

**REPORT OF THE SESSION “Experiences of Codesign - an interactive discussion”  
22nd IOPD Conference Rio de Janeiro, 6 - 8 November 2023**

<p align="center"><b>TITLE</b></p>	<p><b>Experiences of Codesign - an interactive discussion</b></p>
<p><b>Participating Institutions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Phoenix Project - Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra</li> <li>- University of Southampton</li> <li>- Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (DDAS-UFRRJ)</li> <li>- Instituto da Democracia e da Democratização da Comunicação (INCT-IDDC)</li> <li>- Cascais Municipal Government (CMC), Portugal</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lists of the speakers</b></p>	<p><b>Name: Giovanni Allegretti</b> <b>Position and Affiliation: Phoenix project/ Center for Social Studies, Coimbra University (Portugal)</b></p> <p><b>Name: Marco Meloni</b> <b>Position and Affiliation: University of Southampton (UK)/ Phoenix Project</b></p> <p><b>Name: Karin Pereira</b> <b>Position and Affiliation: Head of Division - Participatory Budgeting Division, Cascais City Council</b></p> <p><b>Name: Priscila Delgado de Carvalho</b> <b>Position and Affiliation: Rural Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRRJ)</b></p> <p><b>Name: Igor Fonseca</b> <b>Position and Affiliation: Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA)</b></p>
<p><b>Summary of the session</b></p> <p><i>Please share in a maximum of 500 words a summary of the session: what was the discussion, the</i></p>	<p>The session consisted of two activities. Four short presentations of 5-10 minutes were followed by group discussions. Allegretti suggested that co-design can take place in many phases of a participatory process - rules, methodological design, communication, monitoring, evaluation - and presented examples. In Wuppertal (Germany), an experiment in the use of technology has changed the operational trends of German OPs. Meloni discussed the Phoenix Project's Territorial Commission for Co-Design, to be implemented in each of the project's 11 pilots. Commissions are composed of citizens, stakeholders and public authorities. Their task is to design and evaluate</p>

<p><i>experiences presented and the most important messages that were shared during the session.</i></p>	<p><b>participatory and deliberative methods. He emphasized the role of communication, input and storytelling for good results. Pereira discussed several participatory initiatives in Cascais, Portugal, with different levels of co-design. Their work makes visible the role of the municipality in the sustainability of the processes in the long term, which allows for the improvement of practices and community engagement. Carvalho focused on the Brazilian PPA Participativo and found two potential opportunities for co-design in the evaluation process, both with ministry level bureaucrats involved in the construction of the process within the government and, later, with civil society organizations at the Fórum Interconselhos.</b></p> <p><b>During the interactive part of the session, attendees were divided by language: 2 groups in Portuguese and one in French.</b></p> <p><b>The French group pointed out a subjective difference that the citizens themselves emphasized, a kind of "embarrassment" or "lack of self-confidence" in contributing to a design that they perceive as a very technical issue. Therefore, citizens tend to be more available to discuss and contribute to specific issues (such as communication techniques, incentives, etc.). One of the groups in Portuguese reported using a set of tools for co-design, highlighting their diffusion in open government experiences. They are concerned that bureaucrats only include feedback that reinforces their own preferences, undermining the effectiveness of co-design process.</b></p> <p><b>Finally, the discussant suggested that the experiences show a wide range of possibilities, but there is a conceptual challenge in linking so many practices under a single concept.</b></p>
<p><b>Conclusions</b> <i>In a single sentence, state the element that stands out in your session.</i></p>	<p><b>Co-design efforts require time and real dialogue: participants need input and real communication. Bureaucrats must guarantee openness to results that differ from previous expectations.</b></p>
<p><b>Recommendations for IOPD</b> <i>Share with IOPD your priorities and recommendations in order to advance in the topic of your session</i></p>	<p><b>The session raised questions that deserve further discussion: how to convince citizens of their practical knowledge and co-design capabilities? How to ensure that bureaucrats are open to innovations that emerge from interactions? How to raise awareness of the importance of evaluation to improve participatory processes?</b></p>