The Catalan ecosystem of citizen participation

Open infrastructures for community building

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Four Motors for Europe in a Dialogue with Citizens, 25/11/2020
Theory of change (most abridged)

Electoral processes
Direct democracy
Deliberative processes
Transformation of the Administration
Open Government
Engagement Ecosystem
New actors & new spaces

Improve efficacy and efficiency of public policies
Understanding the complexity of public decision-making
Reduce populism (fascism)
Foster a shift towards a technopolitical paradigm of collective action
Vision & Mission of Citizen Participation

Vision
The Administration keeps a constant dialogue with citizens.

Mission
To transform the Administration by means of citizen participation, and to transform the Administration to enable citizen participation.
Ecosystem of citizen participation

- **Ecosystems**: knowledge communities and infrastructures
- **Shared** infrastructures and the digital commons
- **The State as a platform**
- **Towards the ecosystem of public governance**
Goals when building and nurturing the ecosystem

- **Nationwide** ecosystem of citizen participation, coherent and consistent in methodology and infrastructures, efficient and effective

- Space of **coordination** and exchange of knowledge

- Foster **instruments** collectively

- Coordinate **training** activities

- Promote **synergies** between public bodies
A citizen participation ecosystem

- Departments within same administration
- Different level administrations
- Governance of the citizen participation ecosystem
- Training and capacity building
- Methodologies
- Participation Instruments
- Technologies
- School of Public Administration
- Citizen participation professional sector
- Institutions of representative democracy
- Open Data
Horizontal coordination: governance at the CAT Govt.

- **CITGO**: inter-departmental commission for Transparency and Open Government
- Department participation **units**
- Citizen participation thematic/sectoral **strategic plans**
- Citizen participation **law**

(different stages of development)
Vertical coordination: inter-administrations governance

□ Network of Transparent Governments
- Catalan government
- Provinces
- Local administration consortia and federations/associations
- School of Public Administration
- Secretaries, controllers and treasurers’ association

□ Working groups
- Training
- Transparency and open data
- Participation
- Technology
ParticipaCatalunya.cat (I)

Open infrastructures for community building

A meeting virtual space for all actors working in the field of citizen participation.

Key
- Implemented
- Implementing
- Stage 2
- Stage 3

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**governobert.gencat.cat**
government action | target: society at large

**participa.gencat.cat**
participative processes | target: citizens

**participacatalunya.cat**
sectoral portal/community | target: professionals & experts

- Communities of practice and learning
- Training
- Resource bank
- Events
- **Decidim Catalunya**
  - Observatory of Participation
- Institutional space of the Network of Transparent Governments

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Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d’Acció Exterior, Relacions Institucionals i Transparència
Direcció General de Participació Ciutadana i Processos Electorals
Communities of practice and learning

Methodological and technological support to articulate and facilitate communities of practice and learning at several levels for **governance and knowledge management** in the ecosystem of citizen participation.

**Knowledge management**

- **Resource Bank, Training & Events**
  - On policies and methodologies
  - On *Decidim* (sandbox)

- **Interdepartmental communities**
  - Governance of citizen participation *within* the Catalan Government

- **Trans-administration communities**
  - Governance of citizen participation *across* different levels of the Administration

- **Topic-based communities**
  - Informal coordination, knowledge dissemination, social innovation, open innovation
ParticipaCatalunya.cat (III)

Decidim Catalunya & The Citizen Participation Observatory

The online platform for citizen participation management and online deliberation.

☐ A tool for a methodology: Technology is NOT neutral
☐ A service for all and from all
☐ 1 solution for everybody
  ▪ Economies of scale (saving 90% of costs)
  ▪ Economies of network
☐ Build on the models of e-Administration and Transparency
☐ Digital identity
  ▪ 1 citizen, 1 single digital identity
  ▪ 1 citizen, 1 multilevel identity
☐ An actor with their own voice in a big community
**ParticipaLab network: Goals**

- Turn **public facilities** into reference sites in the municipality on citizen participation and engagement.
- Raise **awareness** on quality democracy, citizen participation and innovation on political and democratic processes.
- **Coach the local Administration** in citizen participation projects and social innovation for political and democratic processes.
- **Guide citizens** through citizen participation processes, increase their willingness to engage and broaden the socio-demographic range of participants.
- Promote **social innovation** projects in the field of civic action, politics and democracy.
Electoral processes as a service

☐ Strategic goals
  ▪ Promote voting as participation including electoral processes as part of the Catalan citizen participation ecosystem
  ▪ **Improve** electoral processes quality, turnout and, in general, legitimacy
  ▪ **Optimize** resources: material, people, methodologies, knowledge

☐ Operational goals
  ▪ Implement the **Electoral processes coordination and mentoring service.**
  ▪ Develop a unique, corporate electoral processes **management tool.**
  ▪ Foster the **e-voting** strategy.
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