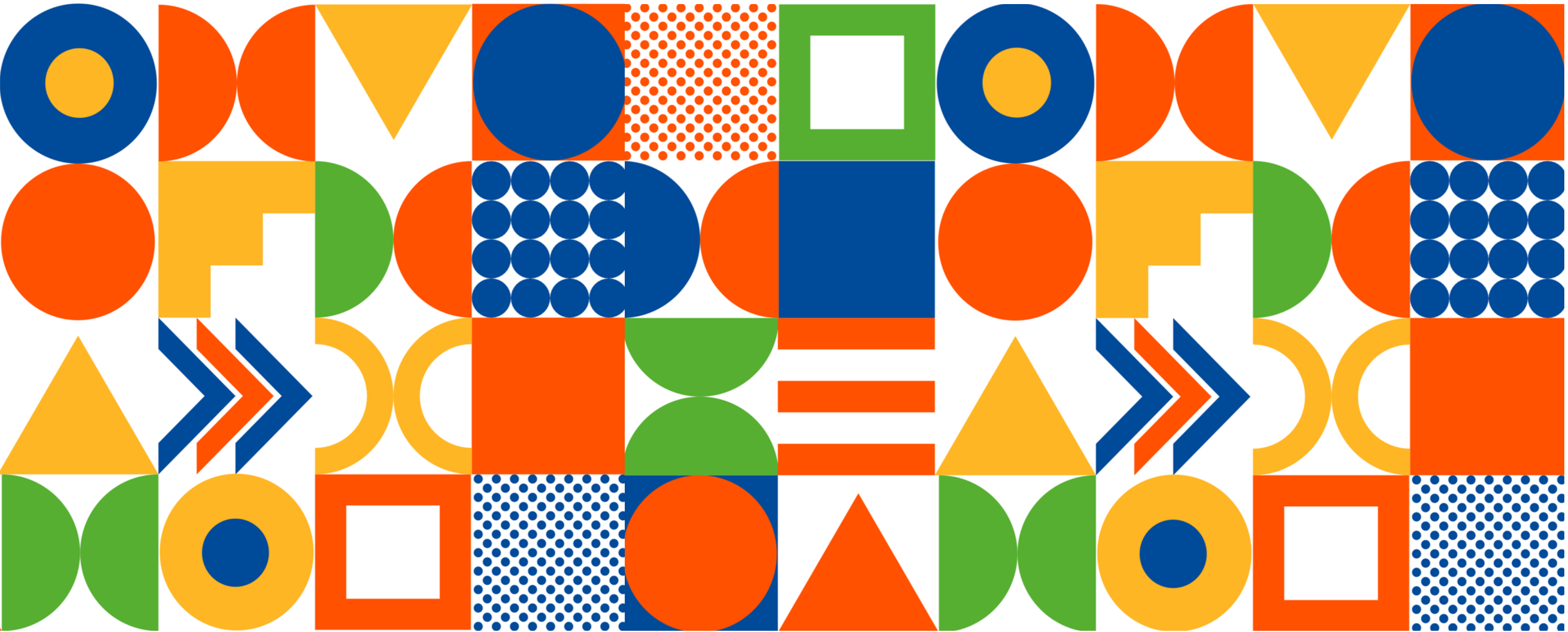


# Management report 2023



The [International Observatory on Participatory Democracy \(IOPD\)](#) is an international network open to all cities, organisations and research centres interested in learning, exchanging and applying experiences of participatory democracy at local level. It was set up in 2001 as part of the decentralised cooperation projects of the European Commission's URB-AL programme, and was officially constituted in November of the same year in Barcelona, at the first IOPD conference. Since 2006, it has also been working jointly with [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#).

# OBJECTIVES



To be the world reference centre for participatory democracy.



To create synergies between cities, organisations and research centres to reflect on democratic quality at a global level.



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



To exchange experiences on democratic innovations in all regions of the world



To recommend policies to public administrations around the world, preferably at local level.





# PROJECTS

In 2023, the IOPD continued its mission as [an international network for the exchange of experiences and discussions on participatory democracy](#) and other practices aimed at deepening local democracy. The aim of the IOPD is to be a useful space for its members, the entire world organisation of [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#) and the global ecosystem of municipalism, democracy and human rights activism.

The IOPD Technical Secretariat is responsible for the fundamental tasks of [coordinating and stimulating the network](#), with the aim of being the international showcase for experiences and innovations in participatory democracy at local and regional level. As such, the IOPD is responsible for maintaining and updating the members' database, the website, the Secretariat's messaging system, the social network profiles and the monthly newsletter to keep members up to date and encourage their active participation in the construction of our space. It is also responsible for [coordinating the steering committee and facilitating relations between members and the city organising the conference](#). The Observatory's work consists of identifying, systematising, publishing and disseminating good practice in local and regional government, as well as publications and activities of interest.



22nd IOPD Conference



17 IOPD Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation"



Other projects





# 22nd IOPD Conference in Rio de Janeiro



© Marco Antonio Lima / Prefeitura do Rio

Rio de Janeiro hosted the [22nd IOPD Conference](#) from 6 to 8 November 2023. The Carioca city, with the support of the IOPD Secretariat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), organised our [major annual gathering of local leaders](#) to share their experiences in participatory and deliberative local democracy. The meeting took place at the Cidade das Artes cultural complex in Rio de Janeiro, and was attended [by over 800 participants from 46 countries](#).

The theme of our 22nd conference was "[Participatory Democracy for Diverse, Inclusive and Transparent Cities](#)" and focused on discussion, exchange of experiences and proposals for action to improve local democratic bodies, to make cities more inclusive for all, and to reflect on a concept of citizenship linked to democracy. In a [context of major challenges for democratic systems and threats to fundamental rights](#), local and regional governments, as well as civil society, have a duty to promote [a renewal and deepening of grassroots democratic practices](#).

Throughout the three days of our conference, [more than 40 sessions, round table debates and exchanges of experience between local and regional governments](#) took place around the four axes explored: Inclusion and Diversity - Gender Equality, Participation and Deliberation, Transparency and Open Government, and Citizenship and Democracy. Finally, on 8 November, our General Assembly took place, during which our members discussed and adopted the IOPD's work plan for 2024 and the [final Rio de Janeiro declaration](#). New this year was the [creation of a co-presidency for an elected woman](#), responsible for defending gender equality within our organisation and local participatory and deliberative democracy. In addition, the torch was passed from Rio de Janeiro to Valongo, the city that will host our conference in 2024.

As part of the conference, [the IOPD awards ceremony](#) and the network's general assembly were held.

[More information](#)









# 17th IOPD Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation"



The seventeenth edition of the [IOPD Best Practice in Citizen Participation Award](#) saw a record number of entries: 149!

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

The jury decided to award the 17th IOPD distinction to the [City of Rennes and Rennes Métropole](#) for the experiment "European Citizens Initiative: Let's ask Europe for dignified reception for immigrants".

The [IOPD Technical Secretariat](#) played a major role in the process of awarding this 17th Award. It played a key role in drawing up the application forms and managing the data, in particular by translating each application into three languages and then publishing them on the website. The Secretariat also supported the jury, particularly through the training it provided. Finally, the Secretariat was responsible for [organising the awards ceremony](#) and publishing the results on the website, again in three languages.

Special mentions were also awarded to five other projects that were very much appreciated by the jury

- [Citizenship category](#): Titibirí : "Weaving Citizenship: Training and Social Support for Democracy, Participation, and Reconciliation."
- [Deliberation category](#): Fortaleza "Integrated Land Regularization Planning in Special Areas of Social Interest (ZEIS)."
- [Decision category](#): Rosario : "Participatory Budget 2023-2024: Citizen Laboratories as Innovation Devices in Public Policy Management."
- [Special Jury Mention for a Valuable Experience in a Human Rights Violation Context](#): City of Goma: "University Citizen Program of the Democratic Republic of Congo."
- [Special Mention for the Experience Most Supported by the IOPD Community](#): Community: City of Lipa: Launch of the "Trash to Cash" Programme.

[More information](#)



# Other projects

As part of the preparatory activities for the IOPD Conference in Rio de Janeiro, [United Cities and Local Governments \(UCLG\)](#), the [International Observatory on Participatory Democracy \(IOPD\)](#) and the [City of Rio de Janeiro](#) have organised a series of three webinars, with the participation of renowned guests.

## + Municipal Feminism: Towards the Political Participation of Women in all their Diversity

The first webinar took place on 31 March and focused on "[Municipal Feminism: Towards the Political Participation of Women in all their Diversity](#)".



The session was divided into two panels. The first, entitled "[Gender equity in public policy and leadership](#)", included contributions from Diana Marcela Ortiz, Head of Women and Gender at the District Institute for Participation and Community Action (IDPAC) in Bogotá; Anthony Berthelot, Councillor of Nantes Métropole, responsible for international cooperation, and Mayor of Indre; Maria Helena Jose Carreira Langa, mayor of Mandlakazi, Mozambique and vice-president of REFELA; Iryna Yarmolenko, advisor to the mayor of Irpin, city councillor of Bucha; Noraini Roslan, president of Klang city council and Laura Pfister, city councillor responsible for equal rights and anti-discrimination, Grenoble.

In the second panel, on "[Best practices in local feminist participatory democracy: shared experiences](#)", Heloisa Gomes Aquino, Coordination of Policies for Women, São Paulo City Council and Luan Santos Araújo, Coordination of Open Government, São Paulo City Council; Gladys Otae Addo Osei, Adentan Municipal Assembly, Chair of the Ghana Women Caucus (REFELA); Louise Jean-Albert, Institute for Dialogue and Citizen Participation (ICPC), France; Zenaida Pérez Gutiérrez, National Political Assembly of Indigenous Women (ANPMI), Oaxaca, Mexico; Anders Nordh, Head of Governance, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR); and Yande Kalengo, Director of Power Shifting, Restless Development.

[More than 150 people](#) attended the session, which was part of the preparatory work for the IOPD 2023 Conference in Rio de Janeiro.

[More information](#)



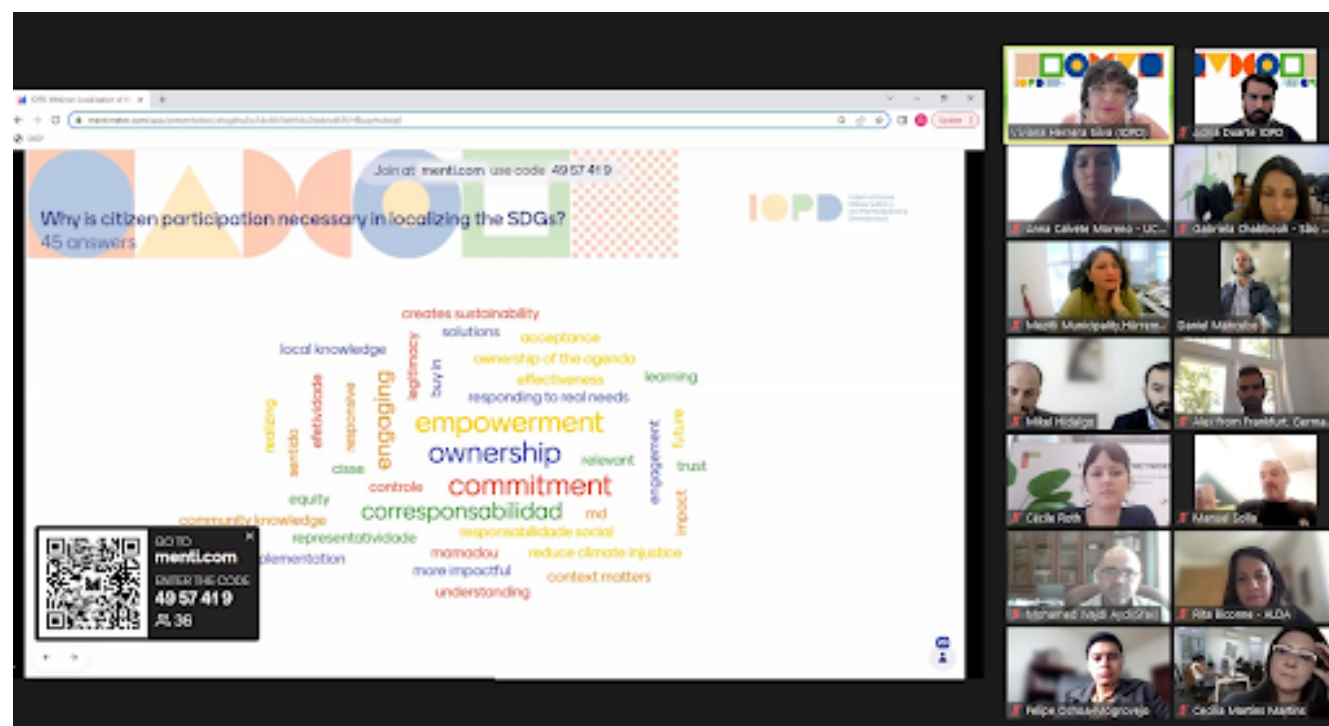
## Co-creation in the localisation of the SDGs: citizens and local governments co-creating solutions to localise the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs

On 5 July 2023, the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD), with the support of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the City of Rio de Janeiro, facilitated the "Co-creation in the localisation of the SDGs: citizens and local governments co-creating solutions to localise the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs", a virtual session with local and regional governments to exchange knowledge, experience and good practice on citizen co-creation in the localisation of the SDGs. Yoff, São Paulo, Euskadi, Cuenca, Meztily and Rio de Janeiro are the six local and regional governments

that took part in our webinar, which was attended by over 120 participants.

This session represents [an important step in the framework of the High Level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#), where UCLG's mission will be to represent in this global forum the needs and aspirations of [local and regional communities and governments](#) to advance towards the 2030 Agenda, as underlined by Anna Calvete Moreno, from UCLG's research team.

[More information](#)



## Local and regional governments facing the rise of distrust, polarisation and extremism: Contributions from the International Day of Democracy 2023

To mark the [International Democracy Day](#) on 15 September, the IOPD, with the support of United Cities and Local Governments and the City of Rio de Janeiro, organised a webinar entitled "Local and regional governments facing the rise of distrust, polarisation and extremism". This virtual session brought together six local and regional leaders and experts to explore their municipal experiences in the current difficult context for democracy, but above all to highlight possible solutions

to reverse this crisis on the part of local and regional governments from an international perspective.

The aim of this session was to visualise how [distrust in institutions and among citizens](#) is increasing due to the rise of misinformation, fake news and polarisation, and how this has an impact on democracy. It also aimed to [present possible solutions through local participatory and deliberative democracy](#) to address these challenges.

[More information](#)







||| Policy paper

## Municipal Feminism:

Towards the Political Participation  
of Women in all their Diversity

22nd IOPD  
Conference



||| Policy paper

## Co-creation in the localisation of the SDGs:

Citizens and local governments accelerating  
action towards the 2030 Agenda

22nd IOPD  
Conference



||| Policy paper

## Local and regional governments facing the rise of distrust, polarisation and extremisms

Contributions from the International Day of Democracy 2023

22nd IOPD  
Conference







# Global Forum on Modern Direct Democracy – 1st to 4 of March

## Foro Ciudades Mérida – 5 to 6 of March

People from **more than 60 countries**, from every continent, met in early March in Mexico City, Guadalajara and Mérida **to share their experiences, knowledge and ideas** with people who are very different but who share the conviction of strengthening democracy in the world. The forum highlighted the vast differences **between the challenges** facing democracies in Europe, Africa, Asia and certain Latin American democracies.

This meeting was an opportunity to exchange views on a number of points - giving space to dialogue and listening **in order to build on our respective experiences**, but our opinions also converged on many subjects, such as **the importance of having strong, independent institutions that are open to civil society**.







# International Congress on Citizen Participation and Decentralisation – 25 of April



OIDP  
@oidpoidp

El coordinador de OIDP @adriaduarte87 interviene en el Primer Congreso Internacional de Participación Ciudadana y Descentralización organizado por la @MuniCba destacando el rol de los gobiernos locales en la innovación democrática

#Yoparticipo

Translate post



Municipalidad de Córdoba and United Cities

9:10 PM · Apr 25, 2023 · 173 Views



"IOPD coordinator Adrià Duarte is speaking at the First International Congress on Citizen Participation and Decentralisation organised by the Municipality of Córdoba (Argentina), to highlight the role of local government in democratic innovation."





## 17 Rooms initiative – 5 and 6 of May in person

The 17 Rooms initiative is led by the Brookings Institution and the Rockefeller Foundation as an innovative tool to stimulate [new forms of action for each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#). The initiative was launched in September 2018, on the eve of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In practice, 17 Rooms brings together participants from different expert communities in their own "Rooms" or working groups, one for each of the SDGs. The process offers an effective way of bringing together natural allies, ideally fostering sufficient familiarity [to enable collaboration and sufficient diversity to generate new ideas and new avenues for action](#).

This year, the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy, represented by Adrià Duarte, was invited to take part in the ["Room 16: Transforming democracy together"](#) meeting. This working meeting took place on 5 and 6 May in Mexico City, with sessions focusing on SDG 16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

The aim of Room 16 is to prioritise a few major steps towards [institutionalising participatory and deliberative democracy worldwide](#). To do this, it focused on the question of how to transform the institutions of governance so that [democracy extends beyond elections to a systemic level](#), rather than being limited to ad hoc exercises. This global, action-oriented discussion was led and moderated by Josh Lerner of People Powered and Diana Dajer of the Corona Foundation.

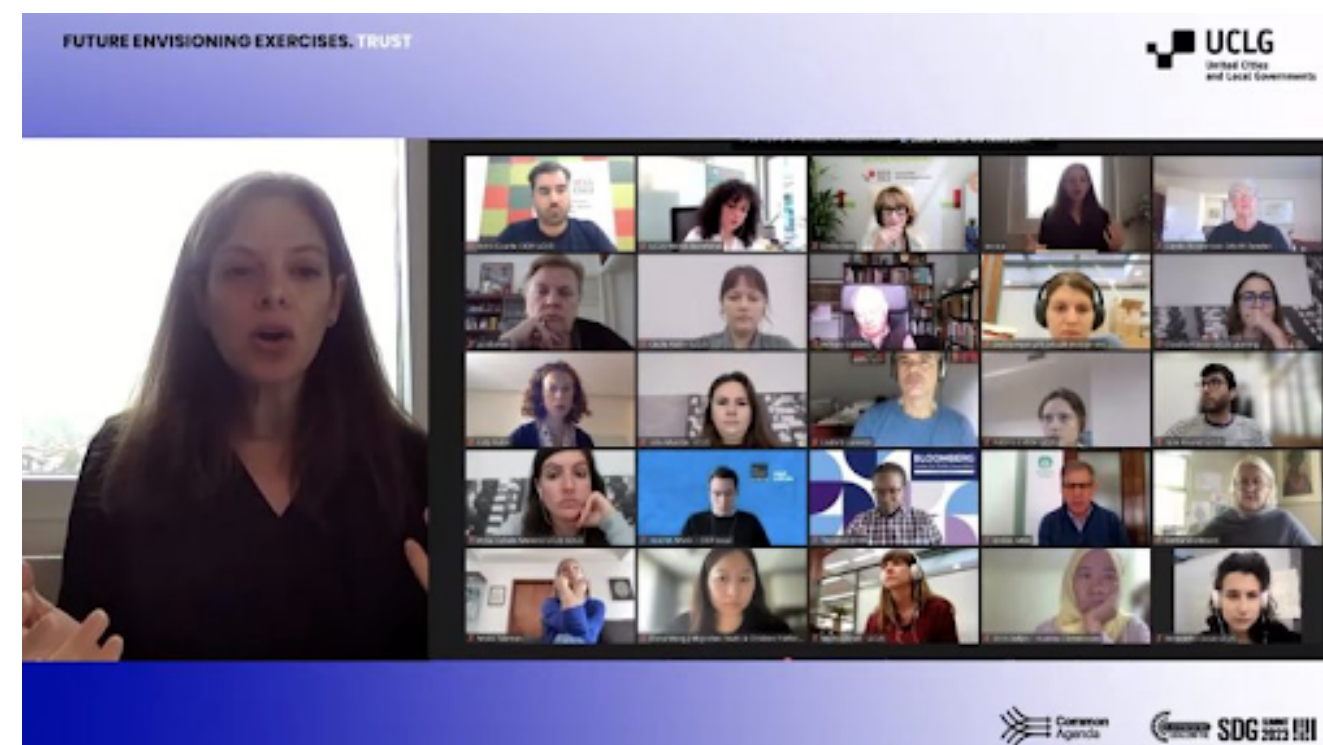
The IOPD and UCLG are committed to achieving the SDGs [through localisation and multi-level global dialogue between international organisations, national governments, local and regional governments and civil society organisations](#). That's why we're delighted to be taking part in these innovative dialogue sessions.

[Three additional meetings](#) have been organised virtually.

## UCLG Future Envisioning Exercise : Regaining Trust – 10 of May

[UCLG's Future Visioning Exercises](#) are a space for dialogue and co-creation in which [UCLG's political leaders, together with organised civil society and the partners articulated in UCLG's City Councils](#), build links to deploy the Pact for the Future.

The third visioning exercise was co-organised on 10 May by the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy to explore the importance of trust, and in particular the challenges facing trust and how we can regain it. In this respect, the Secretary General of UCLG, Emilia Saiz, stressed that, despite the dramatic setbacks to democratisation caused by increasing polarisation, racism, ageism and sexism, these dialogues help us to identify concrete actions and commitments to regain trust and repair the democratic fabric by th





## 7th European Meetings on Participation – 26 to 28 of June

The IOPD took part in the [7th European Meetings on Participation](#). From 26 to 28 June 2023, Décider Ensemble organised a major event in Rouen for those involved in participation and consultation in France and Europe: a week to discuss, question, compare and share our practices, ideas and expectations on the role of participation in meeting the challenges facing local and regional authorities

On Tuesday 27 June, the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy organised a workshop entitled "[Minorities: Tensions surrounding institutional attempts at participation and inclusion](#)", with the cities of Montreal, Brussels and Grenoble. The experience-sharing workshop was attended by :

- [Annabelle Bretton](#), Deputy Mayor of Grenoble
- [Adrià Duarte](#), IOPD Coordinator
- [Guy Grenier](#), Secretary General of the Office de Consultation Publique de Montréal
- [Pauline Vergalito](#), Deputy Director of Deliberative Commissions, French-speaking Parliament of Brussels (presentation in French)

It was moderated by [Diego Fernández Varas](#), Head of the Participation and Associative Life Department, Grenoble City Council.



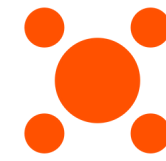




## International Congress on Participatory Budgeting – 26 to 28 of July

Bogotá organised the [International Congress on Participatory Budgeting](#). The IOPD took part in this meeting organised by Bogotá City Council and the district's [Institute for Participation and Community Action \(IDPAC\)](#). Our IOPD coordinator Adrià Duarte was a guest speaker at the meeting on 27 July, giving a presentation on [democracy and participatory budgeting](#). Our coordinator also took part in a working group with representatives of Bogotá's community action councils and members of civil society.

Throughout these three days, conferences, round tables and workshops allowed local and international experts and civil society actors [to exchange their experiences and thoughts on how to improve the implementation of participatory budgeting](#) as a tool for urban transformation and improvement of the quality of life of residents.



## OGP Global Summit – 5 to 7 of September

Organized by the Co-Chairs of the [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#) and the Government of Estonia, the 8th OGP Global Summit provided an opportunity for representatives of governments, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to exchange experiences, their best practices and progress in open government initiatives and implementation. It was held in Tallinn, Estonia from September 5 to 7, 2023.

Adrià Duarte, coordinator of the IOPD, participated in the session [“Building inclusive coalitions”](#), hosted by International IDEA and the Global Democracy Coalition, on September 5, where participants discussed the universal narrative of democracy as an outcome possible of the third Summit for Democracy (S4D).

Our coordinator spoke during the September 6 session entitled [“From sporadic participation to system change: how to integrate public participation in government?”](#). This session looked at how governments can develop the capacities and skills to engage the public and civil society on a regular and systematic basis.

It examined success stories, listened to the experiences of political leaders and civil servants, and explored [future reforms to ensure citizens can participate in decisions that affect them](#). The session was organized by the Crown Foundation, the Spanish government and People Powered.

Eesti AVP tippkohtumine  
2023 OGP Global Summit

### MAIN SESSION

#### From One-Off Engagement to System Change: How do we Embed Public Participation in Government?

Wednesday, 6 September  
11:00 – 12:15 EEST  
[Green Room Telliskivi Hub \(Telliskivi 60a/5, B-building\)](#)

#### Speakers



Josh Lerner  
People Powered



Diana Dajer  
Fundación Corona



Adrià Duarte  
IOPD



Katya Petrikevich  
Participation Factory



Lázaro Tuñón Sastre  
Government of Spain



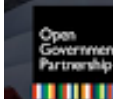
Juan Carlos Fernandez  
Fundación Corona



Greta Rios  
People Powered



Kao Shien-Quey  
Taiwan National Development Council



## Other activities

- IOPD Coordination Committee Meeting: January 25
- UCLG Annual Retreat: February 20-23
- Voluntary Local Reports (VLR) session: July 16
- Monitoring of UCLG partnership with the Global Democracy Coalition
- Participation in the UCLG Report “Paper 2” for the High Level Political Forum (HPLF)
- Collaboration for the Emergency Governance Initiative





# **COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL NETWORKS**

The website [www.oidp.net](http://www.oidp.net) is the hub for all information and content on the network. The Secretariat manages the site and updates the information: new experiences, news, calendar of events, publications. All this content is distributed through different communication channels, such as the monthly newsletter, which is sent to a database of more than 2,200 subscribers, or social networks: [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

[HOME](#)[ABOUT ▾](#)[CONFERENCE](#)[AWARD](#)[EXPERIENCES](#)[NEWS](#)[RESOURCES ▾](#)[Language ▾](#)[+ Join the IOPD](#)

## 22 IOPD Conference

Rio de Janeiro

6-8 November



## 2023 Award



## Participate ODP

# IOPD

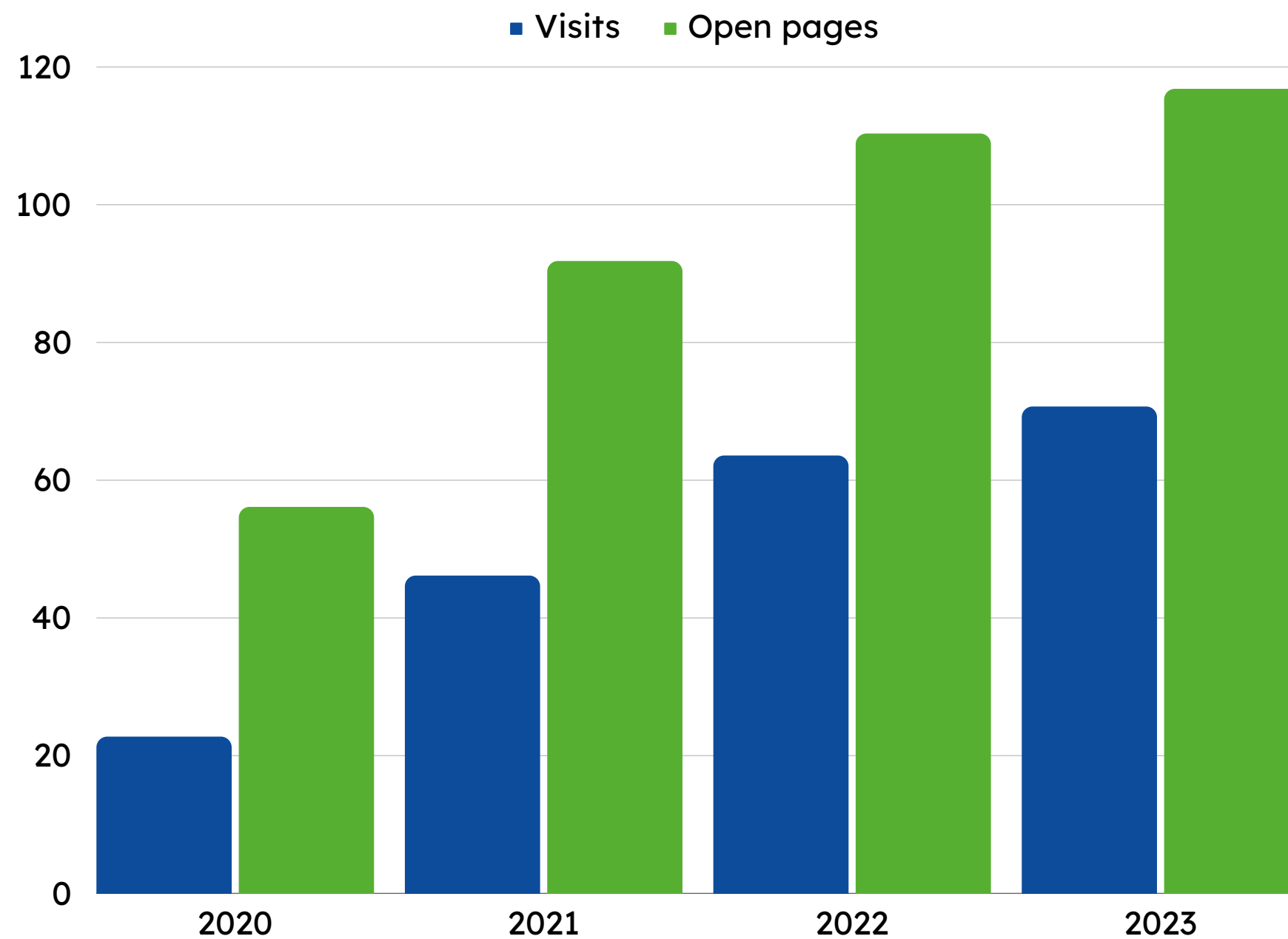
The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) is a space open to all cities in the world and all associations, organizations and research centers interested in learning about, exchanging impressions and applying experiences of participatory democracy on a local scale with the aim of deepening the roots of democracy in municipal government.







## Information about website visits



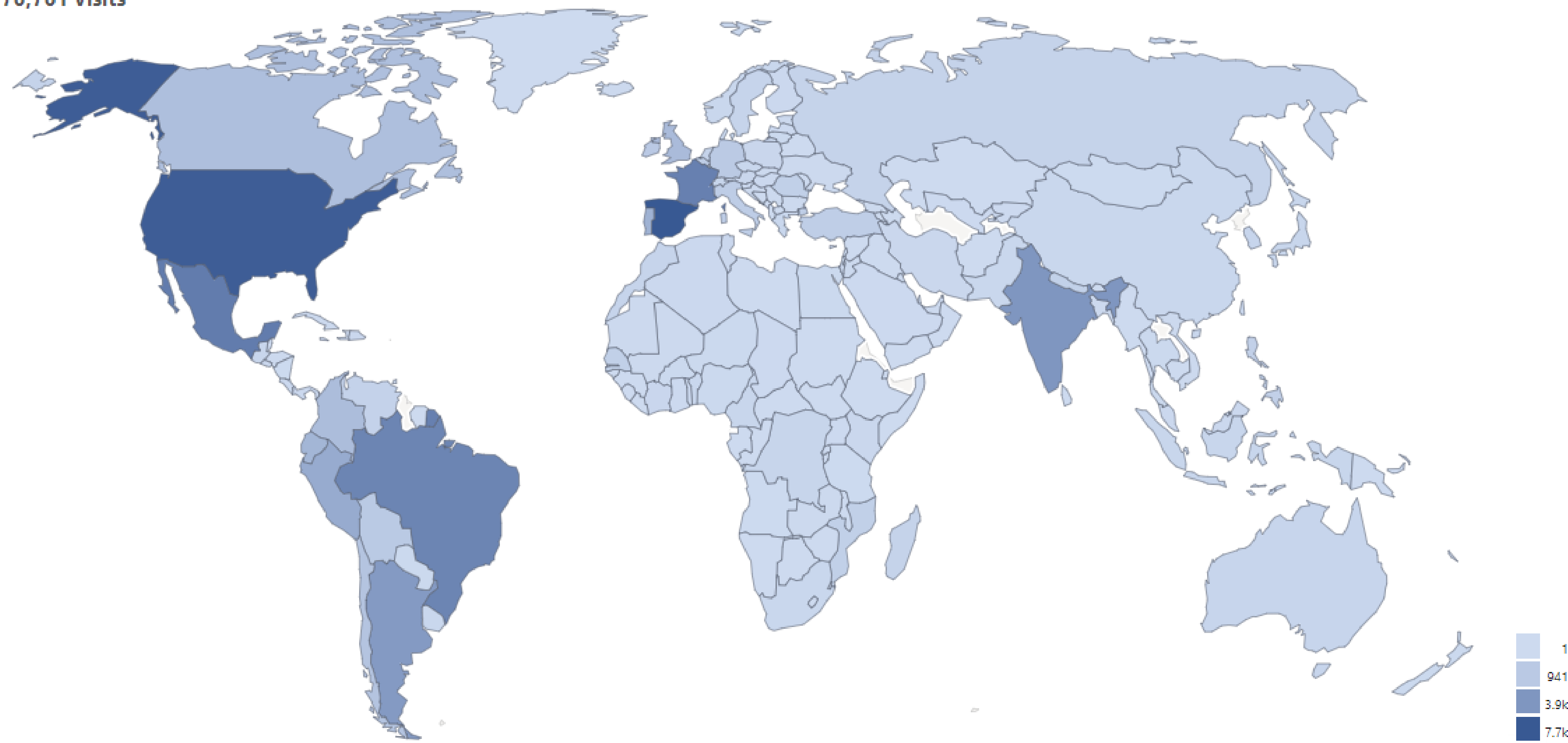
Information: Juan José Sola (website [www.oidp.net](http://www.oidp.net) administrator)





Visitor Map

70,701 visits



## ● Newsletters

On an average monthly basis, the Secretariat prepares and sends a newsletter in three languages: English, French and Spanish to the more than 2,200 people registered (members and interested persons). The newsletters contain the latest news, calendar of events and new experiences available on the website.



### The materials for the 22nd IOPD Conference are now available!

From November 6th to 8th, 2023, the city of Rio de Janeiro, with the support of the IOPD Secretariat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), hosted our 22nd annual gathering of local leaders to share their experiences on local participatory and deliberative democracy. The event took place at the Cidade das Artes cultural complex in Rio de Janeiro, welcoming over 800 participants from local and regional governments across 46 countries.



The theme of our 22nd Conference was "Participatory Democracy for Diverse, Inclusive, and Transparent Cities." It focused on debating, exchanging experiences, and proposing actions to enhance local democratic institutions, achieve more inclusive cities for all

### Launch of the policy paper "Co-creation in localising the SDGs"

Through this policy paper, the IOPD aims to inspire and empower local and regional governments to actively engage their citizens in localising the SDGs, while giving them the opportunity to co-create an innovative governance framework that is meaningful and practical in the lives of citizens.

This document brings together local and regional experiences and policy recommendations shared first-hand by local officials in our webinar of the same name.



#### Policy paper

**Co-creation in the localisation of the SDGs:**  
Citizens and local governments accelerating action towards the 2030 Agenda

22nd IOPD Conference

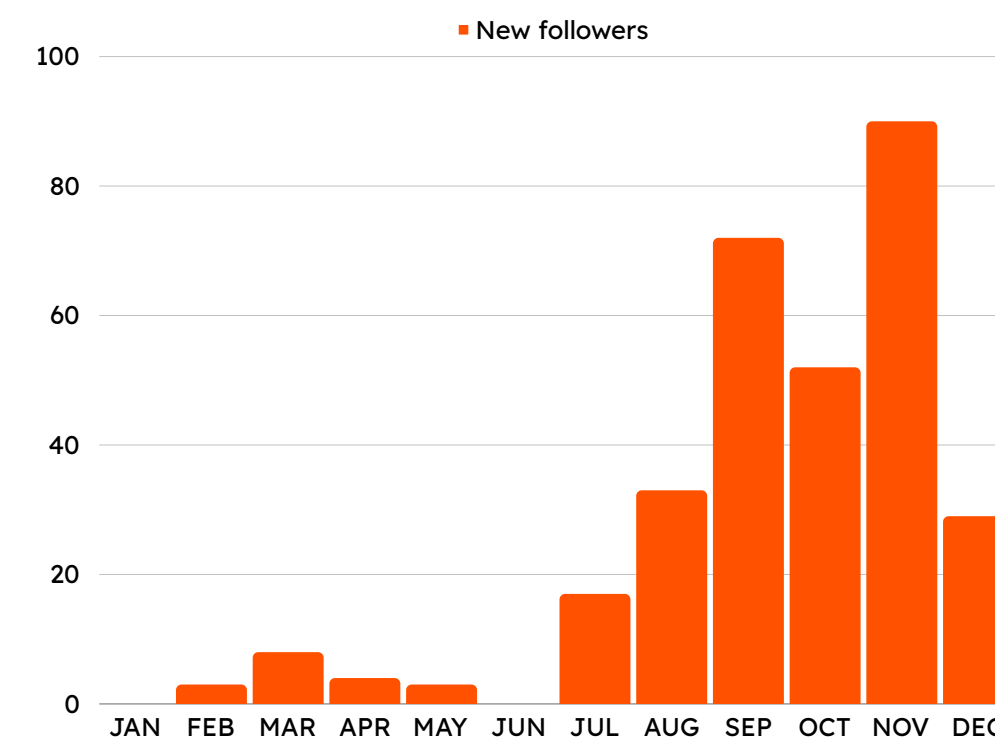
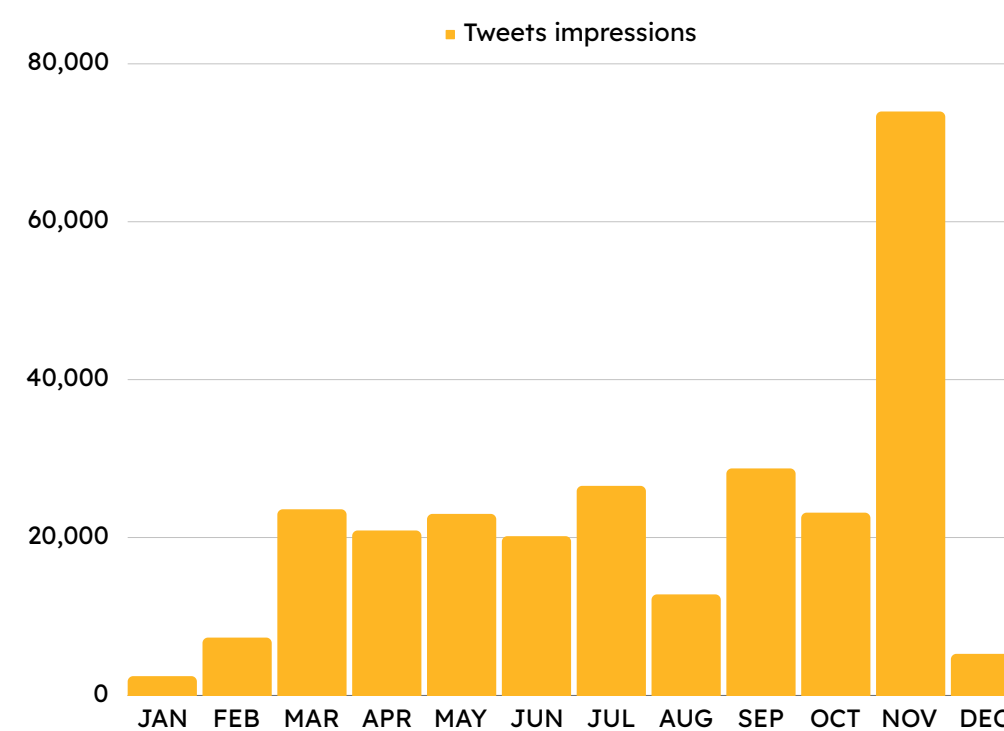
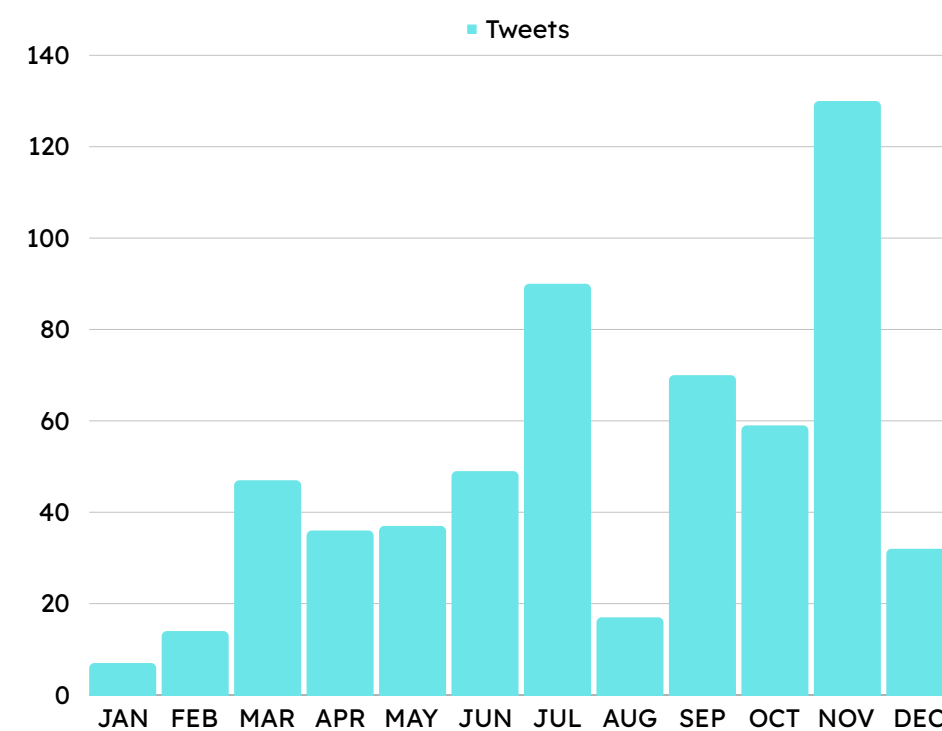


[Consult the publication](#)





## X (ex-Twitter) profile



In November, the IOPD Annual Conference took place in Rio de Janeiro. We were therefore very present on social networks, particularly on X, in order to communicate about this event which brought together more than 800 people.

*Information: X*

The work of the International Observatory on Participative Democracy has been made possible thanks to the generous contributions from the following collectivities and institutions:



With the support of:



Co-funded by  
the European Union

