

2013 TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN:

The present OIDP Technical Secretariat Work Plan is based on the agreements reached during the internal network members' session, held on 11th July 2012 in the city of Porto Alegre. In accordance with the network's own dynamics, the Work Plan was presented for the consideration of the members and approved during the last internal session (which took place in Cascais on 2nd July 2013).

According to the mandate to adopt a position as a worldwide reference for the production and exchange of specialised knowledge in the field of participatory democracy at a local level, the Technical Secretariat will be working along four lines:

- ✓ PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE
- ✓ INCREASING AND DIVERSIFYING THE COMPOSITION OF NETWORK MEMBERS
- ✓ INCREASING NETWORK VISIBILITY
- ✓ IMPROVING THE WAY THAT THE NETWORK FUNCTIONS

PROMOTING THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF KNOWLEDGE

- **13th OIDP CONFERENCE.** The Technical Secretariat will provide as much support as may be required by the Municipal Chamber of Cascais, for the organisation of the 13th OIDP Conference, "Citizenship for Sustainability", which is to be held in the Portuguese town of Cascais from 2nd to 5th July.

With regard to the publication of the Conference results –should such be the case – this cost will not be met by the Technical Secretariat.

- **ENLIVENING THE WEB TO PROMOTE THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES.** Given that the OIDP was conceived as a network based on the production and exchange of knowledge, the background to the new web –launched in July 2012- cannot be other than the collective production of knowledge for purposes of innovation. Throughout 2013 the Technical Secretariat will be mobilising the towns and cities to encourage them to exchange what they are producing via the new web.
- **SOCIAL NETWORKING** The Technical Secretariat will continue to work on the positioning of the OIDP as a reference in the field of participatory democracy through the social networks.
- **7th DISTINCTION OF BEST PRACTICES IN CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.** The Technical Secretariat will take charge of calling for entries and supervising the 7th edition of the Distinction of Best Practices in Citizens Participation, with the aim of detecting and acknowledging innovative

experiences in the field of citizens' participation. This initiative is aimed at promoting the exchange of knowledge while, at the same time, allowing for the recruitment of new members.

- **ADVANCING NEW MECHANISMS FOR THE PRODUCTION AND EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES AND KNOWLEDGE. WORK GROUPS.** Starting from the idea that the examination and production of knowledge contribute to a qualification of participatory democracy, at the last internal members session (held in Porto Alegre on 11th June 2012), the members of the OIDP agreed to set up a work group to consider the reactivation of the Local Observatories on Participatory Democracy (implemented from 2004 to 2007). They also agreed that they would recover a space to be dedicated to Local Observatories at all of the OIDP Conferences.

Taking on this line of work as the network's priority policy, in 2013 the Technical Secretariat will lead the work group responsible for looking at the redefinition of the OIDP project. They will also have the mandate for organising a session to look into this question at the 13th Conference.

Furthermore, the Technical Secretariat will also promote a collective examination, fostering the creation of work groups that are of interest to the network members and, in this way, allowing local governments to reinforce democracy and boost the exercising of citizenship to a leading role in the discussion, design and implementation of public policies.

- **COLLABORATION WITH THE UCLG AND THE CES FOR A STUDY, COMMISSIONED BY THE GIZ, ON COMMUNITY/PARTICIPATORY MONITORING STRUCTURES.**

INCREASING AND DIVERSIFYING THE COMPOSITION OF NETWORK MEMBERS

- **STRUCTURAL DECENTRALISATION. REGIONAL ANTENNAS.** At the extraordinary members meeting, held on 11th November 2011, also in Porto Alegre, it was decided that, in order for the OIDP to become an innovative centre for the production of knowledge, it would be necessary for work to be done in a collaborative way, on the basis of a decentralised structure. It was also agreed that this decentralised structure would have to be materialised through the creation of regional offices, or antennas, which would in turn be required to become "experts" within their own territory and provide network members with the best and the most complete knowledge being produced in each of the different regions of the world.

In June 2012 the Regional Office for Latin America was set up in Porto Alegre, and in December of that same year the African Platform of the OIDP was set up, based in Dakar. In accordance with this line of work, in 2013 the Technical Secretariat will set to work on the consolidation of these two offices and will also work towards the opening of a regional office in the north of Europe, and another one in North America.

- **DIVERSIFICATION OF THE COMPOSITION OF MEMBERS OF THE NETWORK.** In 2011 it was decided that the concentration of network members in determined territories was a problem. In order to mitigate this situation in 2012 the Technical Secretariat set about trying to expand

and consolidate their contacts in Africa. Once this had been achieved, and with a view to continuing the network structure decentralisation process, in 2013 the Technical Secretariat will be continuing this work by concentrating, although not exclusively, on opening up and strengthening contacts in non-Mediterranean Europe and North America.

INCREASING NETWORK VISIBILITY

- **PARTICIPATION IN EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES** The Technical Secretariat will present and represent the OIDP at the Second International Conference on Participatory Budgeting in the US and Canada, to be held in Chicago from 3rd to 5th May. In June the Technical Secretariat will participate in the Informed Cities Forum 2013 and the InContext Conference, to be held in Berlin on 6th and 7th of that month, and will also be present at the 4th UCLG Congress, the Summit for local and regional leaders to be held in Rabat from 1st to 4th October. Within this framework it is anticipated that the OIDP will also be organising a workshop on "Participation as a New Form of Governance in the Access to Basic Services". To the extent that it is economically viable the Technical Secretariat will also be attending such other activities, arranged by other networks, as are considered to be of priority interest for the effective development of our Goals for 2013.
- **COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS.** To the extent that collaboration with other networks, working on related questions, is essential for the achievement of the OIDP network's own goals, during 2013 the OIDP will be collaborating in the organisation of, and attendance at, activities promoted by the UCLG, providing support for the publication of the 3rd Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities, collaborating with the organisation of the Second Democracine Film Festival and, along with the General Secretariat of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, will be promoting the exchange of innovative knowledge. The Technical Secretariat will also collaborate with all other networks or projects that may be considered to be of interest.
- **PRESENCE ON EXTERNAL WEBS.** At the Porto Alegre internal session the possibility was raised that, in view of the fact that network members do not have to pay any quotas for being affiliated, that one of the ways that they could contribute would be by including the OIDP logo on each of the individual webs of the institutions and organisations that make up the network, in order to further promotion of the OIDP. The Technical Secretariat will be working along these lines in 2013, and will also be working on improving network visibility by establishing a presence on the UCLG and GOLD III (the UCLG Global Observatory on Local Democracy) webs, along with the new Open Government Web of the Barcelona City Council.

IMPROVING THE WAY THAT THE NETWORK FUNCTIONS

- **RENEWAL OF THE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT WITH UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG) FOR HOLDING THE OIDP TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT.**

- **DECENTRALISATION OF THE *CROWDFUNDING* FINANCING MODEL.** Once again, within the framework of the internal members session, held in Porto Alegre on 11th June 2012, the proposal was made that, insofar as the network is a network based on exchange, collaboration, commitment, etc., it might make sense (particularly given the times that we live in) to implement a *crowdfunding* or microfinancing system for the purpose of decentralising –not only the structure- but the network’s financing model. In 2013 the Technical Secretariat will be working on the goal of bringing into operation a new financing model.

- **LAUNCH OF THE CALL FOR THE ELECTION OF THE SEAT OF THE NETWORK PRESIDENCY IN 2014.**

- **NEWSLETTER.** With the aim of improving the level of communications between network members, while also being able to provide them with more up-to-date information at any given time, the Technical Secretariat will be strengthening this channel by way of the new possibilities offered by the new web.

- **AGREEMENTS FOR PRACTICES WITH UNIVERSITIES.** With the desire to provide all OIDP members with quality knowledge, the Barcelona City Council will sign agreements with a series of different university institutions.

- **ORGANISATION OF A PLENARY MEETING OR INTERNAL MEMBERS SESSION FOR THE VALIDATION OF THE WORK PLAN AND TO TAKE STOCK OF THE ANNUAL MANDATE.** The meeting will be held in Cascais, within the framework of the 13th Conference, on 2nd July 2013, from 16:00 to 20:00 hours.