

## **TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT WORK PLAN 2014-2015:**

This work plan should guide the action of the Technical Secretariat of OIDP and the organization in general. This document part of the analysis of the annual report 2013 – 2014. The ten priorities are:

- I. Expand and diversify members
- II. Regional offices.
- III. Improving the website
- IV. Improving Communication
- V. Stimulating the use of social networks
- VI. Network funding
- VII. Working Groups
- VIII. IX IOPD Distinction
- IX. 15th IOPD Conference
- X. Other conferences

### **I. Expand and diversify members**

In 2011, it was decided that the concentration of network members in certain territories was an issue that needed to be addressed. In order to mitigate this situation, in 2012 the Technical Secretariat set about trying to extend and consolidate its contacts in Africa. With this objective now achieved - and with a view to continuing the process of decentralising the network structure, this year the Technical Secretariat will be putting its efforts, though not exclusively, into opening up and strengthening contacts in non-Mediterranean Europe, Asia and North America.

### **II. Regional offices.**

At the extraordinary meeting of members, held in November 2011, also in Porto Alegre, it was decided that, in order for the IOPD to become an innovative centre for knowledge production, it needed to work collaboratively from within a decentralised structure. It was also agreed that this decentralised structure should take the form of regional offices or antennas which, in turn, would

become "experts" within their territory and would provide members of the network with the best and most complete knowledge produced in each of the regions of the world.

In June 2012, the regional office for Latin America was set up in Porto Alegre and in December that same year, the African platform of the IOPD was created, based in Dakar. Following this work line, in 2014, the Technical Secretariat will be working to consolidate these two offices and will also be working towards opening another regional office in Northern Europe, Asia and one in North America.

### **III. Improving the website**

Given that the IOPD was set up as a network based on the production and exchange of knowledge, the background to the new website - launched in July 2012 - could be none other than the collective production of knowledge to promote innovation. In 2014, the Technical Secretariat will be mobilising cities to encourage them to exchange what they themselves produce via the new website. The Technical Secretariat will also produce and share participatory records and other documents of interest.

### **IV. Improving Communication**

In order to improve communication with network members and to offer them more up-to-date information at all times, the Technical Secretariat will be stepping up communication via newsletters, e-mails and others channels, thanks to the new possibilities offered by the new website.

### **V. Stimulating the use of social networks**

The Technical Secretariat will continue to work on the positioning of the IOPD as a reference in the field of participatory democracy through social networks.

### **VI. Network funding**

The Technical Secretariat has been meeting with companies from the crowdfunding sector to examine this financing option. The conclusion has been reached that there is a problem with the legal precept of the IOPD, and that micro-financing campaigns are not suitable for financing bureaucratic structures. This option could be considered for specific projects: for example, to fund the IOPD Distinction (translation of documents, prizes, travel costs of representatives travelling to the winning city), several research projects, publications or other similar projects.

### **VII. Working Groups**

During the internal session, there will be a discussion on the continuity of the current working groups: on the "role of associations in citizen participation" and on the "local observatories on participatory democracy".

Two new groups have been created:

- Elaboration of new IOPD statutes
- Create a common position on the Millennium Development Goals. post 2015

### **VIII. IX IOPD Distinction**

The Technical Secretariat will be calling and managing the 9th edition of the Distinction for Best Practice in Citizen Participation, the aim of which is to identify and recognise innovative experiences in the field of citizen participation. This initiative aims to promote the exchange of knowledge and at the same time allows for the recruitment of new members.

### **IX. 15th IOPD Conference**

The Technical Secretariat will provide as much support as required to the City Council of Madrid in organising the 15th IOPD Conference.

As regards the publication of the results of the conference - if applicable - this cost will not be met by the Technical Secretariat.

### **X. Other conferences**

The Technical Secretariat will be presenting and representing the IOPD at the Conference on Participatory Budgeting in the USA and Canada, which is being held in San Francisco from 24 to 27 September. Finances permitting, the Technical Secretariat will also attend to other activities organised by other networks considered key to the correct development of the 2014 goals.