

## 14th IOPD Conference

Last 3, 4 and 5 June took place the 14<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) in Canoas, Brazil. The Conference was organized by the Prefeitura of Canoas (Canoas City Council) that held the annual presidency of the IOPD, with the support of the IOPD's Technical Secretariat. **Over 80 speakers from 25 countries presented their experiences on participatory democracy and citizen participation** in the various discussion sessions present.

During the first day, the annual internal meeting of IOPD members was held. The management reports and the working plan were presented and approved, and Madrid (Spain) was elected to the presidency of the IOPD for the period 2014. There was also an intense debate on the challenges of the future organization and develop projects.

### *Internal meeting of IOPD members:*



**The Inaugural Conference was given by the Italian political scientist Antonio Negri** under the title of "The Common beyond Public and Private".

The inauguration of the Conference was given by the Mayor of Canoas, Jairo Jorge da Silva, president of the IOPD; Carles Agustí, Commissioner for Citizen Participation and Association of the City of Barcelona and coordinator of the IOPD, José Fortunati mayor of Porto Alegre (IOPD president in 2012), Ligia Maria Alves of Brazilian federal government and Paulo Fossati President of the University UnilSalle.



During the second day were conducted the sessions where speakers presented experiences and reflections on participatory policies. The main topics discussed were: participatory budgeting, open government, consultation and deliberation, citizen's advice, regarding citizens' associations.

**A special commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the participatory budget in Porto Alegre was also performed**, with the participation of Olívio Dutra former mayor of Porto Alegre, José Fortunati current mayor of Porto Alegre, Jairo Jorge mayor of Canoas, Bachir Kanouté from IOPD Africa, Ginny Browne from the Participatory Budgeting Project (United States), Nelson Dias from In Loco Association (Portugal) and Luciano Fedozzi from Rio Grande do Sul University (Brazil).

In the final conference, there was discussion about the future challenges of participatory democracy. The speakers were Ilaria Casillo from the Independent Authority for promoting participation in Tuscany (Italy), Jaume Lopez professor of political science at the University Pompeu Fabra (Catalonia). Matt Ryan of the University of Southampton (United Kingdom) and Jéferson Assunção Deputy Secretary of culture of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil).



One of the parallel sessions was held:



After the final conference closing ceremony, which included the delivery of 8th IOPD Distinction, the signing of an agreement with the network Mercociudades and the transfer of the presidency between Canoas and the city of Madrid was held.

The 8<sup>th</sup> IOPD Distinction "Best Practice in Citizen Participation" was given to the Chinese city of Chengdu for its "participatory budgeting in rural public services." The experiences of the General Comptroller of the



O I D P

## 14th IOPD Conference

City of Mexico, the “participatory budget with gender sensitive” of Penang (Malaysia) and community projects of the Municipality of Huachis (Peru) received also a special mention.

