

Example of an application for the ODP Award:

“Weaving Citizenship: Training and Social Support for Democracy, Participation, and Reconciliation”

Municipality of Titiribí, Special Mention of the 17th IOPD Award

5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PRACTICE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely, respecting the number of authorised characters, **including spaces**. We recommend that you express your ideas in short paragraphs, minimum 3 and maximum 5 lines. Dedicate an idea per paragraph and provide general and specific information about your territory. Remember that this application will be read by people from all over the world, who will probably learn about your territory and your practice for the first time.

Context:

In a **maximum of 1500 characters**, present the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the territory in which the practice has been implemented. (We suggest you start with a sentence such as: “[Name of your territory] is...”)

Titiribí is located in the southwest of Antioquia. It is made up of four corregimientos: Sitio Viejo, La Otra Mina, La Albania and La Meseta and 16 veredas. It has a poverty level of 23.78% and an index of Unsatisfied Basic Needs of 11.17%.

Before the 1980s, it was dedicated to the agriculture of coffee, sugar cane and coal mining. From the 1980s onwards, the massive purchase of land by people linked to drug trafficking and money laundering changed the agricultural vocation of the land towards extensive cattle ranching and the construction of recreational farms.

This was compounded by the creation and presence of paramilitary groups. The armed conflict generated a large number of victims, with violations of their rights, with emotional and physical consequences. This population is still seeking reparation and healing for the pain left by the armed violence.

Politics in the region is very traditional, clientelist and exclusionary, led by large landowners who have the power to buy votes and appoint mayors.

Despite this context, the population is seeking strategies for organisation and participation. One indicator of this is the number of groups, collectives and associations that exist in the municipality: environmentalists, observers, youth, women, promoters of memory and cultural heritage, eager for knowledge, advice, and interested in actively participating in processes that contribute to improving their living conditions and strengthening democracy and peace.

Precedents:

In a **maximum of 1500 characters**, explain the origins of your practice. If it is a new practice, share the history of participation in your territory. If it is an innovation of an existing practice, share the origins. (We suggest you start with a sentence such as "[Name of your practice] emerged...")

The proposed experience is new in the municipality of Titiribí, but Corporación Conciudadanía has been implementing this type of process for many years in the department of Antioquia.

The Citizen Training Schools that we developed at the beginning of the 1990s in the east of Antioquia have been a source of inspiration, due to their quality and the leadership that they formed. This has contributed to the fact that today this is one of the most prosperous sub-regions of the department and one of the most prolific in terms of organisational processes and citizen participation.

Titiribí has historically been immersed in processes of citizen participation. However, situations were detected that required a comprehensive and systematic approach. The citizens' distrust of participation, the public and the political, which has generated a gap between the public-citizen and the weakening of social and community organisation. New leaderships have arisen, reducing the opportunity for local development to be the result of participation, consultation and a close but autonomous relationship between citizens and local institutions.

The implementation of this training process was therefore necessary for the qualification of leaderships, groups, collectives and social organisations that exist in the municipality, and to generate a greater interest in public affairs and develop informed participation exercises that are technically coherent with the reality of the municipality.

Objectives of the experience:

In a **maximum of 500 characters**, explain the main objective of your practice, in relation to the category in which you have applied and the thematic you have selected. Explain also the specific objectives and sub-themes (we suggest you start with a sentence such as "The objective of the practice is...")

Increase the quality of participation of organised citizens in the municipality to strengthen local democracy through planning processes, political advocacy and promotion of coexistence.

- Strengthen the capacities of leaders and social organisations to influence public management, peace building and sustainability in the municipality.
- Implement participatory development planning processes in all their dimensions with local actors.

Methodology:

In a **maximum of 2000 characters**, describe the methodology of the practice, explaining each phase and key aspect of its implementation: territorial division, timetable, facilitation of the process, and stakeholders involved. We recommend explaining your methodology

chronologically, throughout time. We suggest you start with a sentence such as "The practice started in [Starting year] with a [Starting activity]".

The methodology is based on a constructivist approach and social pedagogy through the dynamisation of democratic spaces for reflection-action-participation. There, participants confront their knowledge, practices and points of view with other people in a dialogue of knowledge, thus acquiring new concepts and methodological tools for the exercise of citizenship.

Approaches

- Gender and difference: active and equal participation of women, men and LGTBQ+ population; young people, adults, rural and urban.
- Integral: articulated the themes that Conciudadanía promotes: democracy and participatory planning; peace and reconciliation, environmental and ecological citizenship.
- Territorial: the leaders and social and territorial organisations of the 17 villages actively participated in the processes.

Strategies

- **Consultation**: construction and implementation of the proposal with actors from civil society and political-institutional society in order to combine interests and resources.
- **Citizen training**: synergetic actions to qualify the participation of leaders in the participatory planning cycle for the appropriation of the territory, the approach to public management and the instruments of advocacy.
- **Public deliberation and political advocacy**: municipal meeting spaces to influence public management from the perspective of sustainable local development.
- **Promotion of coexistence**: The leaders carried out REPLICAS or peace, reconciliation and coexistence actions with their communities as part of the School

Processes:

- Strengthening democracy
- Peace building and reconciliation
- Environmental governance

Training phases:

First: Promotion of participatory planning and public policy advocacy.

Second: Formation of political subjects for the strengthening of the social fabric, social control and peace building.

Communication:

In a **maximum of 1000 characters**, explain the strategy and communication channels used in your practice to engage the population. We suggest you start your sentence with the following phrase "The communication strategy of the practice consisted of..."

- A working team was formed between the municipal administration and Conciudadanía.
- A banner was designed and a leaflet with a leaflet for registration, which was returned via WhatsApp by interested parties.
- Posters were installed in public establishments and in "Chiveros" carts that travel to the villages.
- We participated in programmes on the local radio station to report on the progress of the project.
- A module on communications was developed, seeking to improve the communication skills of the leaders, e.g. on different public speaking skills.
- News was published on Conciudadanía's website and social networks. (See links in annex).

Innovation:

In a **maximum of 1000 characters**, explain what you consider to be the most innovative aspect of the practice. We suggest you start your sentence with a phrase such as "The innovation in the practice consists of..."

The alliance between Conciudadanía and the municipal administration was the most important thing. The administration took the initiative to convene us to jointly build this experience. This is rare among Antioquia's mayors, who consider citizen participation as a hindrance or an intrusion in their task of administering the public, to which they do not invest resources. Social control, for example, is seen as unnecessary and persecutory, and the right of citizens to carry it out is ignored.

This articulation made it possible to pool resources, expand coverage and capacities, strengthen the School's actions and, most importantly, improve governance by bringing citizens and institutions closer together in a common purpose.

Replication processes were carried out, based on what leaders learned at the School. The process was a trainer of trainers, which allowed knowledge and reflection to radiate to other leaders and contribute to strengthening their organisations.

Inclusion:

In a **maximum of 1000 characters**, explain who were the specific groups targeted by the practice, why it was important to include them and through which participatory processes they were included. We suggest you start your sentence with the following phrase: "[Specific group/s] were included because on [Name of your territory]..."

With the municipal administration, an inventory of organisations, institutions and individual leaders was drawn up in order to invite them to participate in the training school and its activities.

A territorial work strategy was designed according to the division into villages and townships, considering both urban and rural areas, the equal participation of men and

women in equal numbers and conditions for participation. These criteria were maintained throughout the process, beginning with the awareness-raising process, the call for participation, and the development of the school's work sessions and the activities that resulted from them.

This allowed the linking of many voices, the dialogue of knowledge, the collective reflection on the problems of participation, but also of the locality, the listening and construction of common dreams to achieve a more democratic and inclusive municipality.

Evaluation:

*In a **maximum of 1000 characters**, explain the evaluation and monitoring mechanisms of your experience and, if applicable, explain how citizens have been involved in this phase. We suggest starting with a sentence such as: "The practice was evaluated through [name of the evaluation mechanisms]"*

Monitoring:

- Baseline on prior knowledge and exit line were applied to know the progress in thematic understanding.
- Each session or activity carried out by the project has the respective report made by the institutional team, with evidence of the same.
- Each session or training space implemented in the School was evaluated with the participants, in some cases using an instrument to assess prior knowledge.
- Follow-up sessions were held between the municipal administration team and the Conciudadanía team to make any necessary improvements or adjustments in the development of the School and to evaluate the training process and replications.

Impacts and results:

*In a **maximum of 1500 characters**, explain the impacts and results of your practice on the communities and the stakeholders involved. Share how many people have been benefited, what have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of your administration, and clarify if the implementation contributed to the institutionalisation or permanence of the participatory democracy in your territory. We suggest you start with a sentence like the following: "Through the practice, we have achieved..."*

Impacts:

- Leaders have the knowledge and tools to influence decision-makers and exercise social control over public management.
- They know the territory, its needs, socio-environmental conflicts and potentialities.
- The link between local public institutions and active citizens has been strengthened.
- Greater awareness of co-responsibility in public affairs and the need to participate in local politics.

Results:

Leaders representing citizen organisations and collectives raised their level of training and strengthened their leadership capacities. This can be seen in the achievements of some organisations, spaces and collectives in particular:

- The Territorial Planning Council strengthened its internal functioning and broadened its level of understanding of its constitutionally mandated task.
- The "Veeduría Salvaguarda" and the Environmental Roundtable strengthened their conceptual, methodological, technical and procedural capacities to develop social control exercises on environmental issues.
- The Memory Group benefited from a greater understanding of the importance of its exercise for the contribution to the truth, which the country and the territories require.

Participants:

Directly from the school: 45 social and community leaders and around 20 social and community organisations. In addition, another 100 people from the organisations benefited through the replication processes.

Experience overview:

*In a **maximum of 2500 characters**, provide a summary of your practice. We suggest that you summarise the information already provided in the previous boxes and emphasise the most important elements of your practice. This summary will be published on our online platform ParticipateOIDP, together with the rest of the applications, for the open voting and the publication of the IOPD Award. Once again, we encourage you to bear in mind that this summary will be read by people who are probably learning about your practice and the context of your territory for the first time. We suggest you start with a sentence like: "[Name of the practice] consisted/helped/involved..."*

The practice consisted of the implementation of a Citizen Training School to strengthen the capacities and knowledge of leaders of all ages and genders on issues of citizen participation, democracy, oversight, environmental management, memory and peace. It was a partnership between the mayor's office and the Corporación Conciudadanía.

The objective was to increase the quality of citizen participation in order to strengthen local democracy through planning processes, political advocacy and the promotion of coexistence in the municipality of Titiribí. It responds to a context of weak social organisation and citizen participation due to the absence of new leadership, the decline of organisational processes and a lack of knowledge about the functioning of the local administration.

The work sessions were held every 15 days in a didactic and participative manner through workshops and training meetings, exchanges of experiences, replications by the leaders and territorial visits. Dialogue of knowledge, respect for the word and the dignity of others, learning by doing, through the replication of content and learning with other leaders, organisations and territories were favoured.

Participants gained tools to develop a qualified dialogue and advocacy with local decision-makers for the management of their rights, the administration of public affairs and the effective use of mechanisms for citizen participation.

Leaders and members of organisations such as: Community Action Boards, women, victims, environmentalists, youth collectives, young people in school, community aqueducts, memory collectives, councillors, teachers, the coffee growers' committee, the Territorial Planning Council, the Municipal Council for Rural Development, the Youth Council and the Peace Council participated in the project.

The project was permanently monitored by the professionals in charge and in a participatory manner by the participants at the end of each work session. Among the results, it can be highlighted that the leaders increased their knowledge about citizen participation, public management and developed social control exercises through mechanisms for the enforceability of rights. Women, young people and reconciliation committees strengthened their organisations and transcended their social leadership towards a proactive and active leadership in local public life.

Find examples of good applications!

Bear in mind that even if some of the questions are different, the way in which they explain and describe the practice should inspire you in your application.

- **Denver:** [Denver Participatory Budgeting Program: Cycle One](#)
- **Milan:** [Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate](#)
- **Naga:** [People's Budget Ordinance and Voluntary Local Review of Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)

See other examples of applications from the previous year at <https://participate.oidp.net/processes/award2023?locale=en>