

# Decidim Training #1

## Introduction and basic concepts

Nil Homedes  
Decidim Free Software Association



# Structure

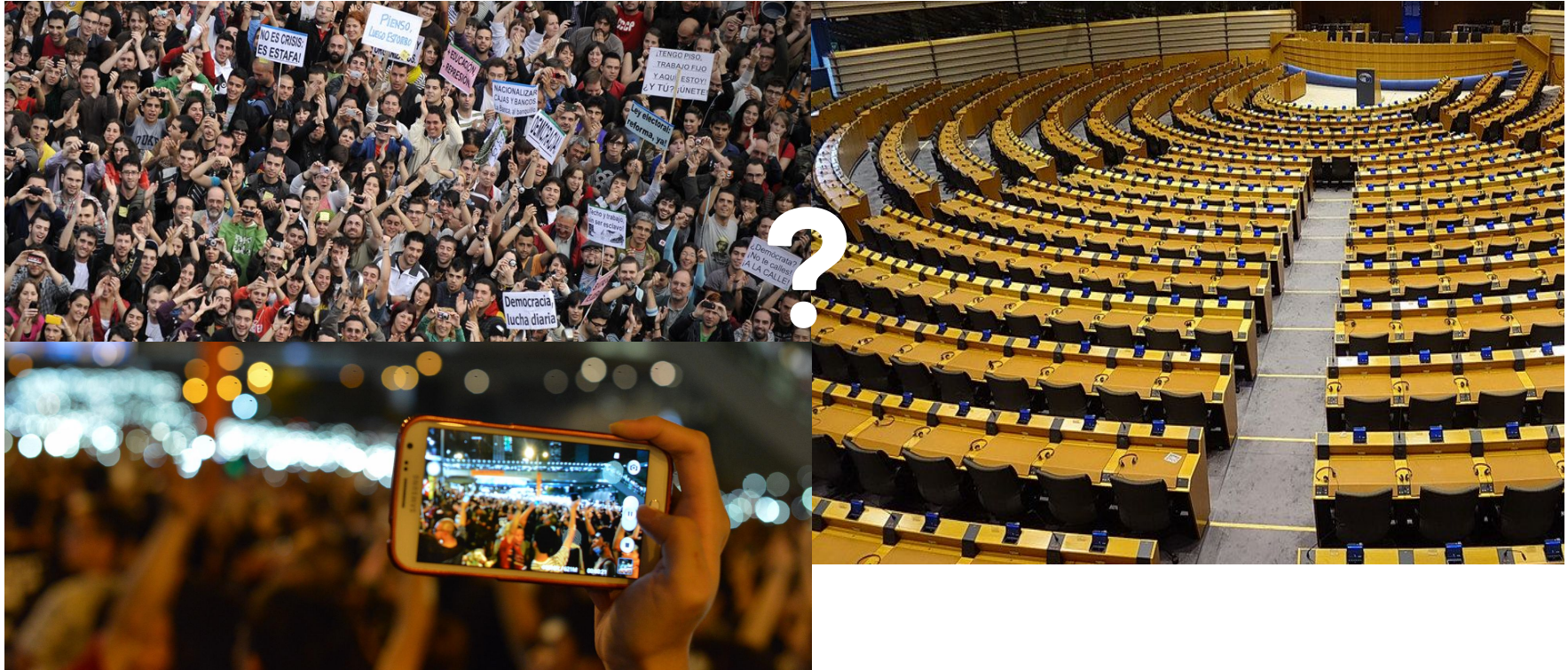
Time	Activity
10:00-10:10h	Welcome and presentation
10:10-11:00h	Introduction to Decidim
11:00-11:10h	– Break –
11:10-11:30h	Basic concepts
11:30-11:40h	Hands on: Basic guide for new users and sign-up
11:40-12:00h	Hands on: Create a new proposal

# Context

History and origin



# Crisis of representative democracy

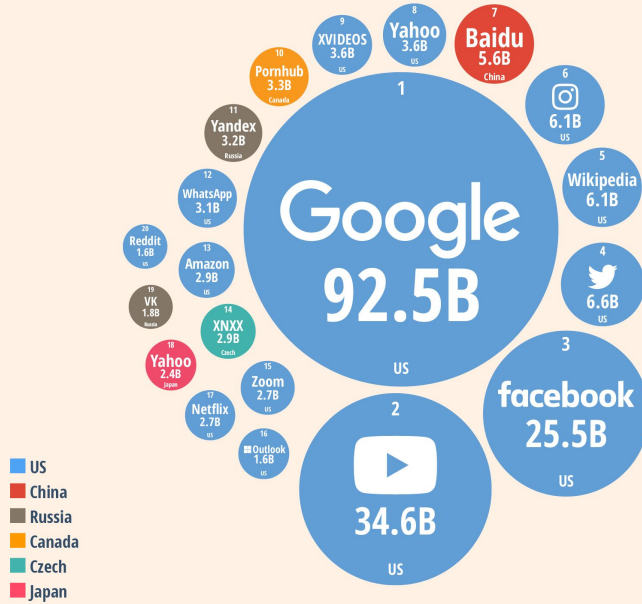




# Big Tech Monopoly

## TOP 20 MOST VISITED WEBSITES

Monthly traffic volume in billions



Source: Visual Capitalist, 2021

*"Competition Is for Losers. If you want to create and capture lasting value, look to build a monopoly"*

Peter Thiel (PayPal Founder), 2014.



# Building the alternative

History and origin





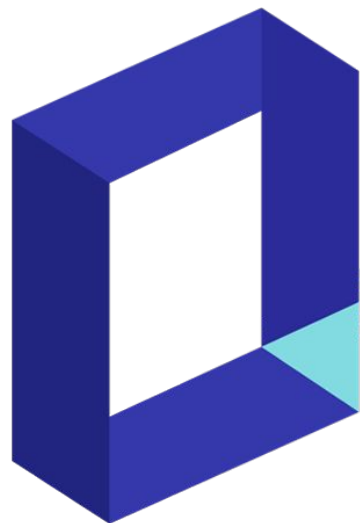
Public Money

Public Code

**Why is software created  
using taxpayers' money  
not released  
as Free Software?**

**If it is public money,  
it should be  
public code as well.**

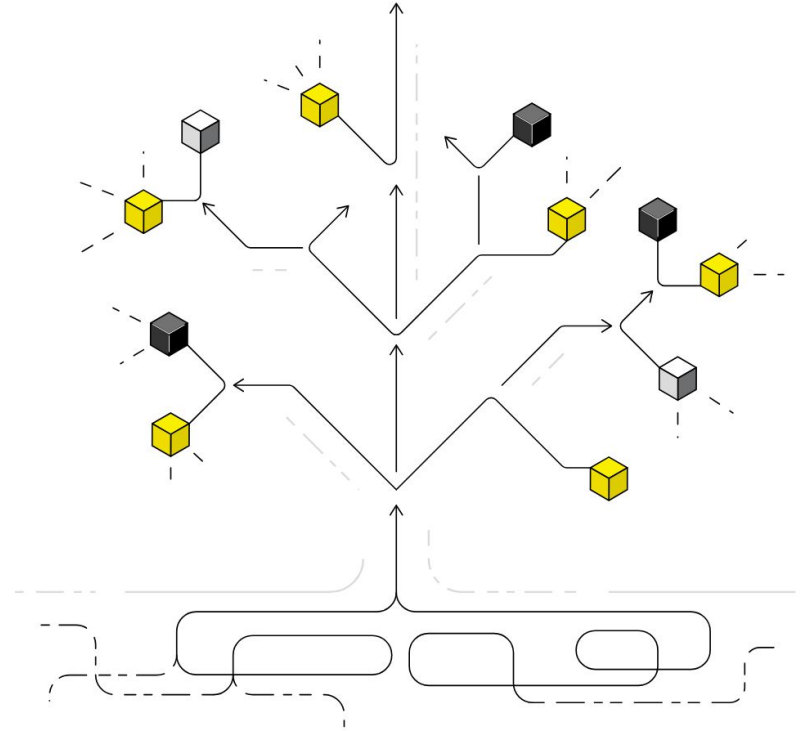
[publiccode.eu](http://publiccode.eu)



Digital  
Public  
Goods  
Alliance



# Digital Commons as providers of Digital Public Infrastructure



# Decidim

What is it?







# Decidim is a digital platform for citizen participation

Free/libre, open and safe technology.  
With all democratic guarantees.  
Reprogramming democracy is now possible with Decidim.





## Strategic planning



## Participatory processes



## Assemblies



## Initiatives and citizen consultations



## Participatory budgeting

meta

decidim

Search

Help

Meetings

Activity



Processes / Propose new features

### Propose new features

New proposal +

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Search

#### ^ Status

☒ All

☒ Finished

☒ Accepted / In progress

☒ Not answered

☐ Rejected

#### ^ Scope

☐ All

☐ Awaiting funding

☐ Funding available

To propose a new feature or functionality or an improvement or change upon an existing one, first please check out that it is not already on the roadmap, or that it hasn't been discussed already. Try to be as clear as possible when making a new proposal and take into account the instructions provided on "The Process" section. **Thanks for contributing, your ideas and proposals are very valuable for this project.**

### 808 proposals

[Recent](#) [Random](#) [Most endorsed](#) [Most commented](#) [Most followed](#) [With more authors](#)

#### Adding dropdown single select option to surveys

Open Source Politics 2 3

#### Make sure admins save their changes before leaving

Simonas Zilinskas 0 4

#### Add webp format for images

CodiTramuntana 0 3 Finished

#### Announce your Decidim Web App?

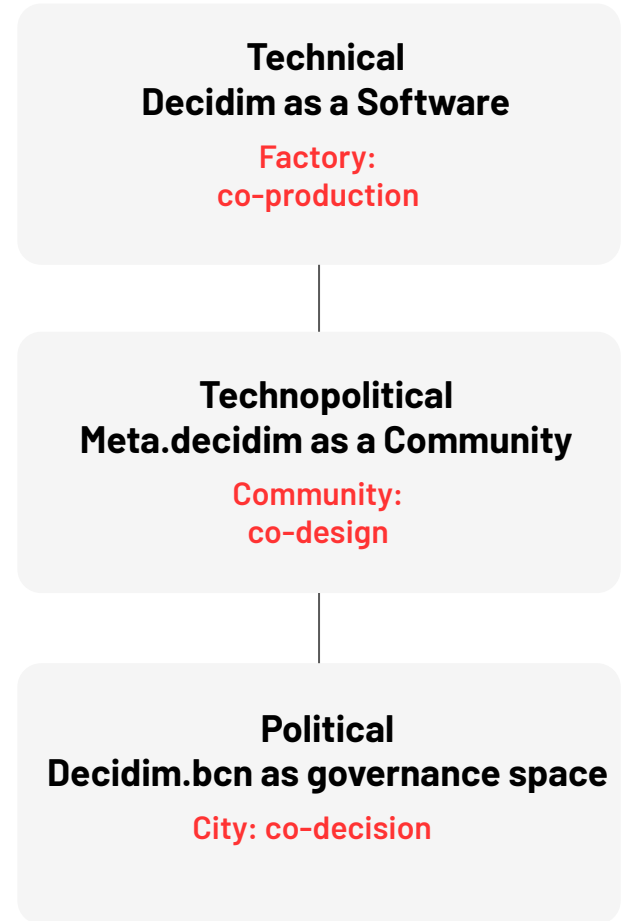
John Willson 1 2

#### Role for Translators which doesn't require full admin rights

Ruth Cheesley 0 0

# 3 layers

## The Decidim Model





## decidim

decidim is a digital infrastructure for participatory democracy led by the Barcelona City Council with contributors and collaborators all around the world

51 followers

<https://decidim.org>

[hola@decidim.org](mailto:hola@decidim.org)

Verified

Follow

### Pinned

**decidim** Public

The participatory democracy framework. A generator and multiple gems made with Ruby on Rails

Ruby 1.4k 389

### Repositories

Find a repository...

Type ▾

Language ▾

Sort ▾

New

**decidim** Public

The participatory democracy framework. A generator and multiple gems made with Ruby on Rails



Ruby 1,377 AGPL-3.0 389 329 (12 issues need help) 23 Updated 1 minute ago

**decidim-maintainers\_toolbox** Public

Release related tools for the Decidim project. Tools for releasing, backporting, changelog generating, and working with GitHub.

Ruby 0 0 0 1 Updated yesterday

View as: Public ▾

You are viewing the README and pinned repositories as a public user.

You can [create a README file](#) visible to anyone.

### People



[View all](#)

### Top languages

Ruby HTML Shell JavaScript CSS




meta

decidim

Search



# Join the participatory process to define the Internal Regulation

Information about the process 

[Start here](#)

[Participate](#)

[The Association](#)

[News](#)

[Decidim Fest](#)

[Chat](#)

The democratic community managing the Decidim project in all its dimensions





Processos participatius

Òrgans de participació

Iniciatives ciutadanes

# Decidim en què invertir els Pressupostos Participatius!

Informa't sobre el procés [🔗](#)



# **What makes Decidim unique?**



# What makes Decidim unique?

1. **Participation model:** Open, flexible and replicable, a model to maximise citizen participation.
2. **Public-common code:** Building a FLOSS project from public sector.
3. **Democratic governance:** Community governance of a digital common.



# Participation model

Open, flexible and replicable, a model to maximise citizen participation 🚀

- A standard for citizen participation adaptable to different local realities
- Decidim takes participation to the next level, allowing thousands of people to interact at the same time.



# +450

democratic organizations  
are using decidim today

30 countries  
240 cities and govern organizations  
180 social organizations

2025



# Decidim official partners

Service providers

PokeCode<sup>®</sup>

octree

Colectic

PIPELINE  
TO POWER

CodeandoMéxico

Opensourcepolitics  
l'expérience démocratique

mitgestalten  
Partizipationsbüro

Code for  
Japan

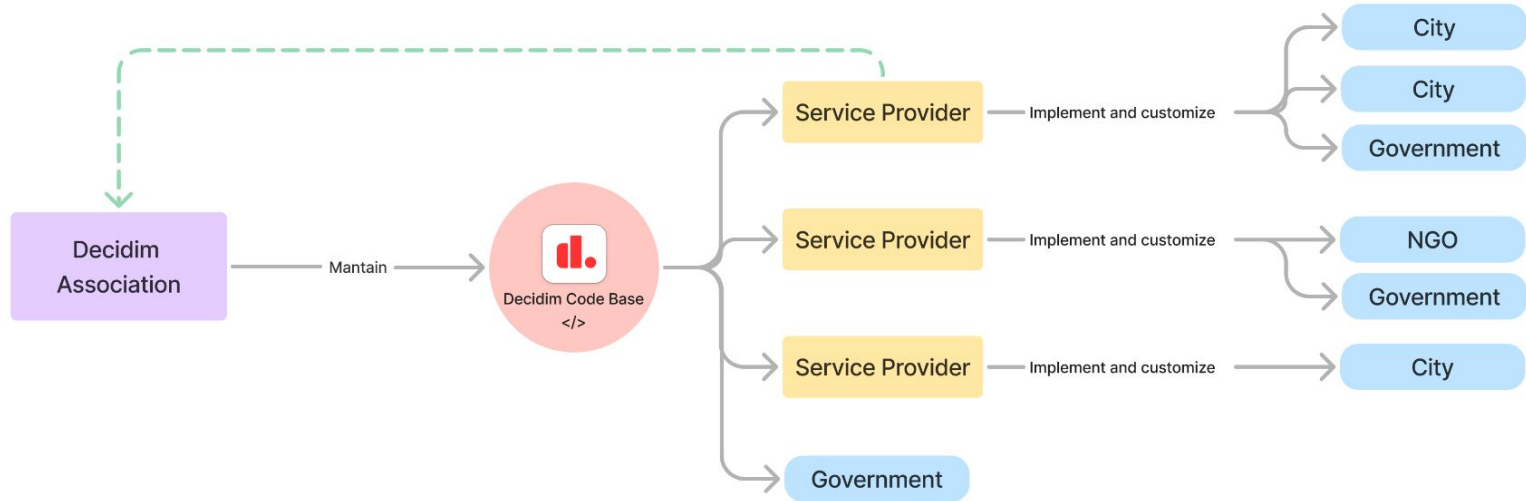
urb  
an equ  
ipe

DIGIDEM LAB


aLabs\*



## How does the ecosystem work?



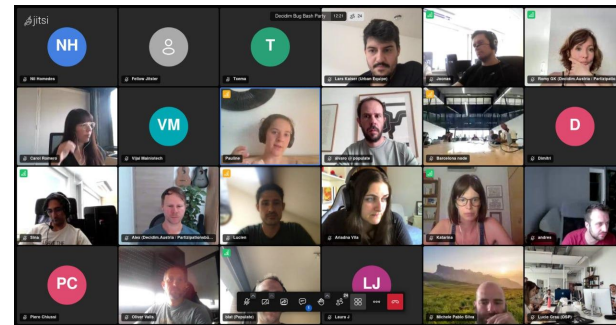
# Public-common code

Building a FLOSS community project from public sector 

- Open to contributions from the first day.
- The community can propose new features and participate in the roadmap definition.
- Building alliances with local partners to implement Decidim around the world.

*"What makes Decidim special is the community" (Simonas Zilinskas, OSP)*

# Community participation





## **How we manage contributions?**



## Code contributions

- Fix a bug
- Propose and create new features
- Make a PR to improve a feature
- Create a module for a new feature



## Non-Code contributions

- Improve documentation
- Report a bug
- Translate Decidim to your language
- Participate in Community Meetings
- Participate in a Thematic Committee
- Improve Decidim design



**Some beautiful examples ✨**





## Translate Decidim

- **33** languages
- **320** project members
- **47,000** words translated

Decidim (decidim)



### Decidim

Home Activity Discussions

Translations:

 ★ Catalan 99% · 99%	 ★ Spanish 99% · 99%	 Arabic 93% · 0%	 Basque 94% · 9%	 Czech 99% · 0%
 Dutch 99% · 37%	 Esperanto 1% · 0%	 Finnish 100% · 100%	 Finnish (plain) 98% · 0%	 French 98% · 96%
 Galician 94% · 0%	 German 95% · 2%	 Hungarian 99% · 76%	 Indonesian 94% · 0%	 Italian 97% · 14%
 Norwegian 0% · 0%	 Polish 94% · 0%	 Portuguese 94% · 2%	 Portuguese, Brazilian 94% · 4%	 Russian with many plural form 52% · 40%
 Spanish, Mexico 97% · 0%	 Spanish, Paraguay 97% · 38%	 Swedish 96% · 90%	 Turkish 96% · 0%	 Ukrainian with many plural form 52% · 40%



#### Description

Free Open-Source participatory democracy for cities and organizations  
<https://decidim.org>

#### Share Project



#### Details

Source language: English  
Project members: 116  
Words to translate: 23 042  
Created: 3 years ago  
Last activity: 1 day ago

#### Managers

- Decidim (decidim)  
[OWNER](#) [Contact](#)
- Andrés Pereira de Lucena (andreslucena)  
[Contact](#)
- arnaumonty  
[Contact](#)



# A module develop by a company

## /Decidim Awesome

- Made by a company from the ecosystem (Platoniq and Poke Code)
- Used by more of 40 organizations
- 20 contributors

The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `decidim-module-decidim_awesome`. The repository is public and has 16 watchers, 23 forks, and 17 stars. It is currently on the `main` branch with 9 other branches and 13 tags. The commit history shows a recent commit by `antopalidi` titled "Fix markdown, update decidim 27.4, 26.8 (#232)" 2 weeks ago, with 177 total commits. The file list includes `.github`, `app`, `bin`, `config`, `db`, `examples`, `lib`, `spec`, `.codeclimate.yml`, `.csslintrc`, `editorconfig`, `erb-lint.yml`, `eslintignore`, `eslintrecon`, and `.gitignore`. The right sidebar shows the repository is licensed under AGPL-3.0, has 17 stars, 16 watchers, and 23 forks. It also lists contributors and a compatibility badge for Decidim 26...

## Bug bash party

- **50** participants
- From more than **8** countries
- **180** reports
- Hybrid event (in-person and online)



2021



2022



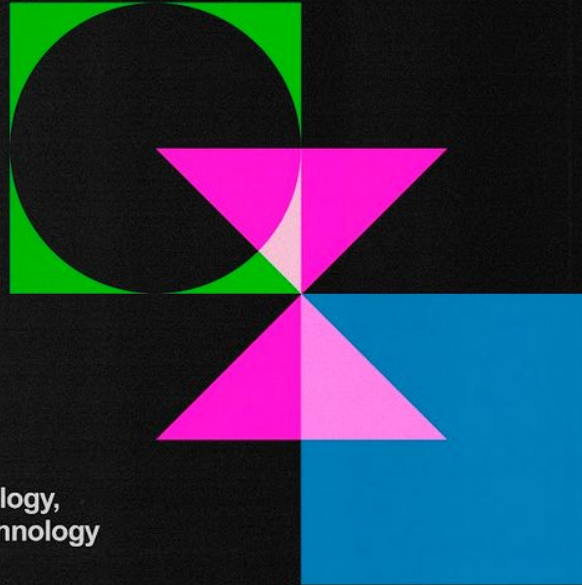
2023





# Decidim Fest

23-25  
October  
2024  
Canòdrom  
Bcn



Ecology,  
Technology  
and  
Democracy:  
Disputing the future in  
a world in flames

↪  
Web: [meta.decidim.org](https://meta.decidim.org)  
#DecidimFest24



# Democratic governance

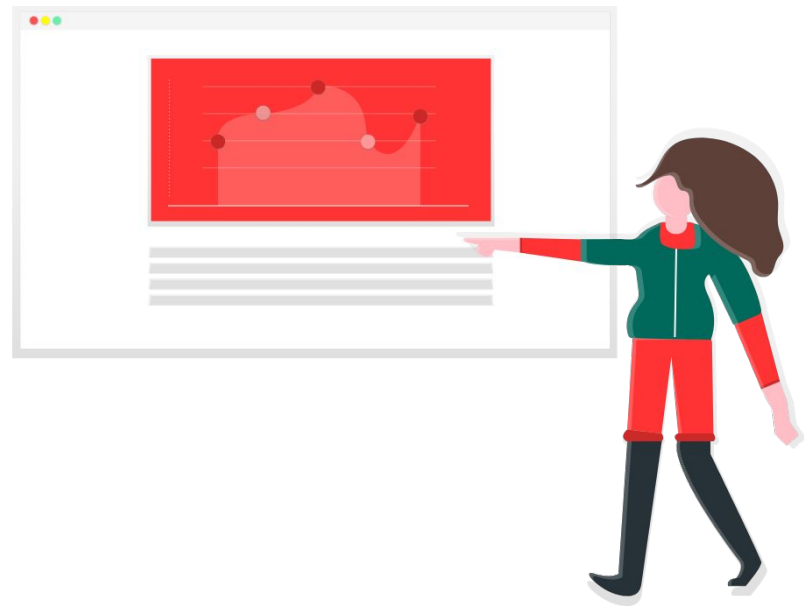
Community governance of a digital common 🏔️

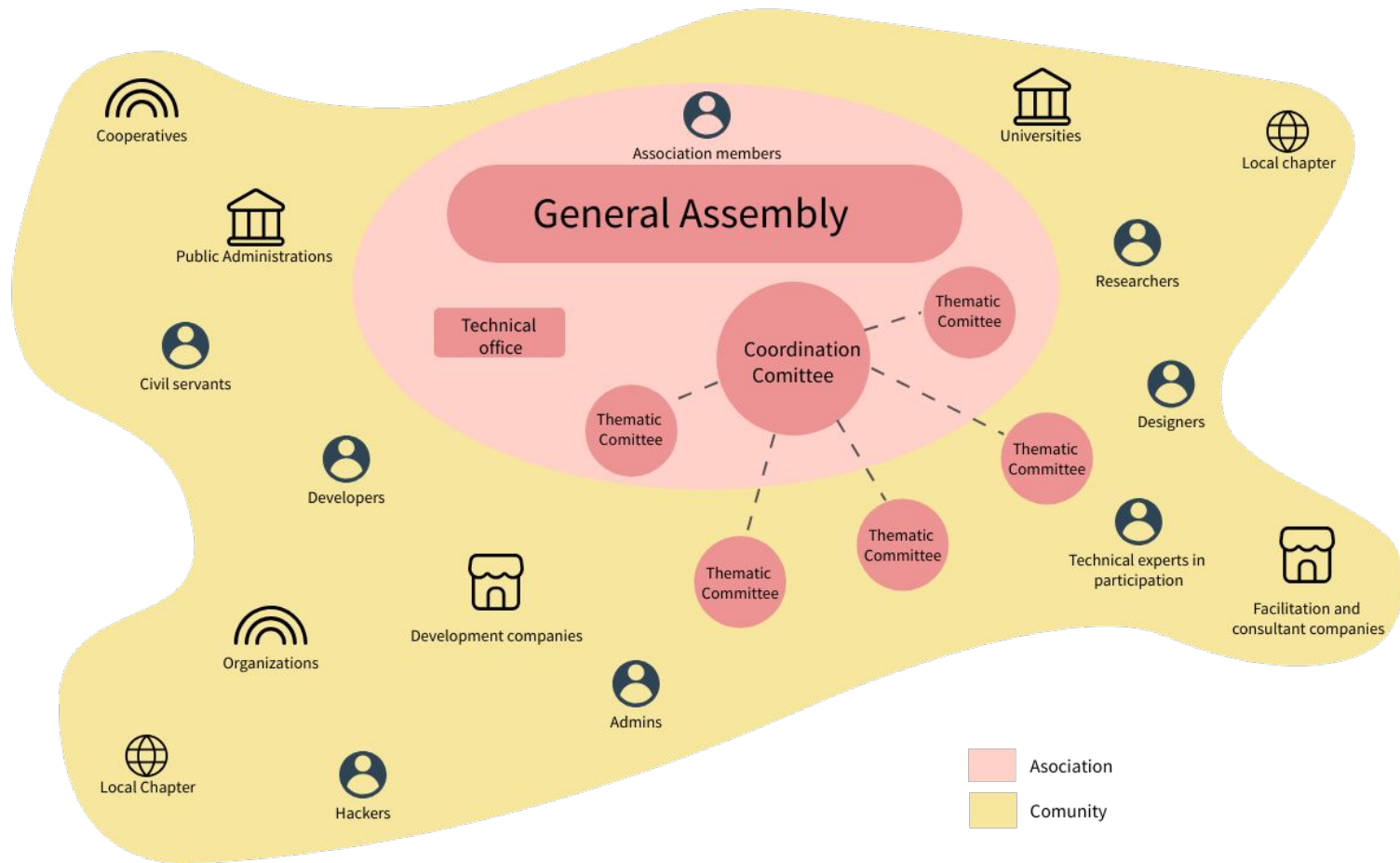
- The Decidim Association is the central actor of the project
- Barcelona City Council has ceded to the Decidim Association the management and maintenance of the source code.
- Unique example in the world of how to implement FLOSS as a public policy with a community governance.

# Social Contract

A code of democratic guarantees

- Open to collaboration and participation
- Transparency, traceability and integrity
- Accessibility and democratic quality
- Privacy and security





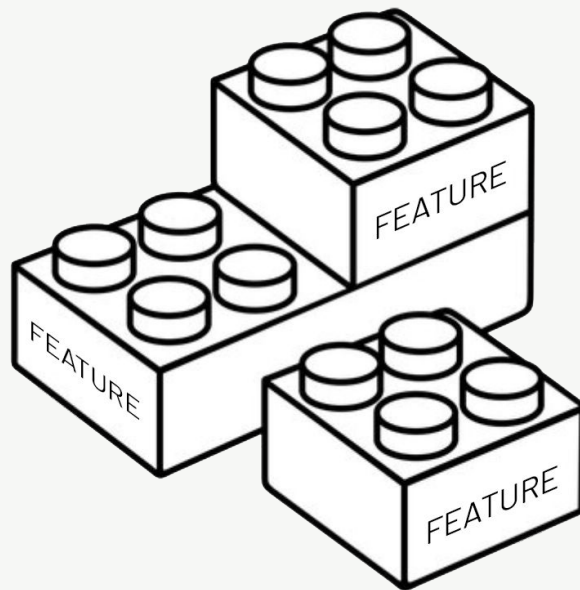


# Break



# Decidim

How it works?



PARTICIPATORY SPACE

/How it works

# Participatory spaces

To articulate a participatory ecosystem

Processes

Assemblies

Initiatives

9 active processes



Participatory budgets 2024-2027

7 months left

Information from the beginning of the process



Urbanization of the squares of Freser Street

4 months left

Return

Pla Mobilitat Urbana  
2025 - 2030

Urban Mobility Plan 2025-2030

5 months left

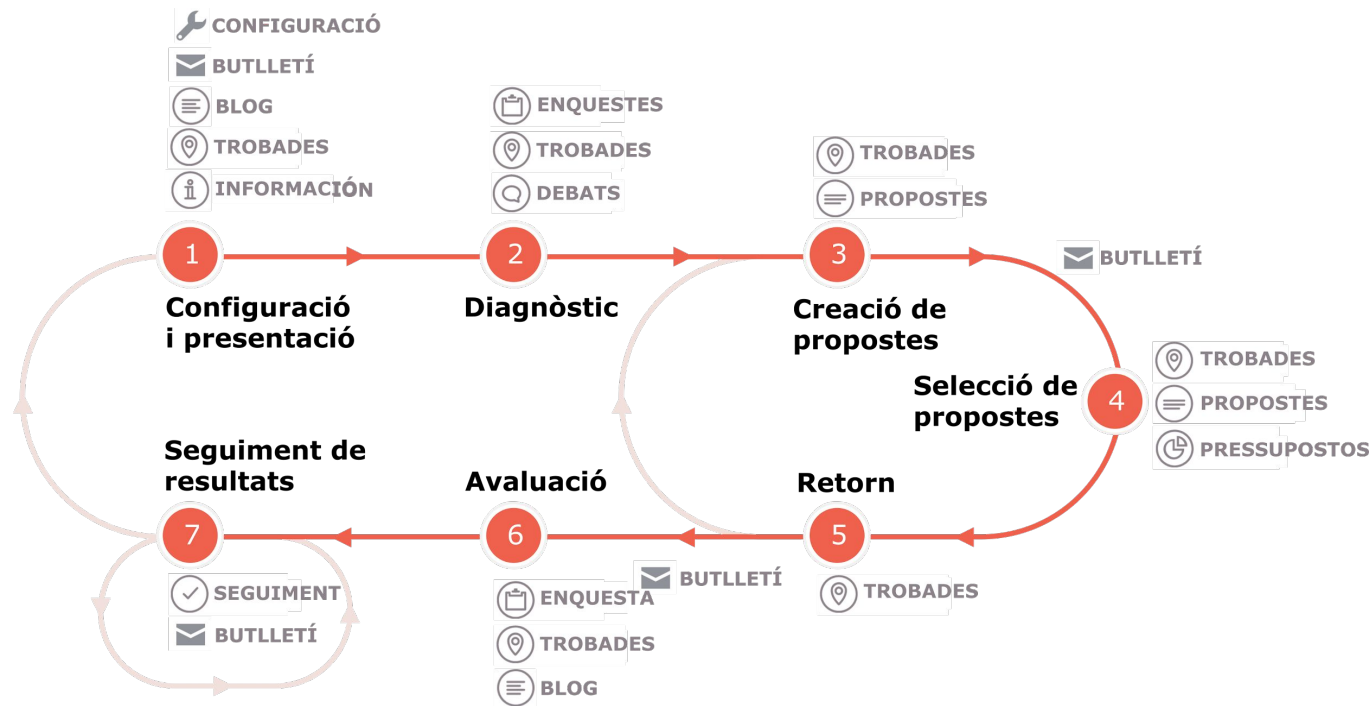
Return - Evaluation



MPGM of the Teixonera

4 months left

Follow-up



/How it works

# Components

That can be combined into Spaces



Pages



Accountability



Debates



Budgets



Surveys



Blog



Meetings



Sortitions



Proposals



meta

decidim

Search

Help

Meetings

Activity

Home

Processes

Propose new features

Propose new features

New proposal +

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Search

Status

All

Finished

Accepted / In progress

Not answered

Rejected

Scope

All

Awaiting funding

Funding available

808 proposals

RecentRandomMost endorsedMost commentedMost followedWith more authors

Adding dropdown single select option to surveys

Open Source Politics

2

3

Make sure admins save their changes before leaving

Simonas Zilinskias

0

4

Add webp format for images

CodiTramuntana

0

3

Finished

Announce your Decidim Web App?

John Willson

1

2

Role for Translators which doesn't require full admin rights

Ruth Cheesley

0

0

# Participatory spaces

Processes

Assemblies

Initiatives



# Participatory spaces

Processes

Assemblies

Initiatives

COMPONENTS



Pages



Accountability



Debates



Budgets



Surveys



Blog



Meetings



Sortitions



Proposals



# Participatory spaces


Processes

Assemblies


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# Participatory spaces


Processes

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COMPONENTS

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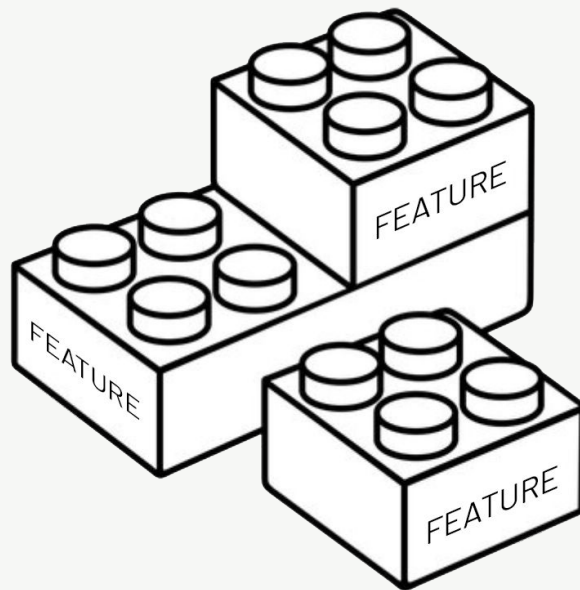
 Sortitions

 Proposals



# Components

Understanding Decidim





# Proposals

Collect proposals or ideas from participants.

- A flexible unit of participation
- Ideas, contributions, proposals, projects, resources
- With multiple forms of interaction
- Scaling systems for navigation
- Linked to other components

meta decidim

Search

Help Meetings Activity

Processes / Propose new features

## Propose new features

New proposal +

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Search

**Status**

- ☐ All
- ☒ Finished
- ☒ Accepted / in progress
- ☒ Not answered
- ☐ Rejected

**Scope**

- ☐ All
- ☐ Awaiting funding
- ☐ Funding available

808 proposals

[Recent](#) [Random](#) [Most endorsed](#) [Most commented](#) [Most followed](#) [With more authors](#)

**Adding dropdown single select option to surveys**

Open Source Politics | 2 | 3

**Make sure admins save their changes before leaving**

Simonas Zilinskas | 0 | 4

**Add webp format for images**

CodiTramuntana | 0 | 3 | **Finished**

**Announce your Decidim Web App?**

John Willson | 1 | 2

**Role for Translators which doesn't require full admin rights**

Ruth Cheesley | 0 | 0

## New proposal to create a kids playground



Shevek

25/04/2025 08:31



This proposal outlines a plan to design and construct a safe, engaging, and inclusive playground for children in the local community. The playground will feature age-appropriate equipment, accessible structures for children with disabilities, and a secure environment that encourages physical activity, creativity, and social interaction. The project aims to enhance community well-being, support healthy childhood development, and provide families with a welcoming outdoor space.

Like 

Comment 

Share 



Liked by you

Vote

0

Votes

## New proposal to create a kids playground

Author



Shevek

25/04/2025 08:31



Vote

Primary  
Action

0

Votes

This proposal outlines a plan to design and construct a safe, engaging, and inclusive playground for children in the local community. The playground will feature age-appropriate equipment, accessible structures for children with disabilities, and a secure environment that encourages physical activity, creativity, and social interaction. The project aims to enhance community well-being, support healthy childhood development, and provide families with a welcoming outdoor space.

Secondary  
Actions

Like



Comment



Share



Liked by you



# Meetings

To hybridise face-to-face and digital participation

- Map
- Registration systems
- Documentation and photos
- Different types: Online, face-to-face, Hybrid
- Self-call for meetings
- At the end you can publish the minutes.

meta decidim

Search

Help Meetings Activity

Home / Meetings

## Meetings

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Search

**Date**

- ☐ All
- ☐ Upcoming
- ☒ Past

**Type**

- ☐ All
- ☐ In-person
- ☐ Online
- ☐ Hybrid

**Scope**

- ☐ All
- ☐ Global scope
- ☐ Decidim Fest 23
- ☐ Association
- ☐ Community
- ☐ Funds
- ☐ Language

**Category**

- ☐ All
- ☐ Decidim.GOV: Democratic Govern...
- ☐ Propose new features

10 meetings

**OCT 31 17:00** **Decidim Association - Coordination Committee Meeting**  
Online | 1h | 0

**OCT 20 14:00** **Lunch**  
In-person | 2h | 0

**OCT 20 13:30** **Closing and community photo**  
In-person | 30m | 0 | Community

**OCT 20 12:00** **Collective Power and Integration: Integrating a Brazilian Free Software with Decidim**  
In-person | 2h | 0 | Workshops

**OCT 20 12:00** **Technopolitical Transitions: Expectations and Promises in Decidim**  
In-person | 2h | 0 | Workshops



# Debates

Para promover la deliberación

- Ask a question
- Receive comments
- Discussion threads
- At the end, close the discussion with a conclusion.

## How can we improve deliberation in Decidim?

Official debate **Closed**

Decidim aspires to be a democratic project for the future and this requires a continuous improvement of its software. [The current redesign process](#)<sup>1</sup> is a way to guarantee this improvement. By opening this debate<sup>1</sup>, we want to contribute to this process by delving into one of its key facets or possibilities: the deliberative one. Currently, conversations in Decidim take place through comments, which are enabled by default in most spaces (or components) of the platform, as well as through the Debates space. We would like to know your opinion about how the deliberation in Decidim could be improved. In particular, we would like to know what new functionalities (i.e. operational elements of Decidim's design) could improve debate and dissent, as well as consensus and collective decision-making.

<sup>1</sup>This issue has been addressed in [previous discussions](#).

Comment

22 comments

Best rated Recent Older Most discussed

- Yago Bermejo Abati** almost 2 years ...
- Hola a todos. En relación a la primera pregunta, retomo el libro [#DemocraciasFuturas](#) que publicamos en Medialab Prado hace unos años. En este capítulo <https://archive.org/details/LICPD/page/n49/mode/2up> [@elaraagon](#) sugiere que ciertas estructuras son más deliberativas que otras. ¿Cómo fomentar el Type I?
- Hide replies 2 0
- Sara Suárez** almost 2 years ...
- Hola Yago, ¡gracias por la contribución y por el libro!
- ¿Os animáis a explicar brevemente en qué consiste la estructura Type I y por qué consideráis que es más adecuada para fomentar la deliberación?
- (Equipo @LAB Deliberacion)
- 1 0
- Yago Bermejo Abati** almost 2 years ...
- El type I viene comentado aquí <https://archive.org/details/LICPD/page/n51/mode/2up?view=theater>
- 1 0



# Participatory Budgeting

- Projects
- Voting system per €
- Media and documentation
- Comments
- Economic value of the projects

### Projects for Consequatur et.

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Category

- ☐ All
- ☐ Voluptas nostrum illum nihil dolore.
- ☐ Voluptatem recusandae et nisi ut.

**Start adding projects.** Assign at least €32,809,797 to the projects you want and vote according to your preferences to define the budget.

Assigned  
€0

Minimum  
€32,809,797

Budget  
€46,871,138

[Vote budget](#) ✓

[More information](#)

### Select projects

[All](#) [Added](#) [+](#)

**Et qui.**

Voluptatem recusandae et nisi ut.

€46,463,853 [Add +](#)

**Voluptatem et.**

Tempora cupiditate eos consequatur ut.

€43,937,078 [Add +](#)

**Voluptates quod.**

Voluptatem recusandae et nisi ut.

€34,149,107 [Add +](#)

[Random order](#) [Highest cost](#) [Lowest cost](#)





# Accountability

To follow the implementation of the results

- % implementation
- Territorial scopes
- Categories
- Comments
- Timeline

## Accountability

Estado Global de ejecución



55.1%

Search for actions



Quas occaecati tempore aut.

EXCEPTURI

Ecología Urbana



67.2%

6 ins

UT

Mejoras en el arbrado de la ciudad

91%

1 in

Pacificación de las calles

85%

1 in

Qui laborum doloremque minus magnam.

41%

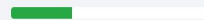
1 in

Eius nulla omnis perspiciatis voluptatem.

85%

1 in

Políticas de vivienda



31%

3 ins

Construcción parque de vivienda público

25%

1 in

Dolores tenetur molestiae voluptates laudantium.

8%

1 in

# Surveys

Design customised forms

- Different types of questions: open-ended, single selection, multi-selection, matrix and ordering.
- Design forms for participatory appraisal.
- Publish the answers to your survey.

1 **First and last name \***

2 **Email \***

3 **Organization**

(Institution, association, organization, university, etc...)

5 **Registration by blocks \***

- ☐ Wednesday 18/10 (16:00 - 18:00h)
- ☐ Thursday 19/10. Morning (9:30 - 14h)
- ☐ Thursday 19/10. Afternoon (15:45 - 20h)
- ☐ Friday 20/10. (9 - 14h)

6 **Registration to workshops (first session)**

- ☐ (WAITING LIST) Dialoguem! Sociophysical modelling, data analysis, and visualization for augmented deliberation.
- ☐ (WAITING LIST) Benchmarking Decidim: What Can We Learn From Similar Platforms
- ☐ (WAITING LIST) Democratizing AI Procurement: Harnessing the Power of Decidim

☐ By participating you accept its Terms of Service

Submit 



# Social network for citizen participation

- Participant profile
- Last activity
- Gamification system
- Collective users

The screenshot shows a user profile for Nil Homedes. The profile includes a circular profile picture, the name 'Nil Homedes', and social statistics: '@nil\_homedes', '1 follow', and '11 followers'. A bio states: '| President of the Decidim Free Software Association | Tècnic de l'equip Decidim. Als comandaments de Decidim Organitzacions | Chief administrator at Decidim for Organizations. Coming from Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia Foundation.' Below the bio, it lists 'Member of General Assembly of the Decidim Association · Coordination Committee'. On the right, there are buttons for 'Edit profile' and 'Create group'. The 'Activity' tab is selected, showing a list of activities. The first activity is 'New meeting: Decidim Association - Coordination Committee Meeting' with a timestamp of 'less than a minute ago'. The second activity is 'New comment: Good afternoon, Finally, the coordination committee has decided to adhere to th...' with a timestamp of '15 days ago' and a link to a manifesto.

**Nil Homedes**  
@nil\_homedes 1 follow 11 followers

| President of the Decidim Free Software Association | Tècnic de l'equip Decidim. Als comandaments de Decidim Organitzacions | Chief administrator at Decidim for Organizations. Coming from Francesc Ferrer i Guàrdia Foundation.

Member of  
General Assembly of the Decidim Association · Coordination Committee

Activity Badges Follows Followers Groups

All activity types

- Collaborative draft
- Comment
- Debate
- Initiative

less than a minute ago

New meeting: [Decidim Association - Coordination Committee Meeting](#)

15 days ago

New comment: [Good afternoon, Finally, the coordination committee has decided to adhere to th...](#)

[Adhering to the "Technopolitics and Genocide: Solidarity with Palestine" Manifesto](#)

# Newsletter

- Create communication campaigns
- Send mass communications
- Customised design with templates
- Possibility of segmented mailing

decidim.  
barcelona



## Decidim.

Quins projectes  
prioritzem per als  
Pressupostos  
Participatius a  
la nostra ciutat  
del 10 al 17 de març.

decidim.barcelona

ENTRA I  
PARTICIPA!

Hola !

Avui comença la **recollida de suports per als projectes dels Pressupostos Participatius de Barcelona.**

Totes les persones a partir de 14 anys empadronades a Barcelona disposen de fins a **10 suports** a repartir entre tots els projectes.

Els 23 projectes de cada districte que aconseguixin més suports, una vegada aplicats els criteris de distribució territorial que garanteixen l'equilibri entre barris, passaran a les següents fases del procés i a la votació final. A aquests projectes, s'afegiran els 2 projectes més votats a l'àgora de cada districte.

Consulta, informa't i dona suport a les  
propostes!

Des d'avui i fins al proper dilluns 17 de març a [decidim.barcelona](https://decidim.barcelona) pots  
escollir entre els projectes presentats i acceptats, aquells que vols que

# Decidim

Open Source Technology



## /Open Source Technology

- 2-3 new releases per year
- Security and accessibility audits
- New Re-Design of the UI
- Continuous improving

v0.29.0 Latest



### Security fixes

This release addresses two security issues:

- [CVE-2024-32034](#)
- CVE-2024-45594

One of these security issues ([CVE-2024-32034](#)) was already available in v0.27.7 and v0.28.2, so it will be published on September 16th 2024.

The other security issue (CVE-2024-45594) will be published on November 10th 2024, which is two months after the release date of this version. For more information, please refer to our [Security Policy](#).

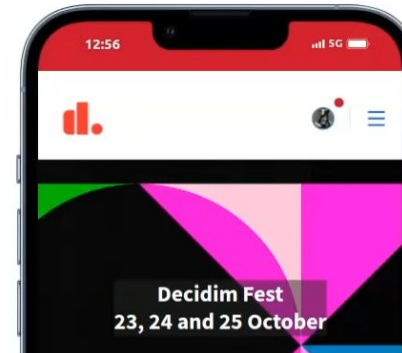
### Upgrade notes

As usual, we recommend that you have a full backup, of the database, application code and static files.

To update, follow these steps:

#### 1.1. Update your ruby version

If you're using rbnbv, this is done with the following commands:



## /Open Source Technology

- Easy to customize thanks to modular architecture.
- You can create your own module.
- Everybody can participate in the definition of the roadmap.

## Community



### Analytics

Enables tracking through Matomo and adds a tab in the admin panel showing one Matomo dashboard (or more) of your choice.

[More information](#)



### Budgets Enhanced

Enhanced Budget component . Allow assigning a color for each budgets category.

[More information](#)



### BudgetsPaperBallots

This module allows an admin to import paper ballots in a participatory budgeting vote. The import process can be repeated as many times as desired, or done at once. It isn't possible to edit a value that was wrongly imported, but it is possible to import a negative number of votes to apply a correction. The number of paper votes for each project can then be seen in the admin panel and the aggregated number of votes for each project (both paper and online) can be seen on the frontend. These values are also made available in the various data exports (from the admin panel, the open data and the API).

[More information](#)

## /Open Source Technology

### The magic of Open Source

1. Helsinki needs a customisation and decides to develop a module
2. Helsinki pays for the development of the module and publishes it.
3. The module is released under the same licence as Decidim and can therefore be reused by anyone.
4. Then, Barcelona sees the module and installs it because it meets a need.





# Hands on!

1. Sign-up in the platform
2. Say hello! Introduce yourself in the [welcome forum](#)
3. Create a Proposal to define the location of the next consortium meeting



# Thanks!

More info at: [decidim.org](https://decidim.org)

Contact: [hola@decidim.org](mailto:hola@decidim.org)

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**Nil Homedes Busquets**

President

Decidim Free Software Association

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