How a City Platform Became a Global Community

Carolina Romero, FOSDEM 2025

decidim.org

Index

- How it started
- How it's going
- Lessons from the journey
- Challenges ahead

decidim
free open-source democracy

Decidim is a digital platform for citizen participation

Free/libre, open and safe technology.
With all democratic guarantees.
Reprogramming democracy is now possible with Decidim.

How it started

2016

🚀 First Decidim version
released by Barcelona
City Council

Els resultats del procés del Pla Municipal

Durant el procés s'han realitzat 10.860 propostes de les quals 7.284 han estat acceptades i agrupades en 1.467 actuacions

Organitzacions

Transició ecològica

Ciutadania

Bon govern
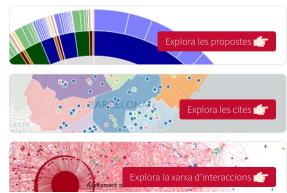
Explora els resultats 👉

Navega per les actuacions 👉

El Procés Participatiu del Pla Municipal

Et presentem de manera gràfica els resultats del procés participatiu per a l'el·laboració del Pla Muncipal

Explora les propostes 👉

BARCELONA

Explora les cites 👉

En què ha consistit el procés? 👉

Explora la xarxa d'interaccions 👉

www.decidim.barcelona
#MetaDecidim #Hackató

2017

🚀 First Decidim version
released by Barcelona
City Council

Other Catalan cities
started using the
software

decidim.org

Propose new functionalities for Decidim software

· Designing Decidim together

THE PROCESS   DEBATES   PROPOSE NEW FEATURES   NEWS

Take part in this process to design Decidim democratically: you can enter and create debates or propose new features or improvements (please don't use this process to report bugs).

Any member of the community can **make a proposal for a new functionality** (either a new module or the improvement of an existing one).
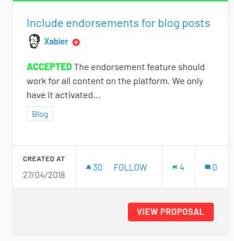
Proposals can receive endorsements, although these are not decisive for a proposal to be included on the roadmap. The endorsements serve as indicators of the interest of the proposal or the need it covers. The comments to the proposals are also enabled, to collectively elaborate the initial idea and bring it to a productive result.
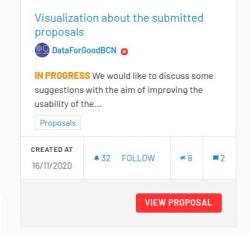
Every Thursday the **Product** team reviews all new proposals that have been published the previous week and responds as follows:

- If the proposal **complies with the social contract**, it receives the adhesion of Decidimos Product.
- **If funding is available**, the developer is asked to create an issue in GitHub and copy the link to the comments of the proposal. It is then included in an iteration of the corresponding component or module.
- **If no funding is available** it is included in the backlog of the corresponding component or module.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

▸ **Roadmap Documentation** (3 Documents)

Help [?]

Include endorsements for blog posts

👤 **Xabier** ✪

ACCEPTED The endorsement feature should work for all content on the platform. We only have it activated...

Blog

CREATED AT			
27/04/2018	▲30 FOLLOW	📢4	💬0

VIEW PROPOSAL

Visualization about the submitted proposals

👥 **DataForGoodBCN** ✪

IN PROGRESS We would like to discuss some suggestions with the aim of improving the usability of the...

Proposals

CREATED AT			
16/11/2020	▲32 FOLLOW	📢8	💬2

VIEW PROPOSAL

‹ Back to list

7th Metadecidim Operational Session (SOM)

👤 **Official meeting** | 17/11/2017 15:44 | 💬 12 comments | 🏳

AGENDA

Session objectives

1. Continue to encourage community creation
2. Facilitate the effective use of time and aligned with the interests of each person and the project
3. Facilitate communication between the different initiatives being carried out

WE ARE METADECIDIM (6pm-9pm)

- Welcome (10') / 6:00 p.m.
- Presentation of agenda and work blocks (10') / 6:10 p.m.
- **Bloc 1 - OST (Open Space Technology)** (90') / 18.20h
- Break with snacks and comments on the JAM (15') / 7:40 p.m.
- **Block 2 - Information space with the whole community** (30') / 7.55pm : the new stage of development that is now beginning at Decidim
- **Block 3: Closing and celebration** (20') / 7.25pm

| RELATED IMAGES

30
November 2017
19:00 - 22:00

🔔 34 | Follow

ATTENDEES COUNT
30

ATTENDING ORGANIZATIONS
N/A

Reference: MDC-MEET-2017-11-977
Version number 1 (of 1) see other versions
Share ➤
Embed ‹/›

LAB Metadecidim - Session 1. Digital identities, verification and democratic processes

👤 **Official meeting**

LAB Metadecidim is an open and collaborative research space aimed at addressing key problems for the development ... (read more)

🕐 **17 MARCH 2017** · 11:00 – 13:00

📍 **POMPEU FABRA UNIVERSITY (POBLE NOU CAMPUS, TANGER BUILDING). ROOM 52.S27 (IN THE BASEMENT, IN FRONT OF THE CAFETERIA)**
Roc Boronat, 138, Barcelona

CREATED AT	🔔 21 FOLLOW	💬 0
01/07/2017		

VIEW

2018

🚀 First Decidim version released by Barcelona City Council

France entered the chat 🇫🇷

Other Catalan cities started using the software

Community governance process

2019

🚀 First Decidim version released by Barcelona City Council

Other Catalan cities started using the software

France entered the chat 🇫🇷

Community governance process

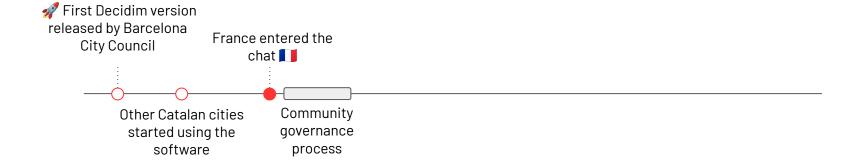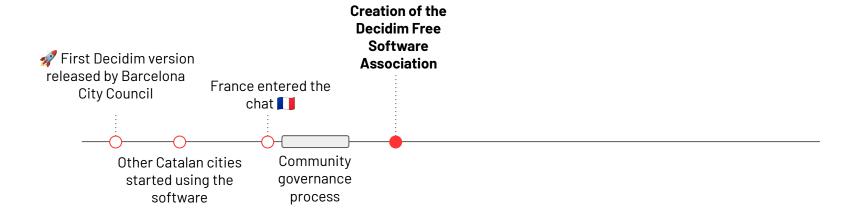**Creation of the Decidim Free Software Association**

meta decidim

Search

⌂ / Processes / Decidim.GOV: Democratic Governance for an open community ⌄ /

Statutes approval

The form below filters the search results dynamically when the search conditions are changed.

Search 🔍

⌄ **Status**

⌄ **Category**

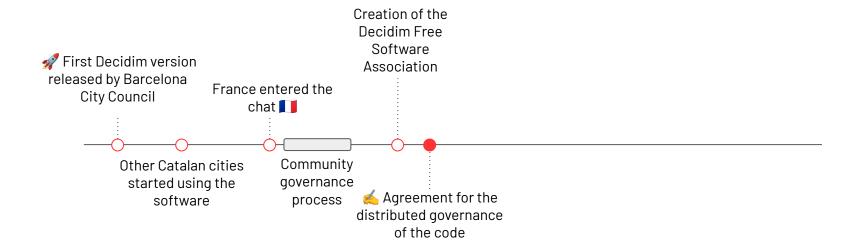⌄ **Origin**

⌄ **My activity**

The final result of the approval of the statutes has been:

- 19 supports in favor
- 3 blank support
- 1 support against

To consult the text of the bylaws that has been approved here: ⧉

https://metadecidim.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/decidim/attachment/file/2096/ESTATUTS_ASS_DECIDIM__AMB_ESMENESV2_.pdf ⧉

2019

🚀 First Decidim version released by Barcelona City Council

Other Catalan cities started using the software

France entered the chat 🇫🇷

Community governance process

Creation of the Decidim Free Software Association

✍️ Agreement for the distributed governance of the code

Agreement between:

Agreement for the management, promotion, development and extension of Decidim

- ○ Barcelona city council cedes to the Association the management and maintenance of the source code.
- ○ Defines product team composition.
- ○ The Association becomes the central actor of the project.

2020-21

Conference
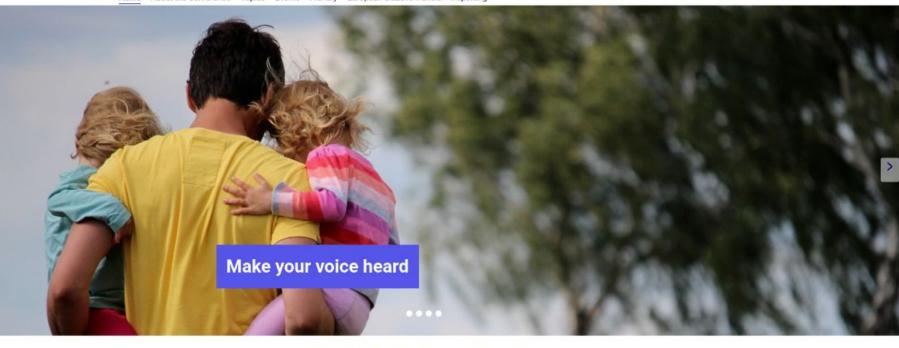on the **Future**
of **Europe**

Log in   English ⌄

Search

‹

›

Make your voice heard

© Photo by Juliane Liebermann on Unsplash

● ● ● ●

The future is in your hands

Attend an event near you

Share your ideas

Organise your event

Inspirationen

Hier sammeln wir erprobte Praxisbeispiele und neue Ideen zu verschiedenen Themen.

Mehr erfahren ›

49 Inspirationen   Neue Inspiration +

Suche

Sortieren nach: **Zufällig** ▾   Ergebnisse pro Seite: 20 ▾

ART
- ☑ Alle
- ☑ Idee
- ☑ Praxisbeispiel

THEMA
- ☑ Alle
- ☑ Alter

Idee

Flüssige Demokratie als Basis-

Praxisbeispiel

Gemeinwesenorientiertes

2022

🚀 First Decidim version released by Barcelona City Council

Other Catalan cities started using the software

France entered the chat 🇫🇷

Community governance process

Creation of the Decidim Association

✍️ Agreement for the distributed governance of the code

Governments and companies supporting financially the project as digital commons

Growth crisis
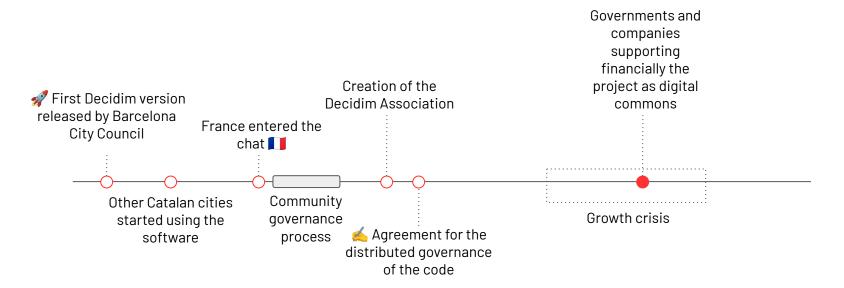
How it's going

+450

**democratic organizations
are using decidim today**

30 countries
240 cities and govern organizations
180 social organizations

Join the participatory process to define the Internal Regulation

📢 The Agenda Setting Phase is Now Open! ⟶

Start here | Participate | The Association | News | Decidim Fest | Chat

The democratic community managing the Decidim project in all its dimensions

The Decidim community is called Metadecidim, and it is made up of people and organizations that use the software and want to help improve it.
It's open to anyone who wants to participate 😉

🧑‍💻 Code contributions

- Fix a bug
- Propose and create new features
- Make a PR to improve a feature
- Improve Decidim design
- Create a module for a new feature

🎨 Non-Code contributions

- Improve documentation
- Translate Decidim to your language
- Participate in Community Meetings
- Participate in a Thematic Committee

Community meetings and Decidim Fest

decidim.org

matrix

Rooms and spaces   `Add` `Remove` `Mark as not suggested`

🔴 🏛 **General room** ✓ Joined ⓘ Suggested ☐
169 members · Use this room to introduce yourself and ask any question you do not know where else to ask.

📊 🌐 **Translations** ✓ Joined ☐
66 members

⚫ 📣 **Support Devs** ✓ Joined ⓘ Suggested ☐
248 members · technical staff here!

🟣 📣 **Suport admins (Cat)** ✓ Joined ☐
95 members · Espai per resoldre dubtes sobre l'ús i l'administració de Decidim (únicament en català).

🔵 📣 **Support admins** ✓ Joined ⓘ Suggested ☐
64 members · Space for resolving doubts about the use and administration of Decidim.

🟢 🎨 **Design** ✓ Joined ☐
92 members · Welcome the design community for Decidim. 📅 Calls 1*month here, last thursdays @10:00 CET (UTC+1) 👋 Anybody can join, or request design assets, reach out!...

👋⭐ **Community** ✓ Joined ☐
42 members · Experiment practices, learn together and make Decidim Community a joyfull, inclusive and productive community

🚀 **Release parties** ✓ Joined ☐
41 members · Internal organization for release parties in the community Link of the meeting reports: https://nuage.dynnammo.com/hedgedoc/iCrC-85RTIO5ZVb9IzuFWQ

🔴 **Drafting Committee (Internal regulation)** ☐
7 members · Internal regulation

Internal Regulations Process

```
                                         1 Feb - 1 March              2 Mar - 16 Mar
                                    ┌──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
                                    │  📝 3. Drafting #1  →  💬 4. Community                 │
                                    │                          Deliberation #1              │
📢 1. Kick-off  →  📋 2. Agenda  →  │           ↓                    ↓                       │
                      Setting       │  📝 5. Drafting #2  →  💬 6. Community                 │
                                    │                          Deliberation #2              │
1 Dec - 30 Dec   9 Jan - 1 Feb      └──────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
                                       17 Mar - 13 Apr          14 Apr - 26 Apr
```

1 Feb - 1 March

2 Mar - 16 Mar

📝 3. Drafting #1

💬 4. Community Deliberation #1

📢 1. Kick-off

📋 2. Agenda Setting

1 Dec - 30 Dec

9 Jan - 1 Feb

📝 5. Drafting #2

💬 6. Community Deliberation #2

17 Mar - 13 Apr

14 Apr - 26 Apr

🖊️ 7. Feedback integration

27 Apr - 10 May

💡 8. Coord. Committee review

10 May - 19 May

🗳️ 9. Regulations vote (General Assembly)

19 May - 31 May

Lessons from the journey

- Partnering with a city like with a strong political project was key for legitimacy
- "Public money, public code" is a great principle, but public procurement is painful
- In-person meetings are essential for community building, with Decidim Fest as a key annual gathering.
- A global community with local chapters

comunitat
311

Look for 🔍

❓ 👥 ⚛ ↪
Aid Encounters Activity Come in

Issue | People | Experiences | Agenda | Questions and Answers | Spaces and work groups

People

Bea Quintana Rueda

Parlem with Bea Quintana Rueda (@beatriu_quintana_rue), sociologist and participation technician from Montornès del Vallès with more than 12 years of experience...

Isabel·la Martinez Morales

Parlem with Isabel·la Martínez Morales, the most veteran participation technique at the Barcelona Provincial Council. Ens explains his life path...

Raul Gonzalez del Pozo

We interviewed Raúl Gonzalez del Pozo, @ AjMdV-RDG, participation technician of the Mollet City Council with extensive experience in i...

Jaume Casacuberta English

Parlem amb Jaume Casacuberta English, @jaume_casacuberta, Cap de Servei de Participació de l'Ajuntament de Granollers.Who is Jaume?He is an ed...

‹ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ›

Experiences

Teixir les xarxes ciutadanes per una...

🗺 In the local and region of Manresa (Bages) 👥 HabitantsCiutat (from 50,001 to 100,000 inhabitants) 💬 DescriptionThe City Council of Manresa has promoted the work...

Recovery of the old rectory of Or...

🗺 In the local area and region Oristà (Lluçanès) 👥 Habitants585 inhabitants (micromunicipality) 💬 DescriptionThe project Rectories Vives has been an impressive project...
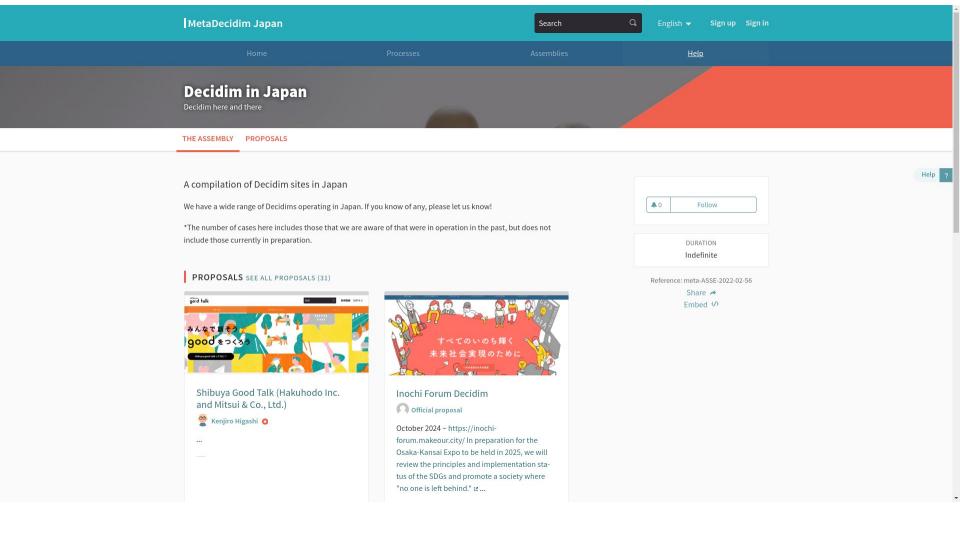
Presuppostos participatius de proximitat
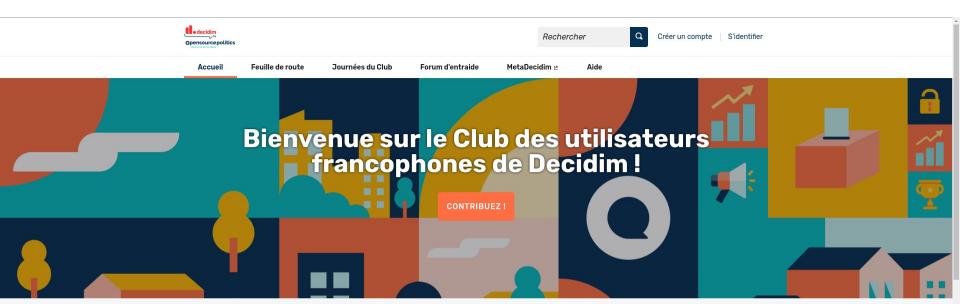
🗺 In the local area and region of Sant Cugat (Vallès Occidental) 👥 HabitantsCiutat (from 50,001 to 100,000 inhabitants) 💬 Description of the participation policy...

Climatubers: influencers for change

🗺 Local area and Granollers region (Vallès Oriental) 👥 HabitantsCiutat (from 50,001 to 100,000 inhabitants) 💬 DescriptionThe Climatubers project includes...

‹ ● ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ○ ›

Decidim in Japan

Decidim here and there

THE ASSEMBLY   PROPOSALS

A compilation of Decidim sites in Japan

We have a wide range of Decidims operating in Japan. If you know of any, please let us know!

*The number of cases here includes those that we are aware of that were in operation in the past, but does not include those currently in preparation.

| PROPOSALS SEE ALL PROPOSALS (31)

Shibuya Good Talk (Hakuhodo Inc. and Mitsui & Co., Ltd.)

👤 Kenjiro Higashi ✪

...

Inochi Forum Decidim

👤 Official proposal

October 2024 ~ https://inochi-forum.makeour.city/ In preparation for the Osaka-Kansai Expo to be held in 2025, we will review the principles and implementation status of the SDGs and promote a society where "no one is left behind." ⬈ ...

Help ?

🔔 0   Follow

DURATION
Indefinite

Reference: meta-ASSE-2022-02-56

Share ↗
Embed </>

Rechercher

Accueil   Feuille de route   Journées du Club   Forum d'entraide   MetaDecidim ↗   Aide

Bienvenue sur le Club des utilisateurs francophones de Decidim !

CONTRIBUEZ !

Bienvenue sur la plateforme du Club des utilisateurs francophones de Decidim.
Cet espace commun est hébergé par Open Source Politics ↗ . Vous avez ici
l'opportunité de participer directement à l'amélioration du projet Decidim.

S'INSCRIRE ›

ASSEMBLÉES ACTIVES

Cookies

Buscar

Boas-vindas a Meta Decidim BR!

Participar

Decidim Brasil

169 members, 21 online

Grupo da Comunidade Decidim Brasil

VIEW POST

OPEN IN WEB

Como posso fazer parte de um processo?

⊙ Reuniões

Descubra onde e quando pode participar em reuniões públicas.

⊙ Debates

Debata e discuta, partilhe as suas opiniões e enriqueça os tópicos relevantes.

⊙ Propostas

Faça propostas, suporte as existentes e promova as mudanças que deseja ver.

Some challenges ahead

- Financial sustainability

- Defining our role in the economic ecosystem

- From local platform to global infrastructure

- Avoiding "participation-washing"

- Rethinking our social contract as a political community

Thanks!

More info at: decidim.org
Contact: hola@decidim.org

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Carol Romero
Decidim Free Software Association