21st OIDP Award 2027

OIDP Special Award for "Responsible and Participatory AI Governance"

(1st edition)

SHORT SUMMARY

This new OIDP Special Award **is a technical-oriented recognition** that seeks to acknowledge **innovative practices that actively involve citizens and local communities in shaping how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is designed, governed, and implemented in local public services,** forging **a technological environment with ethically-driven, inclusive and participatory approaches**.

Organized by the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), in partnership with the Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra, the International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI), Red de Innovación Local (RIL), Monithon Europe and "EUDEMA.net - Appropriate technological transitions", **the Award promotes experimentations of democratic, ethical, inclusive, and locally-controlled AI**.

In fact, the organisers believe that the efforts made by local and supralocal authorities to approach Artificial Intelligence as an opportunity to deepen ethical and participatory approaches to territorial governance deserve recognition and visibility. From this perspective, it is important to raise awareness among a broad audience of the resources invested and the creative methodologies developed to shape new environments in which advanced technologies and people-centred forms of governance can interact, engage in dialogue and mutually reinforce one another.

The OIDP Special Award for "Responsible and Participatory AI Governance" particularly **values the creation of enabling environments where AI is appropriated and localized in ways that combine citizen participation, data sovereignty, algorithmic transparency and autonomy, infrastructure resilience** through the cooperation of **multi-disciplinary teams, and specific attention is devoted to the dimension of environmental sustainability**.

Beyond mapping and recognizing outstanding initiatives that shape such environments for favouring the blossoming of participatory systems of territorial governance, **the Award seeks to foster international knowledge exchange, peer learning, and the development of transferable practices that strengthen local democracy and community empowerment in the age of AI**. In this perspective, the Award is part of a large ecosystem of spaces and events that can **leverage new forms of networking and synergies among the participating practices**.

The winning initiative will be celebrated at the **2027 OIDP Conference in Niterói, Brazil (10–13 May 2027).**