

18a Conferència Internacional de l'OIDP, 25 a 27 de novembre, Barcelona

27 de Novembre 12.00 - 13.30 h **Taller 121-E:** Combinant eines digitals i presencials per a un Espai Lliure ecosistema de participació inclusiva Sala 4 ECOSISTEMES DE DEMOCRÀCIA INCLUSIVA

Combining digital and face-to-face tools for an inclusive citizen participation ecosystem at city level: what do we want to achieve and how do we do it?

Rosa Borge Bravo (Open University of Catalonia) :

"Indicators of inclusion and success of participatory platforms"

more info at <https://deliberanetblog.wordpress.com>

Currently leading a research on the participatory local government platform -Decidim- comparing its performance in the 11 municipalities that first adopted the platform. Tatiana invites me to the workshop because in our research we have measured how the platform is being used in the municipalities through a large set of indicators. We have analysed the content of the websites of the municipalities, where the Decidim platform is embedded, and we have carried out in depth interviews to the technicians, politicians and people in charge of the platform. We have taken into account three aspects:

1.- The participatory channels available on the website of the local government (fixed channels -citizen attention mailbox or office, web spaces for collectivities and committees, surveys, fixed web spaces for consultation or citizens' initiatives- and temporary participatory processes -participatory budgeting, strategic planning, sectorial planning). A kind of map of the tools and channels available.

2.- The main traits or characteristics of the participatory processes as they are reflected on the platform (organization - advocay group, which local government branch organizes it), binding nature or not, combination with offline meeting, assemblies, conferences, events; what the process of registration looks like, figures related to participation, active platform functionalities or components, and promotion of inclusiveness and presence of open data)

3.- The deliberative capacity of the platform, that can be assessed when the functionality of comments or debate are activated: we have used a classical set of criteria usually applied to measure offline and online deliberation such as discourse equality, reciprocity, justification, reflexivity, civility, disrespect, and plurality.

Among all the indicators we have, I would like to highlight two important aspects of inclusion that are diversity and plurality:

- Diversity refers to sociodemographic profiles and the presence of the actors at stake on the issue or initiatives proposed but also in the platform in general. We have measured diversity by the proportion of women and men, the proportion of participants using different languages, etc... But these are characteristics of the users or participants. Therefore we have also evaluated whether the platform was promoting diversity by detecting the use of inclusive pictures, images and language or by detecting accessibility channels for functional diversities or blind people.

Regarding the presence of the actors at stake it is important to assure that all the citizens and associations affected by the policy at stake are discussing or voting the proposals, not only the initiator or the defendants of the proposal. We have collected all the names of the proponents or initiators of issues or proposals, and found out which were individual or collective participants and have also used network analysis of the interactions among participants.

- Plurality refers to the inclusion of different viewpoints and ideologies on the proposal, the plan or the initiative being voted or discussed and in the platform in general. This can be measured by the proportion of votes in favour or against a proposal, or in an online conversation by counting the comments that are opposing the previous comment or liking or not liking the comments. Through content analysis is also possible to analyse the ideological position appearing in the comment: for example, in favour or against the local government.