the experimental programming of the school square "Nouveau Marché aux Grains" 20 pupils of the school Institut Mot de Couvreur will be involved. Citizens and businesses living or working around the square will also be involved. The first participation process already showed that all the different stakeholders want the square to be greener, with more possibilities for meeting each other and with shelter for the rain. A place for personal expression and creativity. In the framework of GoodMove, 5 squares will be activated by proposing a temporary development of at least 2 years that reinforces the new development. Local partners (a surrounding theatre, café, library, a neighborhood committee or association of skaters, etc.) will be mobilized to meet the citizens and users of the square to take ownership of the future development. As the squares became accessible for other use than parking or circulation, it's important that citizens see the change immediately in a positive way. By testing out new projects, we appeal to imagination to make the city more livable and pleasant for all.

Impact

Stakeholders SDG+s Engagement - As Juri member of each session of the Future Court, 20 Young persons per session of the Future Court to act in SDG's indicators.

Implementation

17 Sessions of the Future Court - One Session per SDG, Near Schools and Pedagogical Communities

Support

BragaHabit E.M/Human Power Hub, InvestBraga/Braga Youth Centre facilities and Expertise Support

Braga - Project Idea 1

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy
Dimension

Community

Braga - Project Idea 2

Parish Assemblies broadcast online

Challenge

In Braga, the reality is that all Municipal Assemblies are already transmitted online. That is, any citizen at home can follow the debate that takes place in what is the main organ of debate in the municipality. See and hear live their elected representatives. We know that many of the parish councils already transmit their Parish Assembly sessions online, there are 37 parishes in the city. Despite the large investment, we will try to provide the parish councils with the means or acquire services for the online transmission of the Parish Assemblies.

Solution

Online broadcasting of all Parish Assembly sessions of the 37 parishes, through their broadcasting channels. Financing for purchases of materials or services.

Impact

Bringing citizens closer to their local authority, seeking to comply with the principles of proximity and transparency. Increase the levels of knowledge and democratic monitoring by the citizen.

Implementation

Implementation in Social networks in 2023.

Support

Financing for purchases of materials or services. Estimated cost value of transfers = 18,000 euros (eighteen thousand euros) to 25,000 euros (twenty-five thousand euros annually).

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Technology

Braga - Project Idea 3

Vasco Graça Moura or Youth and European Democracy Initiative

Challenge

We feel that European communities cannot immediately see the impact of European policy decisions on their lives. There is a gap between the European policy maker and the citizen. We will seek to create a programme in our school community which rewards young people through EU-related initiatives. Those with the best performance, namely through mock debates and essay writing, will visit the European Parliament for a week.

Solution

Implementation of a citizenship and democracy project linked to European values. The criteria for choosing the winning prize will be based on the following assumptions: • Increasing democratic participation in European affairs; • Bringing the citizen closer to the European democratic institutions; • Transparency and quality of democratic decisions; • Impact on society about the perception of the European Union.

Impact

Complying with the EU Youth Strategy, namely through the assumptions of „Involve, Connect and Empower“. We will seek to demonstrate to our students and school community how European policy decisions affect the lives of young people and create new challenges. We will aim to promote the concepts of solidarity, freedom, peace, inter-generational justice and social justice that are a large part of the work of the European institutions.

Implementation

Our strategy to connect young people with the European Union will be through learning activities, EU youth dialogue, mock debates and encouraging the writing of essays and articles on the EU.

Support

• Creation of a regulation and jury; • Direct articulation with the city's schools; • Liaison with the European Institutions; • Promotion of debates; • Promotion of dialogues with MEPs.

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Community

Braga - Project Idea 4

Democracy Prize - Jorge Miranda Award

Challenge

In the context of several projects already listed during the presentation of this candidature, Braga City Council considers appropriate the creation of a prize marking the democratic spirit in the city. Namely, through the valorisation of associative projects, individual projects and good practices aimed at increasing the democratic quality.

Solution

We will therefore seek to implement an annual democracy prize, to be awarded in September. The criteria for choosing the winning prize will be based on the following assumptions: • Increased democratic participation; • Bringing citizens closer to democratic institutions; • Combating Fake News; • Increased transparency and quality of democratic decisions; • Impact on society.

Impact

Through this measure we will seek to bring the citizen closer to democratic institutions and ensure that those who contribute most to this purpose will be rewarded for their effort.

Implementation

The implementation of this mechanism will run throughout next year 2023. The Prize will be presented through our direct channels to all citizens and specific marketing actions.

Support

Creation of a regulation and jury to award the prize.

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Empowerment

Braga - Project Idea 5

Open Data Portal

Challenge

Democracy is the only system that allows citizens to participate, be informed and debate about their institutions. The open data movement, which is an integral part of the policies dedicated to Open Government, is fundamental nowadays. The Municipality with this tool will seek to ensure compliance and effectiveness of the following principles: • Transparency; • Participation and collaboration; • Economic development; • Digital development. The information and data production aggregated by the Municipality has an enormous potential for the development of participatory democracy, civil society and the business sector. The challenge is to make data available in formats that can be read by automated mechanisms, through open formats and tools, so that they can be reused, transformed or integrated by any citizen or entity, usually in the form of data sets.

Solution

In this way, we will seek to create a platform that allows citizens to know at all times the information they consider indispensable about their city and the functioning of the city's institutions. The platform aims to frame data related to the following fields of governance: • Environment; • Economy and business fabric; • Education; • City government; • Culture; • Sports; • Social Justice; • Mobility; • Society and Community; • Health; • Safety; • Land use, planning and territory.

Impact

The creation of this Open Data platform aims essentially to create a space of simple access to all citizens of Braga. In our city live about 200 thousand people and many others live their daily lives in our city. We are district capital and therefore we intend to make this data available to all citizens who live or have created life in Braga. Citizens now have more immediate access to information that is already theirs by right, with the Municipality seeking to strengthen the social contract it has with its citizens, namely through a vision of transparency and accountability towards the citizen. We also believe that this transformation will create greater responsiveness and speed in the actions of the Municipality. Working in an integrated manner and with informed citizens, we will be able to build an increasingly better city.

Implementation

The implementation of this new platform will take place during the next year 2023. Platform inserted in the Braga City Council website, presented through our direct channels to all citizens and specific marketing actions.

Braga - Project Idea 5

Support

Data platform inserted in the Municipal website; Free access to all citizens; Open formats and tools, so that they can be re-used, transformed or integrated by any citizen or entity, as a rule made available in the form of data sets.

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Community

Braga - Project Idea 6

APP Participatory Citizenship

Challenge

Creation of a new mobile application with the intention of making the Municipality more accessible, more interactive and closer. With this new app the citizen receives a wide range of information, such as IPMA alerts, Civil Protection events, news, pharmacies on duty, cultural events and much more. A new communication channel will be created, bringing the Municipality closer to its citizens and tourists. A direct and immediate channel. The citizen has the opportunity to actively collaborate in the improvement of the Municipality, reporting events in his city. Tourists can enjoy the advantage of having all the information about the municipality concentrated in the same place, allowing them to explore the city in augmented reality.

Solution

Creation of an application that allows: • Recording of occurrences • Reading and invoicing water • Weather and civil protection alerts • Promotion of events • Useful contacts • Augmented reality

Impact

Promotion of the direct contact between Municipality and citizen, allowing one more channel of dialogue between the citizen and the Municipality of Braga. The Municipality will manage through this application to inform the citizen of all occurrences and news. Big advantage: Direct handling of occurrences; Integration with the Chamber's Online Services.

Implementation

The implementation of this new platform will take place later this year. App disseminated through our direct channels to all citizens and specific marketing actions. Free access to all citizens.

Support

Support for this project will be financed by the Municipality

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Participation

Braga - Project Idea 7

DemoLab - Building a new future

Challenge

Philosopher Daniel Innerairty pointed out in one of his last essays the understanding of democracy as one of the decisive factors for our future as a community. Asserting that the system best suited to govern complexity is democratic legitimacy - since it is based on diversity and imperfection, considering that complexity represents an opportunity for deepening citizenship and democratic governance. In this sense, the great challenge for the future of our European, national and local policies lies in the ability to introduce decentralised ideas, experiences, perspectives and innovations into the process of shaping political will, where hierarchical procedures prove to be insufficient or inadequate. In an uncertain and increasingly complex world, the commitment to a continuous model of study, knowledge production, dialogue and interaction about our democratic community is essential to achieve our goals. With the creation of this laboratory we will respond to the wishes of our population, build a space for dialogue and collaborate with various institutions in the city. Strengthening criteria such as inter-generational justice, sustainability and open democracy in Braga's public policies. The purpose of this laboratory is always the emancipation of citizens and the production of content to improve public policies.

Solution

Creation of Laboratory with the presence of institutions such as: • Braga City Council; • University of Minho; • Catholic University; • Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave; • Civic Associations; • University Research Centres; • Members of the Municipal Assembly; • Among others. Producing an annual magazine with articles and studies on democracy. Encouraging the practice of participatory democracy. Evaluation and creation of new indexes for the implementation of public policies.

Impact

Creation of a space of rigorous content production in the area of democracy for the city of Braga, which counts with the presence of several institutions of importance for the experiences of the Braga community. Big advantage: • Production and dissemination of democratic content; • Implementation of pioneering projects; • Networking with knowledgeable institutions such as universities; • Combating Fake News.

Braga - Project Idea 7

Implementation

The implementation of this Lab will aim at the creation of new public policies, content production and democratic literacy, namely through:

- Implementation of the intergenerational policy index, enshrining in all public works and projects the dimension of the impact on new generations, namely considering the cost of the operation, the need for new infrastructures and the value of the generational mortgage;
- „Citizen Decision Project“- Seeking to increase political participation, safeguard in major works of the municipality, the possibility of including a commission of citizens, drawn by lot from all over the municipality, to participate in the decision-making process of a major work, namely through participation in meetings with technicians and consultants.
- „BRBI Project - Braga Unconditional Basic Income“ - Through a benefit attributed to each citizen, regardless of their financial, family or professional situation, and sufficient for a life in dignity, create a project dependent on European funding, seeking a pioneering approach to consecrate a minimum existence to all citizens;
- Creation of the local literacy project. Through conferences, lectures and classes, the creation of an educational programme on freedom of expression and sources of communication, seeking to reduce Fake News and aggressive behaviour on social networks.

Support

The Laboratory will have a physical place to work. It will be attended by members of the Braga City Council, Universities, Civic Associations and Parties. A magazine will also be created to disseminate articles, studies and results of the laboratory's implementation. Voluntary and contracting regime.

Images

N/A

Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

Participation

Braga - Project Idea 8

Democity - Training Academy

Challenge

In a world where the public space is configured in the space of social networks, transforming the citizens' moment of acquisition of information and thought into negative resonance boxes, it is important to promote places and spaces in which public and political debate can be based on a logic of discussion, reason and confrontation of visions. In this sense, Braga has promoted a set of initiatives that essentially aim to envision this space for debate, a Polis or Roman Forum. Therefore, we will seek the construction of a forum of debate to be held in the city of Braga, with the participation of Associations, Universities, Democratic Institutions and Politicians. Bringing together the knowledge of the academy, the impact of the associations and the thought of notables, we will turn Braga into one of the centres of public dialogue in Europe. A Hub of democratic discussion.

The Forum will be held every two years, with the first edition scheduled for April next year. Its first theme will be „Democracy and the City“. In this path, we have prepared a debate model that aims a 3 days discussion with workshops, conferences, informal conversations, visits to cities, dinner-conferences and participation of several personalities.

Solution

The panels and themes to be debated will run through:

- New social inequalities; • Housing and Habitat; • Mobility; • Energy Challenges; • New Solutions for Social Responses; • Self-sustainable communities; • Social Justice;
- Europe's challenges; • Intergenerational Justice.

Impact

The goal is the implementation of a discussion space in the city, which aims essentially to count on the presence and participation of Bragacitizens, but also to gain an academic, national and European dimension. Therefore, we will aim at the participation of 100 people, including institutions such as municipal councils, democratic organisations, university teachers and researchers, university students and citizens. We will also seek to produce documents related to the discussion, leading to an annual magazine on the theme of each Forum.

Bottom line:

- Target participants on discussion days = 100 participants minimum per day;
- Institutions involved: Municipal Councils, Democratic Organisations, Universities and Civic Associations;
- Publication and distribution of a magazine related to the topic.

Braga - Project Idea 8

Implementation

The project will be implemented with the help of the Universities present in the municipality of Braga, namely Minho University, Catholic University and Polytechnic Institute of Cávado and Ave (IPCA), counting also with the presence of several associations and institutions in the organisation. It will take place in April 2023 in the city of Braga.

Support

Support:

- It will have a group of volunteers involved in the study of democracy and cities;
- The entire event will take place with the aid of digital media boosting remote participation;
- Several publications will be available for participants;
- Several exhibitions related to the forum's theme will also be created.

Images

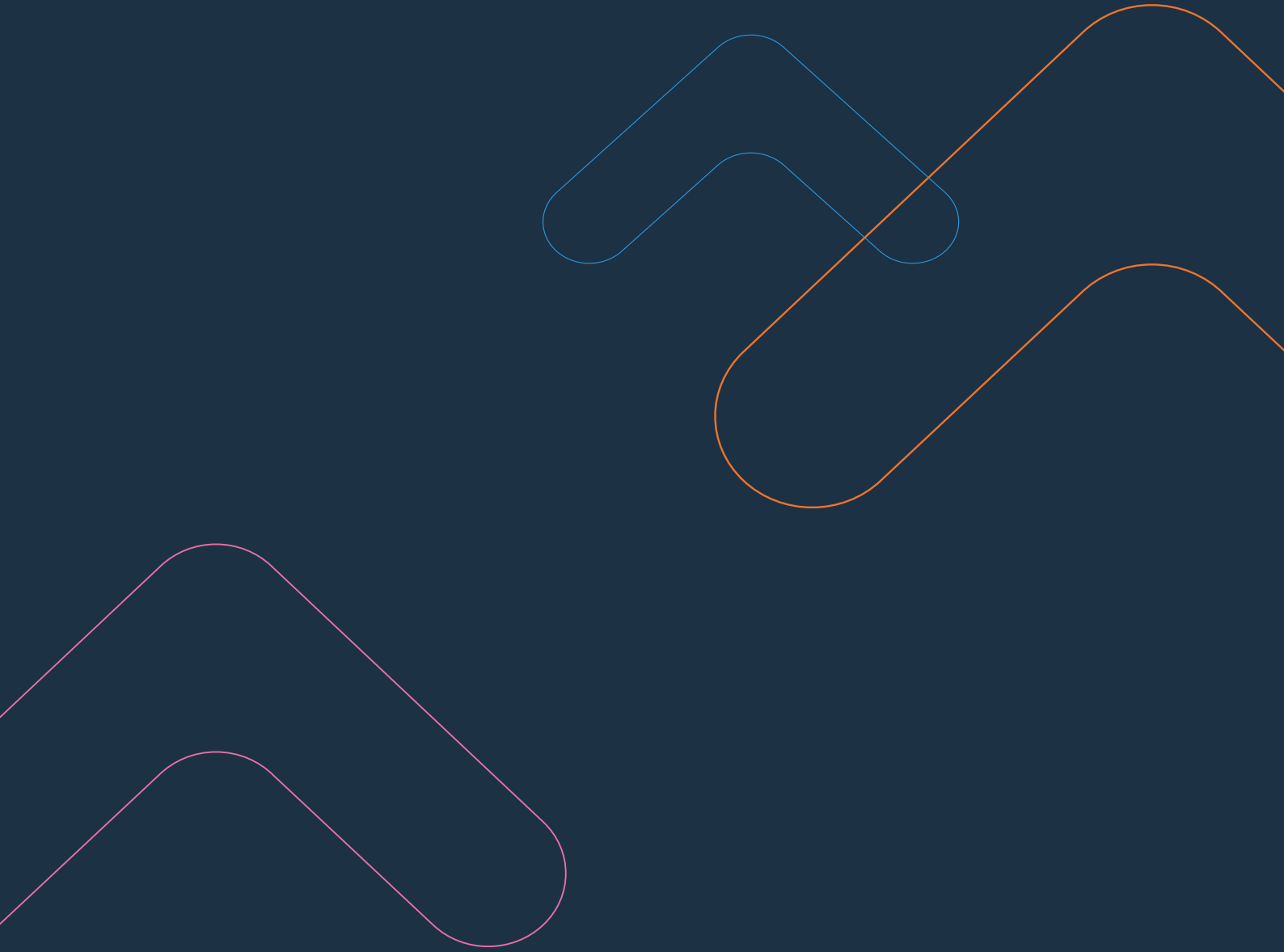
Video

N/A

Democracy Dimension

N/A

Community



**European Capital
of Democracy**