



Participatory democracy quality index (PDI)

Second meeting for the preparation of a Participatory Democracy Index April 21, 2022

Participants in the workshop:

- Fernand Yapi, Municipality of Cocody
- Amira Khammassi, Agence Tunisienne de coopération Technique
- Adriana Rofman, National University of Gral. Sarmiento
- Karen Islas
- Shantha Dalugamage, Stichting Mission Lanka
- Montserrat Pallarès Parellada, Consell d'Associacions de Barcelona - CAB
- Prunelle Franchessa
- Carlos Aguirre
- Mariana Alzate Geraldo
- Jules Eklu, Citizen Council Paris
- Savaş Zafer Şahin, The Citizens' Assembly of Ankara
- Czarina Medina-guce, Ateneo de Manila University
- Roque Werlang, Blog Democracia Directa
- Abdoulaye Cisse, enda ECOPOP
- Amy Watson
- Analinn Rivera Delgado, Dominio Público A.C., Hidalgo, México
- Angelica Moreno
- Cristina Bloj, National University of Rosario
- Djibril Mangane
- Jhon Ramírez, FEDECORE
- Jorge Carbajal
- Karla Luna, Ollin, A.C.
- Leonardo Farias, CESDET
- MLourdes CMCascais
- Paul Correa
- Baba Ndiaye
- Paula Fontalvo
- Yesenya Mojica-Bravo, Municipality of Chia
- Saide Jamal, Municipality of Maputo
- Ophélie Bretaudeau, Missions Publiques
- Jordi Pacheco, Generalitat de Catalunya
- Janice Da Silva and Khadim Rassoul Gueye, IOPD Africa
- Adrià Duarte and Edoardo De Santis, IOPD Technical Secretariat

Agenda

- Welcome and technical questions
- Wrap-up of the first meeting
- Discussion on the different axes of the index / Fields to be considered
- Brainstorming and discussion on the indicators to be included

Greetings from the participants

The meeting started with introductions. The participants took the floor in turn to introduce themselves and their respective structures and showed their commitment to collaborate in the development of the index.

Main themes of the first meeting

Following the participants' presentations, Adrià Duarte, the IOPD coordinator, took the floor to remind all the participants of the points that had been discussed at the first meeting, held on 3 March 2022, namely:

- Presentation of the framing note
- Open debate for reactions to the idea of the Index
- Operational discussion: how do we organize the working group for the elaboration process
- Brainstorming and discussion on the indicators to be included

A brief discussion was held, taking up the topics discussed at the first meeting, in which Cristina Bloj, Jordi Pacheco, Adriana Rofman and Savaş Zafer Şahin participated.

- Cristina Bloj returned to the fact that the categories, established in the first meeting, are used to define participatory democracy, as if we were talking about governments in general when in reality we are dealing with a "hybrid terrain"; experiences placed in a broader democratic global context. The proposal in this respect is therefore to check the work done in the first meeting, and the hypothetical categories for the development of the index, in the light of this commentary.
- Jordi Pacheco took the floor to say that there are other measures that contain the deliberative dimension of democracy.
- Adriana Rofman intervened at this point and said that Cristina's comment referred to the type of case to which the index refers, as the subdivision made at the first meeting may be appropriate for governments but for experiences of participation it may be "narrow".
- Adria Duarte intervened to underline the importance of this aspect, especially if we think about what we want to do through the elaboration of this index; if it is simply an index to measure individual experiences or if it can refer to a more general and wider

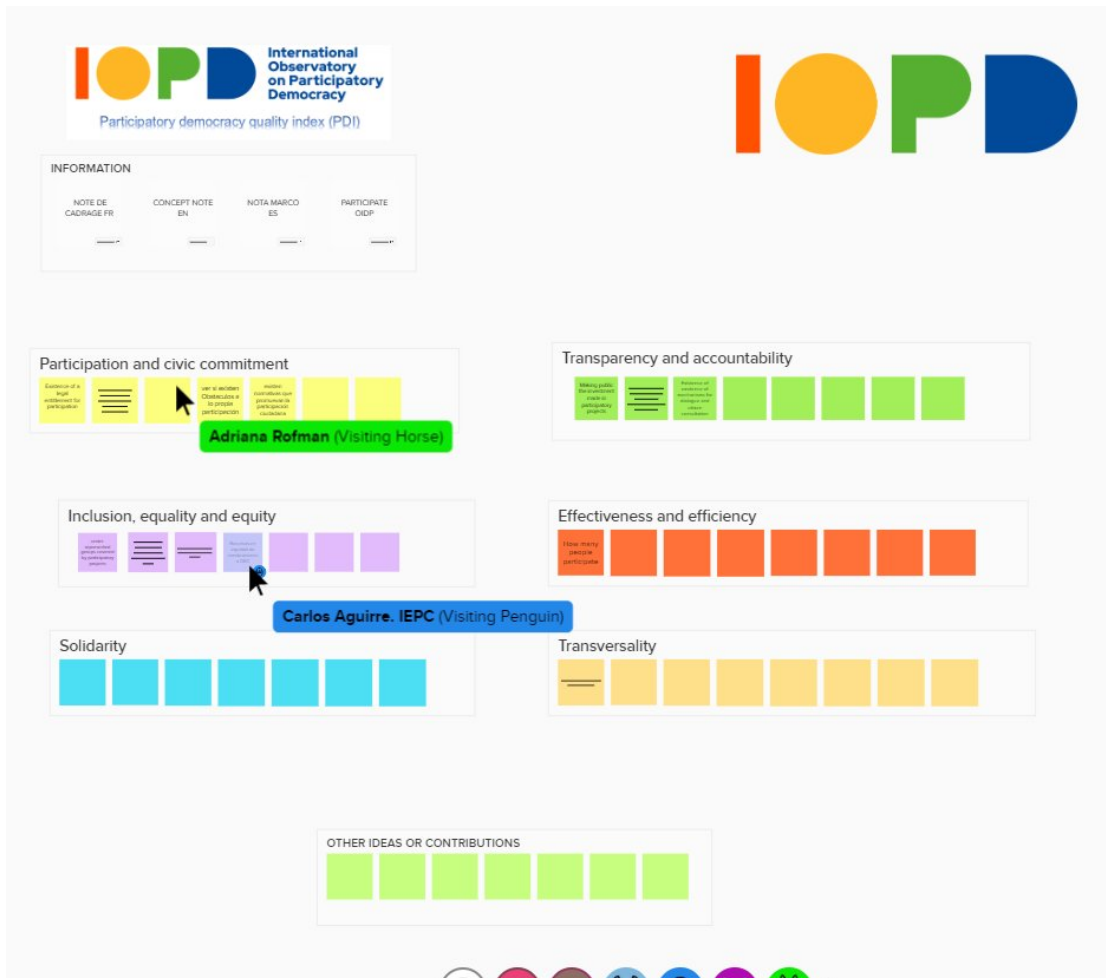
ecosystem. According to the IOPD coordinator, one option could also be to start with the assessment of individual experiences and then to widen the scope more and more.

- Savaş Şahin, in turn, brought back some of his notes from the first meeting, including statements on the purpose of the index and what to assess. According to Savaş, if the work is based on the idea of a universal index, there is a need to think about how different contexts can be compared; also an annotation of John Coonrod's speech at the first meeting, which had emphasised the issue of data bias in this area.
- And finally Czarina Medina-Guce returned, as in the first meeting, to the importance of customisable diagnostics.

The Mural of ideas

After reviewing the points of the first meeting, Adrià Duarte then moved on to explain the second phase in which participants, as in the first meeting, can start to share their ideas for indicators, writing them in a mural designed for this purpose and composed of 7 basic sections of ideas inspired by the possible indicators that the index should include:

- participation and civic engagement
- transparency and accountability; and
- equality, inclusion and equity,
- effectiveness and efficiency,
- solidarity,
- transversality
- finally a general section where participants captured general ideas and contributions that could help create the index.



Here are some of the ideas that meeting attendees shared in the [mural](#).

1) Participation and civic commitment:

- Existence of a legal entitlement for participation
- Existence of best practices about participation and how they are disseminated
- Involvement of citizens / CSOs in different instances of the public policy process

2) Transparency and accountability:

- Making public the investment made in participatory projects
- Existence of open public data for all to follow the decisions related to public adm.
- Accountability for the use of participatory outcome in public policies & legislation.

3) Inclusion, equality and equity:

- Under-represented groups covered by participatory projects
- There is participation of historically vulnerable groups
- Measuring presence and, also, effective influence

4) Effectiveness and efficiency:

- How many people participate
- What channels are used to activate the mechanisms
- Measuring the real impact of participation in policies.

5) Solidarity:

- Actions of CSOs: fields of action, work modalities, topics, etc.

6) Transversality:

- Effective dialogue between citizens and elected officials
- Commitments of other ministries with the subject to debate in what affects themes

7) Other ideas or contributions:

- Voter turnout level
- Open government indicators
- Digital engagement

The interventions of the participants

In the second part of the meeting the floor was opened to participants. They reiterated many of the ideas they reported in the mural.

The following directly intervened in the debate:

- Carlos Aguirre
- National University of Rosario: Cristina Bloj
- The Citizens' Assembly of Ankara: Savaş Zafer Şahin
- Citizen Council Paris: Jules Eklou
- Municipality of Cocody: Fernand Yapi
- Ateneo of Manila University: Czarina Medina-guce
- IOPD Africa: Janice Da Silva
- Missions Publiques: Ophélie Bretaudeau
- Baba Ndiaye
- Municipality of Chia: Yesenya Mojica-Bravo
- Municipality of Maputo: Saide Jamal
- Enda ECOPOP: Abdoulaye Cisse
- National University of Gral. Sarmiento: Adriana Rofman
- Ollin, A.C: Karla Luna
- Dominio Público A.C., Hidalgo, México: Analinn Rivera Delgado

The main ideas gathered during the debate and also reported in the mural all refer to a clear definition of the indicators and the specific aspects of participatory democracy that the index intends to study.

- Carlos Aguirre proposed the use of citizen participation in civil society organisations as an indicator of participatory democracy.
- Cristina Bloj intervened at this point and recalled the importance of distinguishing a quantitative and a qualitative part in the measurement of the index.
- Savaş Zafer Şahin intervened, arguing the importance of thinking in terms of the availability of adequate conditions for participation and civic engagement. A topic of absolute relevance in the development of the Index must therefore be the legal topic as there is a legal basis for any participatory democracy activity.
- Czarina Medina supports the importance of a clear strategy as the starting point for a successful project.
- Clarity is also a fundamental element for Janice Da Silva who insisted on this aspect in her speech.
- For Adriana Rofman, it is necessary to investigate the existence of legislation that promotes citizen participation, which may be present in some regions of the world and absent in others.
- Jules Eklü then intervened by underlining the distinction between participation and involvement, which is fundamental for the construction of valid indicators;
- Ophélie Bretaudeau took the floor and agreed with Jules' remarks, but introduced another notion, which she considered fundamental, that of interaction.
- At this point Abdoulaye Cissé from the NGO Enda ECOPOP intervened and showed his agreement with what was said by the two colleagues who preceded him but also with the previous interventions because it is important that the index contains a quantitative part and a qualitative part according to him.
- Karla Luna took the floor to agree that it is necessary to identify the regions of the world in which there are laws on participation and participatory mechanisms, but it is equally important to verify how many of these mechanisms are actually active.
- Baba Ndiaye, on the other hand, shared his point of view by reporting concrete examples from Senegal.
- Saide Jamal from the Municipality of Maputo emphasised the importance in participatory processes and their evaluation of directly addressing a public and individuals in particular to really know their level of participation in certain processes.
- Then, Yesenya Mojica-Bravo intervened, stressing that it can be important to think of impact as a strategic category to measure the indicator, i.e. impact as a direct capacity to influence decisions.
- Fernad Yapi also agreed with this theme and in his speech he also quoted the [conceptual note](#) of the index several times.
- The last speaker was Analinn Rivera Delgado, who expressed her willingness to work on the development of the index, and thanked her colleagues and the IOPD, which is coordinating the development work of the project.

The form for joining the groups

In the last part of the meeting the organizers jointly presented the form through which it was possible to join the different [working groups](#). Participants were able to join one or more groups by choosing from the following six:



- Group 1: Participation and civic commitment
- Group 2: Transparency and accountability
- Group 3: Inclusion, equality and equity
- Group 4: Effectiveness and efficiency
- Group 5: Solidarity
- Group 6: Transversality

The next step is to find a **consensus definition** of each area and to define a final list of **indicators**. For the definition of the indicators, the participants of each group can help themselves with **previous experiences** in each area. An agenda of group meetings for the pooling of indicators will be proposed.