



How to consolidate the IOPD? Goals and governance proposals

In the Montreal assembly, it was posed the need to open a debate about how the organizational structure of the IOPD should be to advance in the fulfillment of its goals. Down below, the observatory's General Secretariat proposes questions to solve in order to build a more suitable organization proposal. They are debate blocks, opened to contributions. Once collected, a report will be produced and a concrete proposal will be presented to the assembly, which is to be held the 27th November in Barcelona.

Mission

(What do we want to do in the long term?)

To help cities and villages to improve local democracy, reinforcing their capacities and providing them with resources to include the greatest and most diverse citizen participation in the decision making processes. This can be achieved by encouraging co-responsibility in the proposal, the design and implementation of these policies.

Vision

(What should we do in the future?)

To create an internationally recognized organization as a necessary tool to improve local participatory democracy. This organization would keep working within the framework of the United Nations and Local Governments international network.

To create a network workspace and at the same time an organization which is able to offer support to local governments.

Goals

(What do we want to do at the short and middle term?)

1. To act as the main network of cities, villages and institutions of the world in terms of citizen participation and local democracy



2. To promote participatory democracy, understood as engaging citizens in local policies
3. To boost cooperation between local governments, specially the exchange of experiences at local level
4. To set an agenda of activities to spread the events or programs which might be interesting for the IOPD members
5. To produce and spread information of interest about local participatory democracy
6. To produce knowledge and stimulate the reflection of concepts and practices of participatory democracy, democratic regeneration and new models of local democratic governance
7. To promote the analysis and evaluation of the state of local democracy in the world and to issue an annual report
8. To extend the observatory to local governments, research centers and civil society organizations from anywhere around the world where these goals are shared

Strategic priorities

- PRIORITY A: Communication and sensibilization (between IOPD members and outwards)
- PRIORITY B: Evaluation of participatory democracy practices
- PRIORITY C: Strengthening: extension of the network
- PRIORITY D: Learning: decentralized cooperation between members

Members

We propose three kinds of memberships:

Promoter members

- They make a substantial economic contribution
- They are part of the Coordinator Committee and lead the IOPD in the period between assemblies.

Partners

- They make a voluntary economic contribution, whether occasional or regular
- They are local or regional governments
- They are public bodies or institutions, whether local or regional

Collaborators



- They make a contribution in kind
- They are research centers or civil society organizations

Resources

- Contribution of the General Secretary (up to now, the Barcelona City Council has been responsible for it)
- Contribution of promoter members
- Contributions through agreements with governmental bodies
- Contribution through agreements with foundations
- Contributions of the United Nations and Local Governments network

Administration and political autonomy

Nowadays, the observatory doesn't have an own legal personality. It has operated since 2006 within the framework of the United Nation and Local Governments (UCLG) international organization. It manages the administrative dimension of the organization, while the IOPD has organizational and programmatic autonomy.

We want to be an organization with management capacity and operational functioning, composed of members who are committed to the project and who collaborate in carrying it out by participating in the work groups and workshops. They should put into practice the IOPD principles and values in their cities and villages.

We propose to carry on with the work within the UCLG network framework, but to strengthen the political leadership of a group of local governments which are specially committed with the observatory's goals and work plan.

Governance

We propose to keep operating through the existing bodies, but changing some of its characteristics, as it will be exposed down below.

Annual Assembly



- All members participate in it
- It approves the annual work plan
- It approves the annual management reports
- It approves changes in the regulation
- It chooses the presidency

Online Assembly

- All members participate in it
- It is used to debate and prioritize questions which are proposed by the General Secretariat during the period between Annual Assemblies
- It can't decide on questions which must be approved by the Annual Assemblies

Coordination Committee

- It leads the observatory in the period between Annual Assemblies
- It is composed of the Presidency, the General Secretariat, Technical Secretariat and promoter members
- It makes sure the annual work plan is implemented

Presidency

- The presidency corresponds to the city which organizes the annual conference
- It is the IOPD political representation
- The promoter members can undertake the political representation of the observatory by delegation of the presidency

General Secretariat

- It is the person who undertakes the political representation of the Technical Secretariat.

Technical Secretariat

- It ensures the IOPD regular functioning and coordinates activities
- It is the IOPD technical representation

Regional Commissions

- They are led by at least one promoter member
- They are responsible for the coordination of activities in concrete territorial zones



- They work in permanent coordination with the Coordination Committee

Work groups

- They carry out different activities agreed on the annual work plan
- They can be organized by any kind of member and their creation must be approved by the Coordination Committee