19th AWARD
BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Terms of the Award 2025

19th edition of the OIDP Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation"

1. PRESENTATION

The **OIDP Award for "Best Practice in Citizen Participation"** is an initiative of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The OIDP is a global network open to cities, organizations, and research centers dedicated to learning, exchanging, and applying participatory democracy practices at the local level. It operates as part of UCLG, a worldwide organization representing cities, local and regional governments, and municipal associations, advocating for their interests within the multilateral system.

This award **aims to recognise practices of participatory and deliberative democracy implemented by local and regional governments**. The award is also an opportunity to showcase these practices, bringing them to the attention of other local governments so they can be transferred, and also promote networking.

Similarly, the award aims to encourage and value the implementation of successful practices at the local and regional level, as well as to disseminate practices promoting citizen participation and engagement in developing and implementing public policies.

2. APPLICATIONS

- Applications may be submitted by **local, supralocal, and regional governments that are members of the OIDP** and have promoted a democratic practice on a local or regional scale.

- Cities and governments that are not yet members of the OIDP and wish to apply must fill out the membership form when submitting their application **by 15 January 2025**.

- Individuals or nonprofit organisations may also submit an application based on some practice promoted and implemented in collaboration with local and regional governments, exclusively with its authorisation.

- **All practices must have been active and impactful during 2024**. Practices may have started before 2024, but they must have remained in effect throughout that year.

- Practices submitted in previous editions of the award may be resubmitted if they have been updated with innovations.

- **In this edition, a special mention of durability and sustainability will be awarded. Practices may apply that, even if no longer active in 2024, have been in force for more than five years, maintaining their name and characteristics without significant changes.**

- Applications should pertain to any public policy, strategic plan, assembly, council, or practice—whether temporary or permanent—that involves citizen participation or supports local democracy.

- Each city or region is encouraged to submit **one or two applications**. In exceptional cases, up to three applications may be submitted if they cover different fields and themes.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications may only be submitted if their main goal is one of the following:

- To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation and to incorporate diversity as criteria for inclusion.

- To empower the community and non-organised citizens.

- To increase civic rights in terms of political participation.

- To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem."

- To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy.

- To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy.

- To improve the evaluation and tracking of the mechanisms of participatory democracy.

- To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public.

The jury will evaluate the practice according to the following criteria:

- Level of innovation: the introduction of new methodologies, practices, or strategies.

- Level of inclusion: if groups that generally do not participate in the political and institutional life of the city or region are engaged in this process.

- Level of transferability: i.e., the capacity of the practice to allow for repeated use of the essential elements that make it up in a different context and with a high probability of success.

- Level of feasibility: a practice may be regarded as feasible if, during the design stage, it has considered the economic, technical, organisational, and sociopolitical context of implementation.

- Level of planning and coordination of the participatory democracy practice, along with the kind of stakeholders involved in each stage of the process. The level of coordination with preexisting participatory processes will also be evaluated, along with the context of implementation.

- Level of co-responsibility of the different stakeholders participating in the process: a good practice must necessarily count on political and technical stakeholders and the citizens (organised and unorganised).

- Mechanisms for evaluating the results and the accountability of those stakeholders with specific competencies.

- Precise impacts and results of the practice in the community and the local and regional administrations.

- Precision, concision, and style: the proposal answers the questions asked, avoiding repetition and ensuring effectiveness in communicating the practice.

4. 2025 CATEGORIES

This year the award introduces five new categories to organise and evaluate the applications:

a) **Building more democratic and peaceful communities**

Any action, public policy, or practice that seeks to improve democracy, guarantee human rights, generate trust among citizens, and build peace through civic education, open government, transparency, and renewal of institutions.

b) **Urban management and public space**

Any participatory, deliberative and co-creative action on public space and urban or territorial development.

c) **Gender and care**

Any policy to promote gender equality, the inclusion of specific groups commonly neglected (children, young people, elderly, diverse gender identities...), and ensuring public service provision to all.

d) **Ecological Transition and Environment**

Any participatory, deliberative or co-creative action to protect the environment and face the climate emergency guaranteeing social justice.

e) **Civic Tech**

Participation, deliberation or co-creation through digital platforms, virtual processes and Artificial Intelligence.

5. PROCESS STAGES

1. First Stage: Submitting proposals.

Proposals should be submitted by filling out the Online Application Form on the OIDP website by 31 January 2025. The application form can be filled out in English, French, Spanish or Portuguese. Please refer to the OIDP Award Application Guidelines to fill out your form—following these instructions will help ensure that your submission is thoroughly evaluated and recognised by the jury.

Please attach at least two images of 2,500 pixels and a 300 PPI (pixels per inch) resolution to illustrate your practice. You are welcome to attach any other material to support your practice: videos, publications, presentations, or documents. We recommend PDF format, with a maximum of 10MB.

The OIDP Technical Secretariat may request any additional information deemed necessary in relation to the proposals submitted. The deadline for submission of proposals is **31 January 2025.**

The summary, along with some images and links to information on all the nominations will be posted on the **ParticipateOIDP** platform.

2. Second Stage: First jury evaluation.

A jury of experts organised and divided according to thematic categories will evaluate the applications and select the finalists for the award. These will be 50% of the applications received, with a maximum of 40 finalists.

3. Third Stage: Evaluation of the finalists: open vote in ParticipateOIDP and jury analysis.

All finalist candidates will be submitted to an open vote on the **ParticipateOIDP** platform for one week. To participate in the evaluation, each person must register on the platform and choose 5 nominations to have a valid vote.

In parallel, a jury of experts will also evaluate in detail the finalist nominations. Finally, once the open vote period is finished, the jury will meet to deliberate on the winner considering the results of the open vote.

4. Awarding.

The jury will select the winning candidate, taking into account the results of the open vote. If the top-voted candidate is not chosen as the winner by the jury, it will receive a special mention as "*The Practice Most Supported by the OIDP Community.*"

Additionally, as a new feature in this 19th Award, a special mention will be given to a practice for its durability and sustainability over time. The jury will also award three to four special mentions per category, ensuring geographic representation across continents.

The winner local or regional government will receive an award, a diploma, and a special dissemination of the practice. Travel and accommodation will be paid for one person representing the winning government to the 24th Conference in the city of Córdoba (Argentina), from 21 to 23 May 2025, where the award ceremony will take place. The winners will be notified privately to ensure their presence at the Award Ceremony, but the announcement will remain secret until the ceremony.

5. Final Stage: Publication of results and feedback.

The OIDP Technical Secretariat will make a publication of the award with summaries of the winning practices and the list of all the submissions, as well as wide dissemination of all nominations through the website, the platform and social networks. The jury's feedback will be sent to each of the candidate cities and regions that passed to the jury phase to improve participatory democracy practices.

6. JURY

There will be two juries: one for phase two and another for phase three. A public call will be made to form juries from among professionals, experts, and people related to the field of democracy, citizen participation, and the themes of the award. A balance in terms of gender and geographic origin will be guaranteed.

The Phase 2 jury will be composed of a minimum of 15 persons (3 for each Category) and a maximum of 20 persons (4 for each Category).

The Phase 3 jury will be composed of between 5 and 7 people.

Exceptionally, some people will be allowed to participate in both juries.