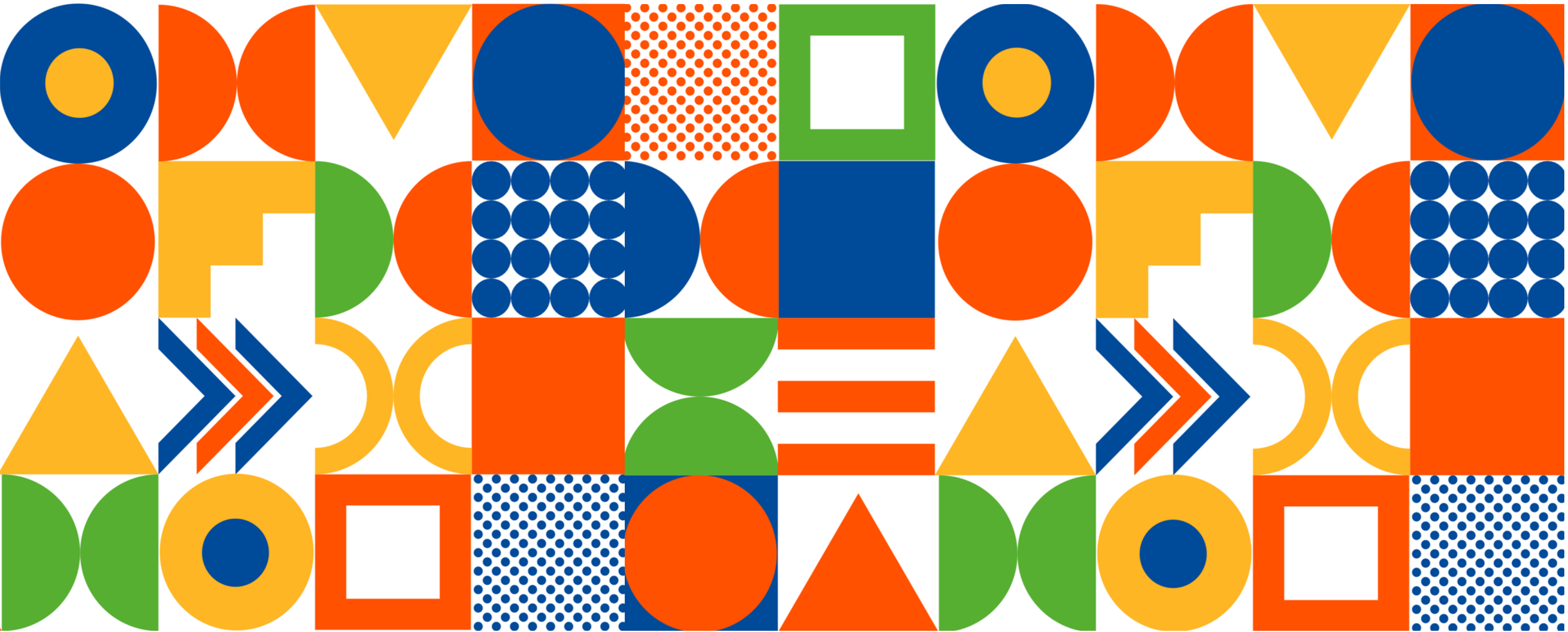


Management Report 2022



The [International Observatory of Participatory Democracy \(IOPD\)](#) is an international network open to all cities, organisations and research centres interested in learning about, exchanging and applying experiences on participatory democracy at the local level. It was created in 2001 within the framework of the Decentralised Cooperation Projects of the URB-AL Programme of the European Commission and was officially constituted in November of that year in Barcelona, during the 1st IOPD Conference. In addition, since 2006 it has been working jointly with [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#).

GOALS



To be the world reference centre in the field of participatory democracy.



Exchange experiences on democratic innovations between all regions of the world.



Create synergies between cities, organisations and research centres to reflect on democratic quality at the global level.



Recommend policies to the world's public administrations, preferably local ones.



To produce and improve existing knowledge in the field of local participatory democracy.





PROJECTS

During the year 2022, the IOPD has continued its mission as a network for the exchange of experiences and discussions on participatory democracy and other practices of deepening local democracy. The IOPD aims to be a useful space for its members, for the world Organisation of Cities and Local Governments as a whole, and for the global ecosystem of municipalism, democracy activism and human rights.

In 2022, it has been possible to recover participation in face-to-face activities after the pandemic. This has meant more resources and time to travel and participate in in-person meetings, but the working dynamics learned during the pandemic: virtual meetings, webinars... are here to stay.

The IOPD's technical secretariat carries out the basic tasks of coordinating and dynamising the network. It is in charge of maintaining and feeding the members' database, the website, the secretariat's email and the profiles on social networks. In this line, it carries out the work of disseminating the IOPD, participatory democracy practices and the experiences of its members. It is also responsible for coordinating the steering committee and facilitating the relationship between members and the city organising the conference. The Observatory's own work includes identifying, systematising, publishing and disseminating good practices of local and regional governments, as well as publications and activities of interest.



21st IOPD Conference



16th IOPD Best Practice Award
for Citizen Participation



Other Projects



21st Annual International Conference in Grenoble



The 21st IOPD Conference took place from 7-10 December 2022 in [Grenoble](#), France. More than 600 participants from over 60 countries shared and discussed democratic renewal, climate justice and participatory methodologies at [the world summit of cities for democracy](#).

The theme of the conference was [Take Action! Towards a democratic renewal in the face of the ecological, health and social crisis](#) and focused on debating, exchanging experiences and proposing actions to improve the instances of local democracy, to think about climate action in a fair way and to [face challenges in our cities and territories](#) with a view to inclusion and respect for human rights.

The secretariat supported the host city, Grenoble, in organising the event. All the necessary information was shared, communication about the conference was carried out, support was given in the [elaboration of the programme](#) and the [solidarity fund](#) for participants was managed.

In terms of communication, newsletters have been produced with all the information about the conference, the call for activities and the call for the [General Assembly](#). In terms of content, topics and speakers were proposed and requests from members to take part in the programme were coordinated.

The coordinator undertook a preparatory mission at the end of March 2022 to visit the venues and meet with the different teams of the City of Grenoble. Virtual meetings and continuous communications have been held between the local organising team and the technical secretariat.

As for the [solidarity fund](#), different French municipalities and institutions have made financial contributions to cover the cost of travel and accommodation for participants who did not have the resources to participate and whose participation was considered to help to make the event more representative and diverse. These funds and travel arrangements were managed by the secretariat with the support of the UCLG world secretariat.

In the framework of the conference, [the IOPD awards ceremony](#) and the General Assembly of the network took place.

[Read more](#)





21^e Conférence OIDP
Grenoble 2022
grenoble.fr/oidp

21^a Conferência OIDP
Grenoble 2022
grenoble.fr/oidp-pt

21^a Conferencia OIDP
Grenoble 2022
grenoble.fr/oidp-es

21st IOPD Conference
Grenoble 2022
grenoble.fr/oidp-en



16th IOPD Best Practice Award for Citizen Participation



In a new edition of the IOPD Good Practice in Citizen Participation Distinction, the sixteenth, the Secretariat has prepared all the documentation: application forms, award rules, dissemination materials... The Secretariat carried out an extensive campaign to publicise the project through mailings, messages on social networks and various communication actions. This year a record number of applications was received: 122.

The Secretariat was responsible for translating and uploading the summaries of the applications to the [ParticipateOIDP](#) platform for the open evaluation phase. The evaluation work of the jury was then coordinated, including a virtual meeting and various moments of deliberation. Finally, the winners have been contacted to confirm their participation in the conference and award ceremony, the trophy and diplomas have been prepared, and the publication of the award in three languages - English, French and Spanish - has been prepared.

The jury decided that the winning experience was the "Legislative Theatre for the creation of the homelessness prevention strategy in Greater Manchester", for its inclusive methodology, for the theme addressed and for the impact of the process.

A special mention was also awarded to seven very estimated experiences

by the jury:

- **Barcelona** (Spain): Young Forum
- **Brussels** (Belgium): Deliberative Commissions
- **The Union of Municipalities of Dannah** (Liban): Involve the public in the Emergency Response Plan to combat COVID-19
- **Florence** (Italy): Firenze Prossima - Partecipa al Futuro
- **Quintana Roo** (Mexico): Citizen's eye on tourism: preventing corruption risks in the approval of tourism projects with environmental impact in the Riviera Maya
- **Salvador** (Brasil): Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Plan in Salvador
- **Sud-Kivu** (Democratic Republic of Congo): Combating environmental degradation around a National Park: The case of the Kahuzi Biega National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

More information





Other projects

+ Participatory Democracy Index

As approved at the last General Assembly, the process to create an index [to measure the quality of participatory democracy](#) was started. To this end, the Secretariat organised two virtual meetings with interpretation on 3 March and 21 April. These meetings discussed what should be the most appropriate objectives, indicators and methodologies. With the support of the IOPD Africa Secretariat, documents have been elaborated and indicators refined, also through a participation space on the platform [ParticipateOIDP](#).



+ IOPD Memory

Also at the request of the last Assembly, the Secretariat carried out the work of [recovering the memory of the IOPD](#). To this end, interviews were conducted with various people who worked for or were closely linked to the IOPD from the outset. A text on this memory was drafted and [published on the IOPD website](#) and disseminated through communication channels.

+ Joint activities with UCLG

The IOPD secretariat, which is also part of the UCLG world secretariat team, has collaborated in all the dimensions related to local democracy and participation. We highlight the participation in the [Executive Bureau in Seville](#) in June and in the [World Congress in Daejeon](#) in October. Three sessions were organised at the Congress: a thematic session on local democracy and participation, another on the IOPD 2022 award and the third on the UCLG awards. Among the work with UCLG, we highlight the participation in the [Global Coalition for Democracy](#), coordinated by International IDEA.

In the framework of the UCLG Congress, the [GOLD VI report "Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality"](#) was launched, including a chapter on democratisation to which IOPD contributed.





UCLG Retreat

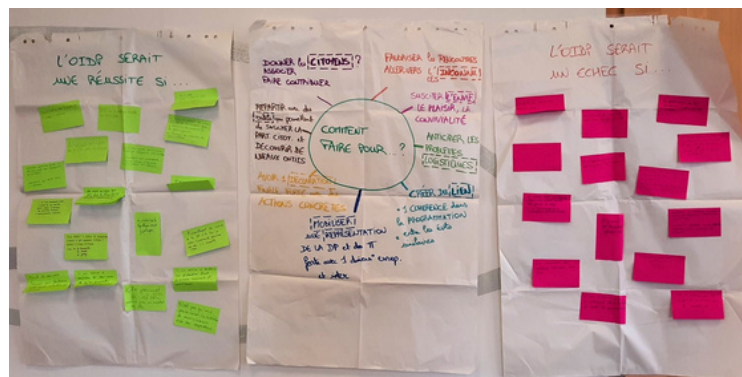
The annual retreat is UCLG's annual meeting that takes place in the first quarter of the year to bring the whole community together and prepare for the year. The 2022 edition was mainly focused on the preparation of the October Congress in Daejeon. The IOPD secretariat team actively participated in the sessions from 21-25 February and was able to [present the work priorities for 2022](#), as well as hold [bilateral meetings with strategic partners within the community](#).

[More information](#)



Technical working visit to Grenoble

The coordinator of the Technical Secretariat made a working visit to Grenoble. Meetings were held with the [different teams of the municipality](#) and the venues for the event were visited. Some of the project's [partner associations and organisations](#) also took part in these working visits, and workshops were organised to think about the contents of the conference.





UCLG Executive Bureau in Seville



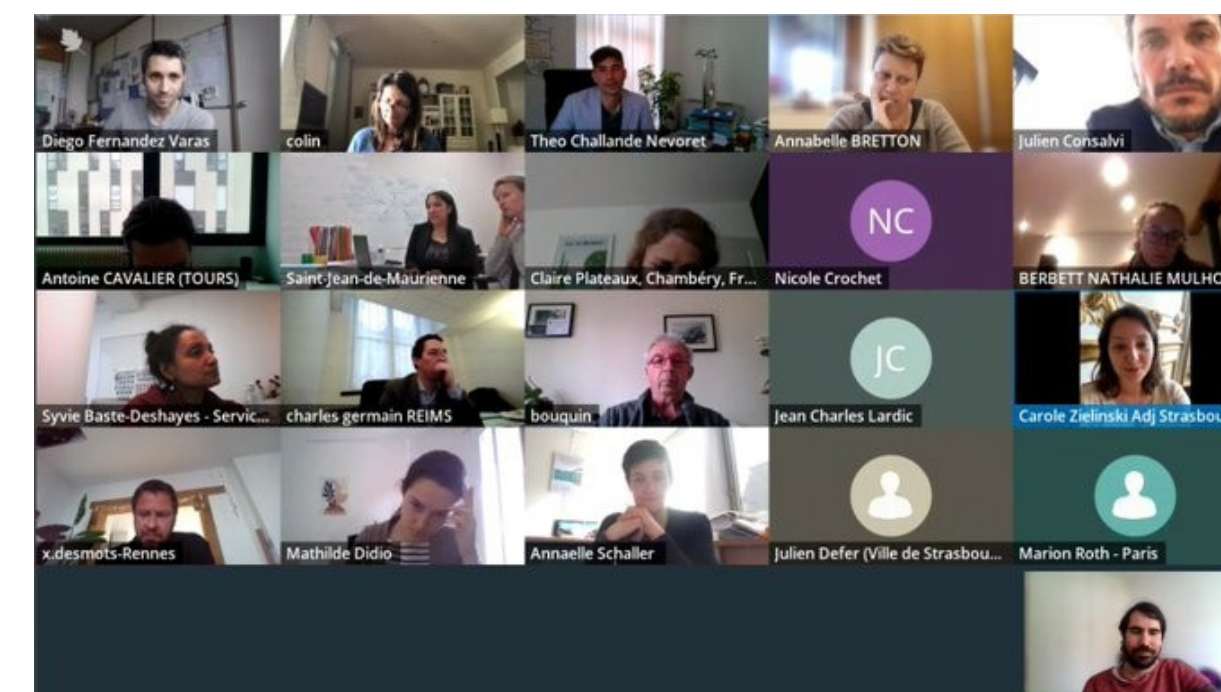
The UCLG Executive Bureau 2022 meetings were held from 13-15 June under the theme "[Local and regional governments promoting peace in the face of emergencies](#)". The meeting took place in Seville, in the framework of the [Mediterranean Forum on Urban Migration](#). The IOPD was represented by councillors Emmanuel Carroz from Grenoble and Med Wajdi Aydi from Sfax, as well as the coordinator of the Secretariat Adrià Duarte.

Participation in the Bureau was an opportunity to highlight the centrality of the issue of [local democracy in the global organisation](#) and bilateral meetings were held in preparation for the IOPD conference in December.



Meeting cities and IOPD members in France

Meeting to mobilise French cities to support the organisation of the conference and to involve these cities in the IOPD.





Global Forum for Modern Direct Democracy in Lucerne

A new edition of the [Global Forum for Direct Democracy](#) was organised in [Switzerland](#) for the first time after the pandemic. Mayors, elected representatives, researchers and activists took part in several days of debate and reflection on the [challenges of democracy in the post-pandemic context, the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis](#). IOPD was represented by the Mayor of Valongo, José Manuel Ribeiro, who took part in the opening plenary and highlighted the role of local governments in promoting grassroots democracy.

Adrià Duarte, coordinator of the IOPD, moderated a session on the [role of citizen initiatives and direct democracy in tackling climate and environmental challenges](#). He was also present at the [Cities Summit](#) on 24 October 2022 together with representatives from Amsterdam, Bucharest, Lausanne, Leon and Nancy.



Conference "Combatting vulnerabilities to corruption at the municipal level" in Sofia organised by IRI





UCLG 2022 Congress in Daejeon



The IOPD participated in the [UCLG 2022 Congress](#), which adopted a [Pact for the Future of Humanity](#) and renewed its political bodies.

The UCLG Congress and [World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#) took place in [Daejeon](#), Republic of Korea, from 10-14 October 2022. During this week, around 6,000 people from [576 cities](#) and [145 countries](#) participated in the statutory sessions, plenary sessions and all the thematic sessions of the Congress.

The IOPD coordinated three sessions during the Congress:

- A session on the [UCLG Awards](#) in which the objectives, dynamics and results of the IOPD [Culture](#), [Guangzhou Urban Innovation](#), [Peace and Citizen Participation Awards](#) were presented. Adrià Duarte, coordinator of the IOPD, moderated the session.
- The thematic session: [The future of Local Democracy: innovations in participatory democracy](#). This thematic session made it possible to share analyses and experiences from different cities on the challenges and opportunities for democratic renewal from local governments.
- Announcement of the finalists for the 16th IOPD Award. The Mayor of Valongo José Manuel Ribeiro and the Vice-Mayor of Grenoble Emmanuel Carroz announced the names of the [14 finalists for the 2022 IOPD Best Practice in Civic Participation Award](#).

[More information](#)





5th Iberian Meeting of Participatory Budgeting in Cascais

The city of Cascais, Portugal, organised the [5th Iberian Meeting on Democracy and Participatory Budgeting](#) on 19-21 October 2022. Previous meetings were held in Odemira in 2012, Molina 2014, Ponta Delgada 2016 and A Coruña 2018. These conferences are an opportunity for [municipalities from Spain and Portugal](#) to [exchange experiences](#), discuss challenges in the democratic agenda and debate opportunities for collaboration. The IOPD is one of the organising partners of the Iberian Meetings, and we use the event as an opportunity to hold a networking session, as well as bilateral meetings.

[More information](#)



Day on the Green Caravan of Participatory Budgeting

In the framework of the Green European Caravan co-organised by the IOPD, meetings were held in [Valongo](#) (October), [Glasgow](#) (November), [Barcelona](#), and [Saint-Égrève](#). On 17 November, the day was co-organised by the IOPD together with the Barcelona City Council.

[More information](#)



Other activities

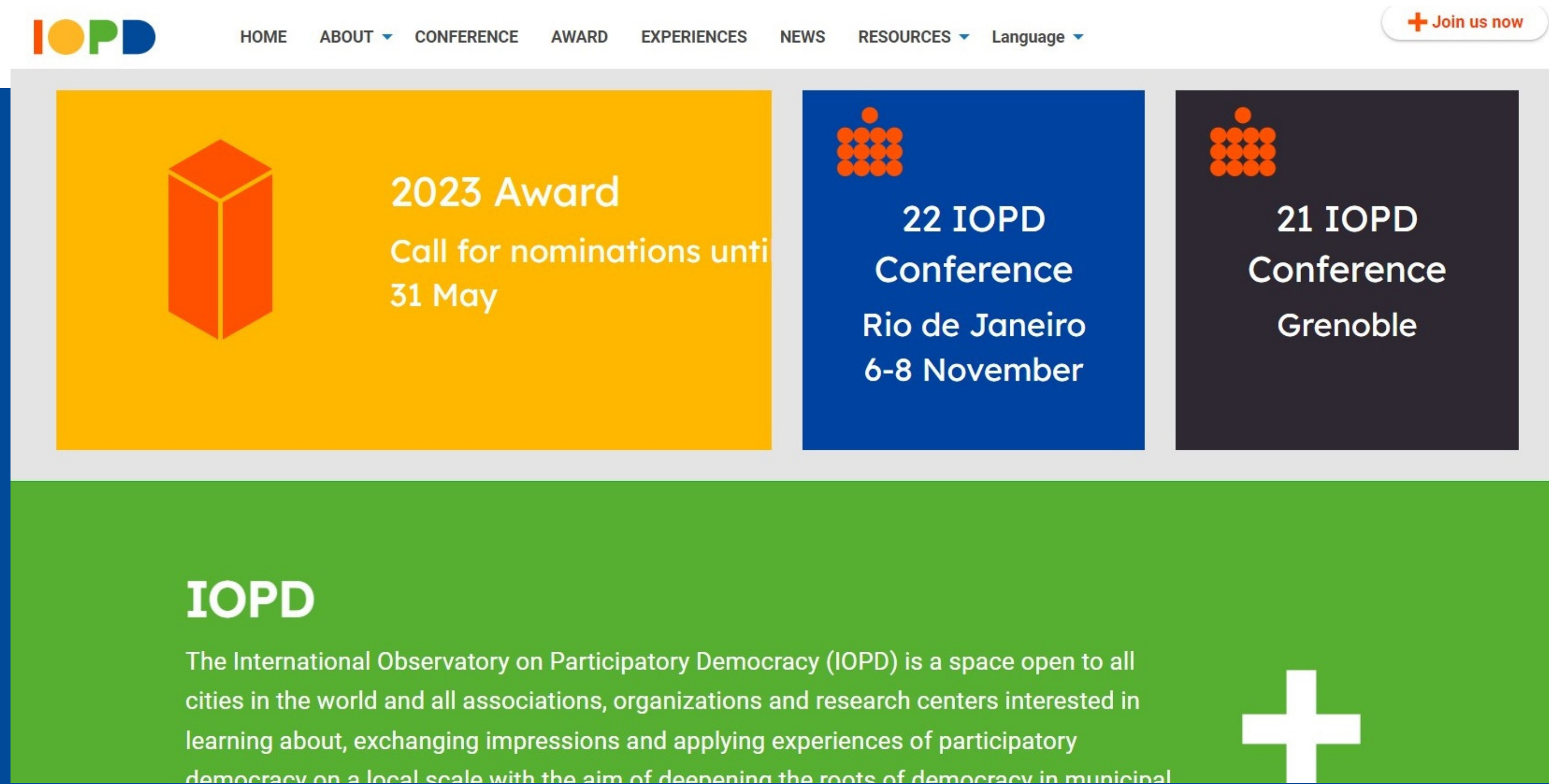
- IOPD member cities and members meeting in France: 18 January
- ODP Coordination Committee Meeting: 20 January
- Launch of the Phoenix Project: 16 February
- IOPD Africa Assembly, participation of President Eric Piolle: 17 February
- Session in the framework of the UNEA Assembly: 1 March
- Participatory Democracy Index Session: 3 March
- Working meeting with a delegation of Nepalese municipalities: 10 March
- Second working meeting for the elaboration of the index: 21st April
- International seminar organised by the Municipality of Contagem: 20 May
- Meeting of the IOPD Coordination Committee: 22 June
- Seminar on Local Democracy and Human Rights: 7-8 November





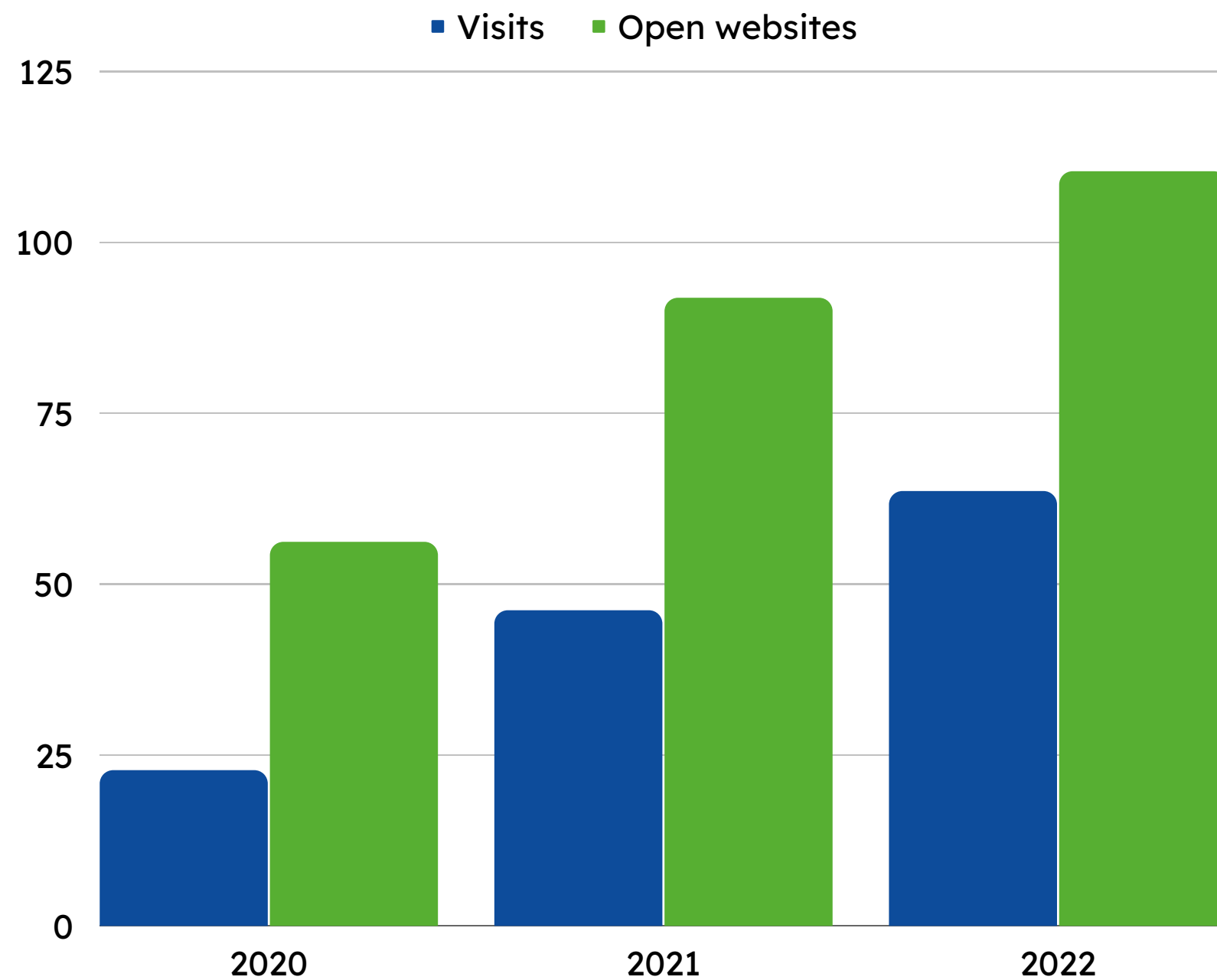
COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The website www.oidp.net is the hub of all the information and contents of the network. The Secretariat maintains the site and updates the information: new experiences, news, calendar of events, publications. All this content is disseminated through different communication channels, such as the monthly newsletter, which is sent to a database of more than 2.000 subscribers, or the social networks: [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).





Information on website visits



Source: Juan José Sola (manager of the website www.oidp.net)



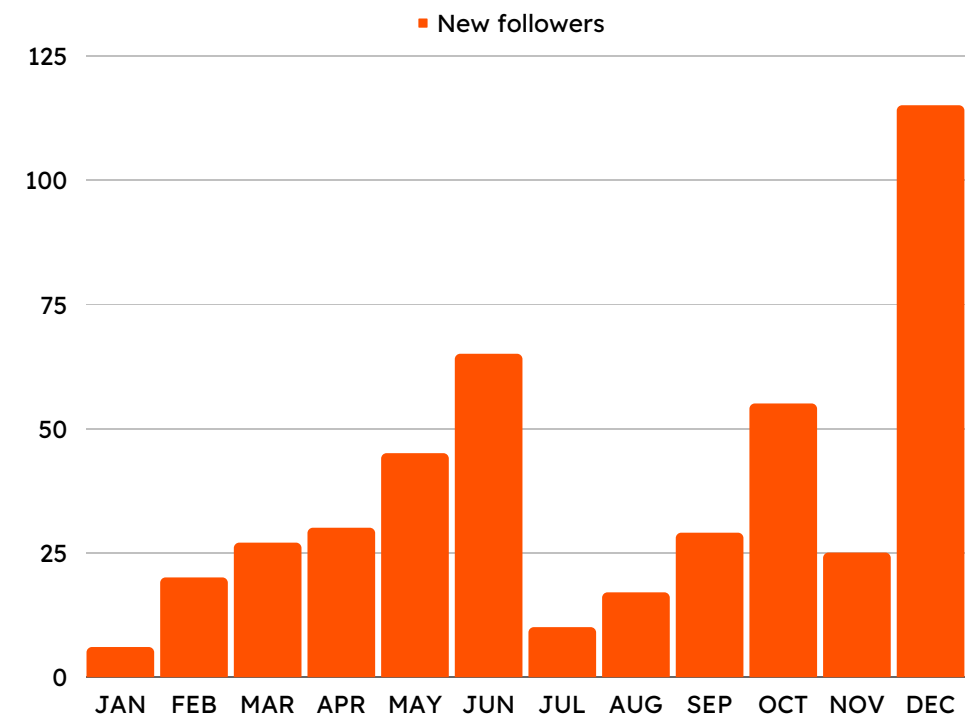
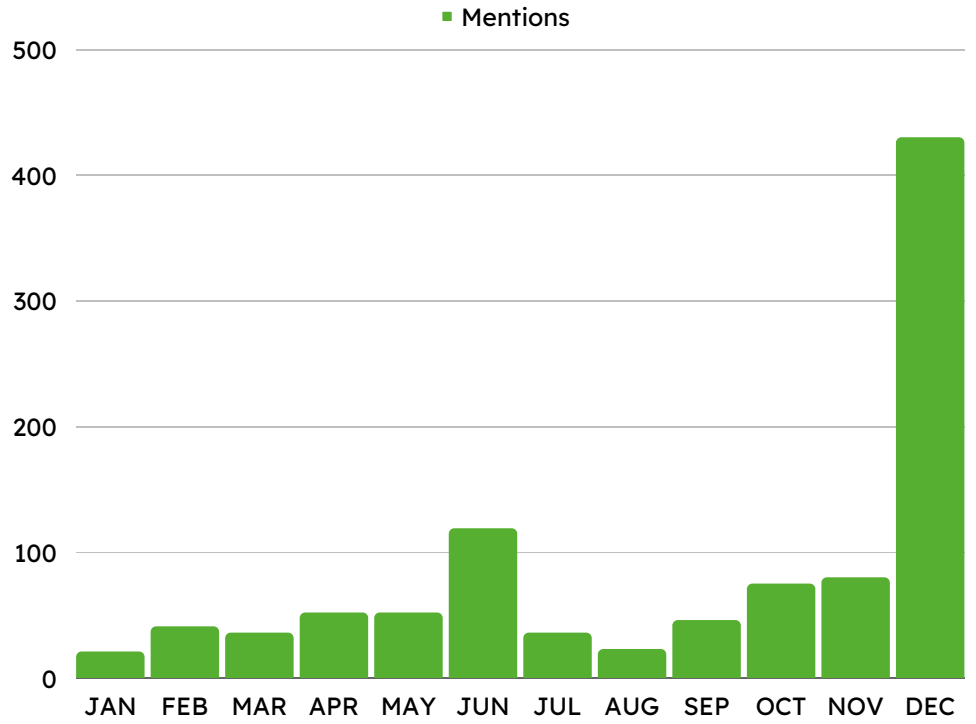
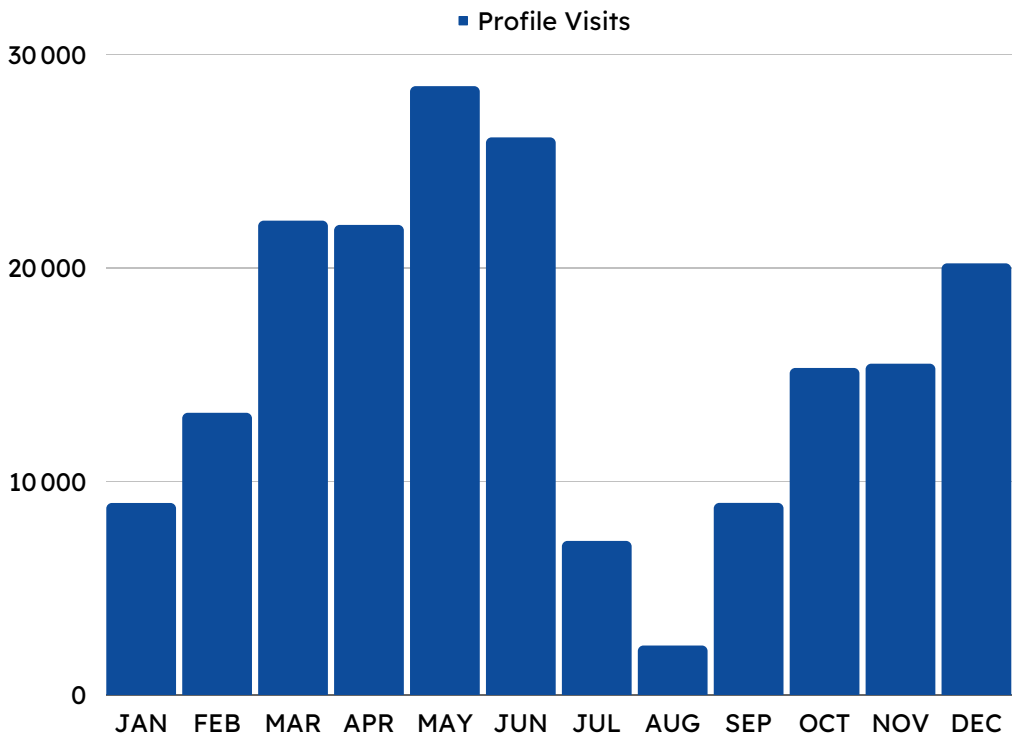
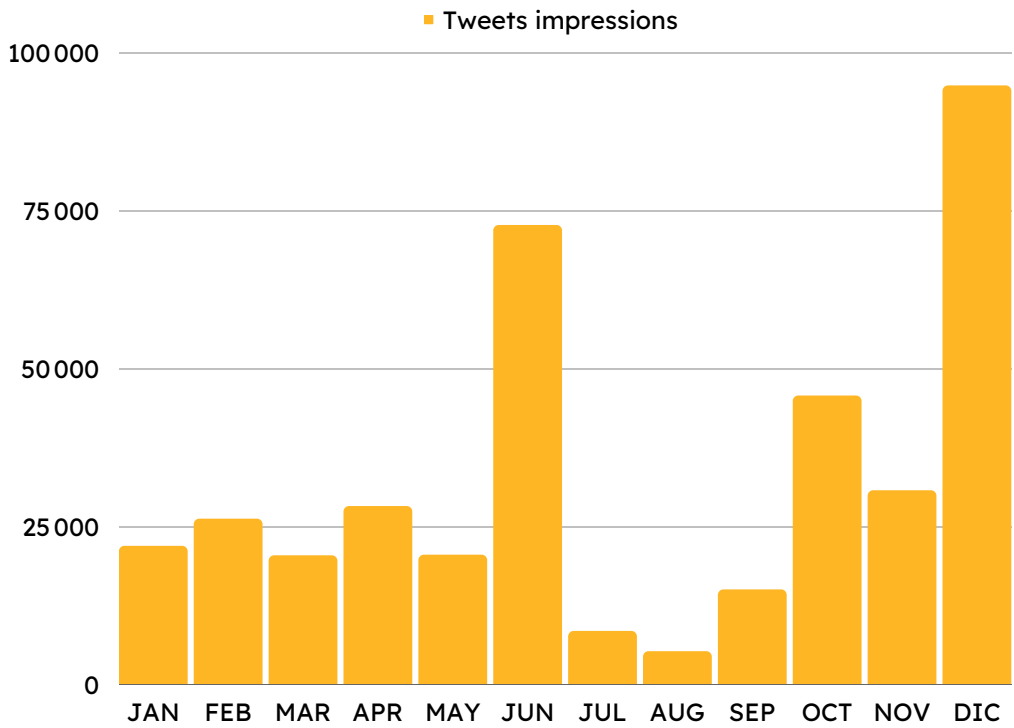
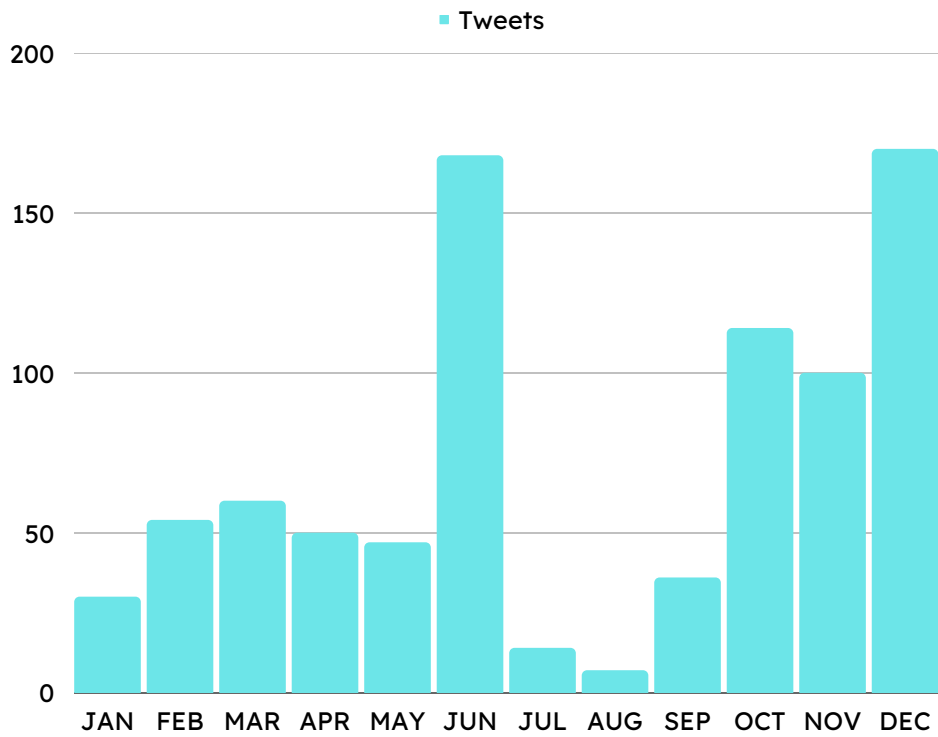


● Newsletter

On an average monthly basis, the Secretariat prepares and sends out a newsletter in three languages: English, French, and Spanish to the more than 2.000 suscribed persons (members and interested persons). The newsletters include the latest news, events calendar, and new experiences available on the website.



Twitter profile



Fuente: Twitter

The work of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy has been made possible thanks to the generous contributions of the following:



Supported by:

