



INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON

PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

SHARING EXPERIENCES SINCE 2001



THE MOST WIDESPREAD NETWORK OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) is a network of over 1000 of the world's towns and cities, associations, organisations and research centres interested in learning about, exchanging impressions and applying participatory democracy experiences at a local scale, for the purpose of extending democratic practices in municipal governments.

15 YEARS OF EXPERIENCES

The network was created in 2001 within the framework of the Decentralised Cooperation Projects of the European Union's URB-AL Programme. Since 2006 the IOPD has been working in collaboration with the World Organisation of United Cities and Local Governments, at the present time contributing to the provision of innovative knowledge at the service of local government in the field of participatory democracy.

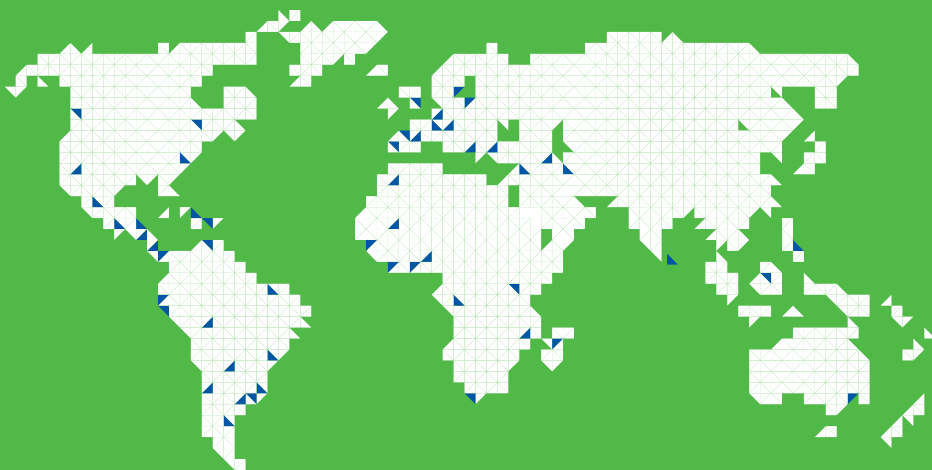
The IOPD Technical Secretariat is currently under the auspices of the Barcelona City Council, a widely acknowledged international reference in terms of the exchange of participatory democracy experiences aimed at promoting cooperation between local governments throughout the world.

The IOPD is a worldwide centre of reference for the production of knowledge (the R&D of Participatory Democracy).

The IOPD is consolidated as a space for the exchange of useful experiences.

The IOPD contributes, through all of this production, to the enrichment of the public policies of municipal governments.





A NETWORK OF MORE THAN
1000 CITIES IN 95 COUNTRIES

TYPE OF MEMBERS:

ASSOCIATE MEMBER:
**LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS**

COLLABORATING MEMBER:
**UNIVERSITIES, RESEARCH CENTRES
AND CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS**

A NETWORK OF SHARED COMMITMENTS:

ANNUAL ROTARY PRESIDENCY

GENERAL SECRETARIAT
BARCELONA

CONFERENCE

HOW WE PRODUCE AND IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE IN THE FIELD OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Every year since its foundation, the Presidency of the network has been held for a 12 month period by one of the IOPD local government members which, assuming the responsibility for making progress in the debate on participatory democracy and sharing experiences and knowledge in this field, then organises an inter-national conference.



WORK GROUP

On the basis of collective reflection with regard to a specific area, the aim is also to promote instruments that will allow local governments to strengthen democracy and boost the exercise of active citizenship in discussion and decision making on, as well as the implementation of, public policies.



DIVERSIFICATION AND DECENTRALIZATION

Diversifying the composition of the network's members in order to reach out to all of the regions in the world, decentralising the structure.



DISTINCTION

The IOPD also promotes the Distinction for "Best Practice in Citizens' Participation", the purpose of which is to recognize innovative experiences and ideas in the area of participative democracy that encourage the participation and involvement of citizens in processes of elaborating and implementing public policies.



SYNERGIES

Establishing synergies with other international organisations and the academic world.



LOCAL SPHERE

Reactivating the network of Local Observatories on Participatory Democracy.



WEB UPDATE

Improving the web so that its members can contribute to the collective production of knowledge.



HOW TO JOIN

In order to become a IOPD member all you have to do is fill out the application form, which you can find in the section “HOW TO JOIN” on our website. There are no membership dues.

For further information please contact:

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