

FLOSS as a public policy: The case of Decidim

FOSDEM - Government Collaboration - 2025/02/02



Who am I

- Andrés Pereira de Lucena
- <https://github.com/andreslucena>
- Founder and Lead Developer of Decidim
- Working with FLOSS since 2011

The screenshot shows the GitHub profile of Andrés Pereira de Lucena. At the top, there are navigation links for Product, Solutions, Resources, Open Source, Enterprise, and Pricing. The profile header includes a circular profile picture with a green grid pattern and the text "RADIO LABS". Below the profile picture, the name "Andrés Pereira de Lucena" and the username "andreslucena" are displayed, along with a "Follow" button. The bio states: "Civic tech, open government, citizen participation and Free Libre Open Source Software and Knowledge." It also mentions "101 followers · 10 following" and lists the organization "Decidim" with a location in "Barcelona" and a website "https://decidim.org". The profile is associated with the Twitter handle "@_andres_".

The "Pinned" section features a repository named "decidim/decidim" (Public), described as "The participatory democracy framework. A generator and multiple gems made with Ruby on Rails". It has 1.5k stars and 409 forks.

The "Contributions" section shows "1,836 contributions in the last year" with a calendar grid for 2025. A "Learn how we count contributions" link is provided. Below the calendar is an "Activity overview" section with a radar chart showing the distribution of contributions: 41% Commits, 30% Code review, 27% Pull requests, and 2% Issues. The text below the chart states: "Contributed to decidim/decidim, decidim/decidim.org, assodecidim/aipolitics and 16 other repositories".

The "Organizations" section shows "3 security advisory credits". The "Contribution activity" section shows activity for "January 2025", including "Created 21 commits in 2 repositories".



1. What is Decidim?

2. Where is it used?
3. How it is governed?
4. How the roadmap is defined?
5. How the software is reused?
6. What challenges do we have?



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.



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- 2. Where is it used?**
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/Where is it used



+450

democratic organizations
are using decidim today

30 countries

240 cities and govern organizations

180 social organizations



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Our governance

Discover how we are organized inside the Association

About this assembly

The Metadecidim community is governed through the Decidim Free Software Association, a non-profit association, created on [February 16, 2019 in an extraordinary assembly](#), after a [participatory process](#), with the approval of the statutes.

In the Association we organize ourselves through different spaces, be they governing bodies or advisory bodies. Below you can see the list of active committees and bodies.

[Organization chart](#) →[Mission, Vision, and Values](#) →[Become a member](#) →

Assemblies 5



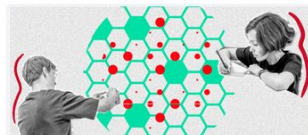
General Assembly of the Decidim Association

Ⓞ Governing



Coordination Committee

Ⓞ Executive



Decidim per Ciutats i Administracions
Públiques

Ⓞ Working group



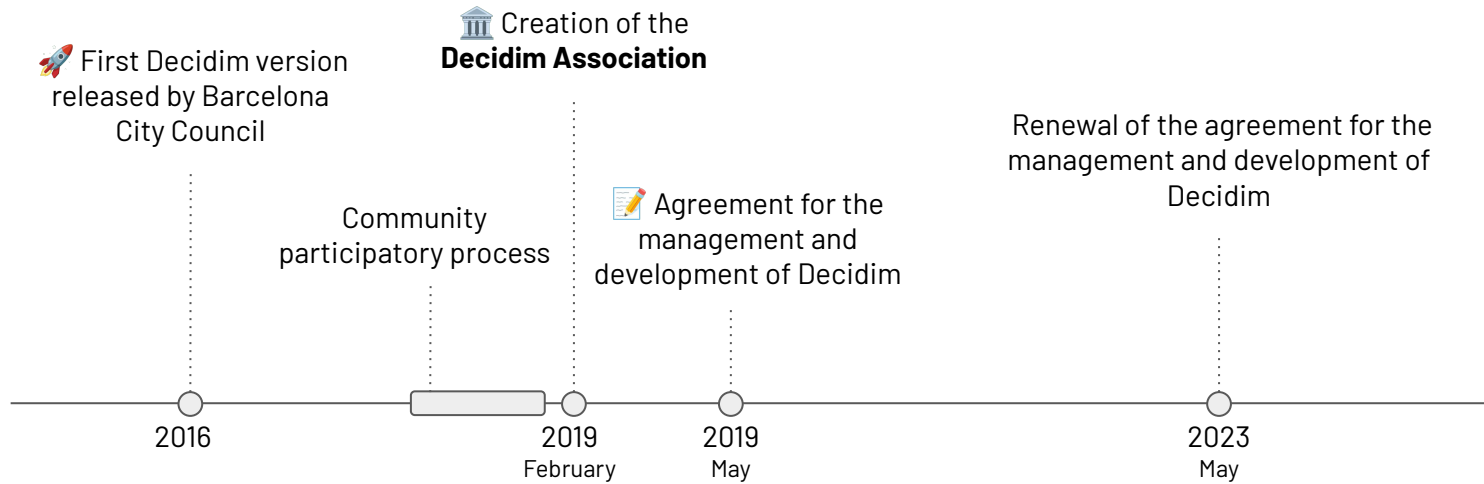
Decidim Politics

Ⓞ Participatory



Decidim per Organitzacions

Ⓞ Working group



Distributed governance

- First installation and most of development financing came from the city of Barcelona
- Localret (a consortium of catalan municipalities) helped us with the rethinking, extension and provide one worker full time since 2016
- Catalunya government and the Barcelona city government are partially financing the Association with an agreement



**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

Localret



**Generalitat
de Catalunya**

*This text is a reference when it comes to thinking about the implementation of public-community management of digital commons, being **a unique example in the world of how to implement free software as a public policy with a community governance.***

*In the future, it will be essential to preserve this collaborative relationship between public administrations and Decidim, as the **long-term sustainability of the project depends on it.***

<https://decidim.org/blog/2023-05-19-la-asociacion-de-software-libre-decidim-renueva-un-acuerdo-clave-para-su-sostenibilidad-y-su-fortalecimiento-como-un-comun-digital/>

Collaboration agreement between Barcelona City Council, Consorci Localret and the Free Software Association Decidim for the management, development and expansion of the Decidim platform

Barcelona, 23 May 2019

BY AND BETWEEN

Mr Jaume Asens i Llodrà, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona City Council (hereinafter City Council), authorised to sign the agreement in accordance with the Government Commission of 23/5/2019, assisted by Mr Jordi Cases i Pallarès, General Secretary and notary of the City Council, in accordance with provisions of article 92 bis of the law regulating the rules of local government.

Mr Xavier Fonollosa i Comas, President of Consorci Localret (hereinafter Localret) in the name and on behalf of the Consorci.

Mr Guillem Marpons i Ucero, President of the Free Software Association Decidim in the name and on behalf of said association.

The parties mutually recognise the necessary capacity to enter into this agreement and accordingly

DECLARE

I.

That the **City Council**, as part of its policy to encourage participatory democracy and the development of digital infrastructures based on free software, in a collaborative manner with



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Propose new features

Designing Decidim together

About this process

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).

Who can propose improvements to Decidim?

Any member of the community can make a proposal for a new feature or the improvement of an existing one.

Proposals can receive endorsements, although these are not decisive for a proposal to be implemented.

[More information](#)

[Debates](#)

[Propose new features](#)

[Feature Requests Monitor](#)

Propose new features 886

[See all proposals](#)

LAST PROPOSALS

[New proposal](#)

Afegir documents adjunts al component Pàgina

Generalitat de Catalunya 0 0

Afegir autoria en exportar propostes

Generalitat de Catalunya 0 0

Control de les notificacions

Generalitat de Catalunya 0 0

Import/Export templates

Lars Kaiser 0 2

WHAT IS DECIDED

New features and improvements for Decidim are decided here

WHO PARTICIPATES

Anybody willing to contribute to the project

HOW IS IT DECIDED

Debates are opened and/or proposals are made → Discussed → Evaluated by Decidim Product → Approved → Executed when there is funding

AREA

Technology

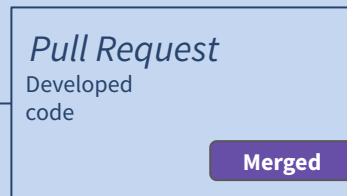
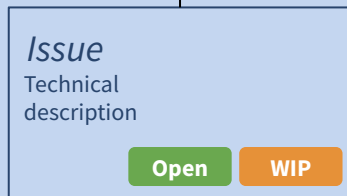
PROMOTER GROUP

Decidim Product. Questions? mention @carol



Metadecidim

Intertinstitutional
Collaboration

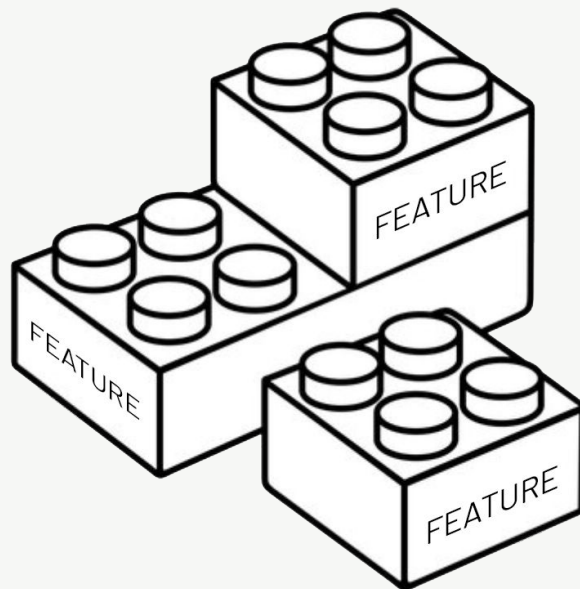


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Decidim framework

- Admin dashboard to manage and configure.
- Modular structure.
- High degree of personalization of each process.
- Administrators can manage the components at your own, building the participatory process that best suits their needs.



PARTICIPATORY SPACE

mainio/decidim-module-term_customizer



Decidim module that allows customizing the localization terms in the system for specific contexts.

8 Contributors

221 Used by

16 Stars

23 Forks



TERM CUSTOMIZER > NEW FEATURES STATUSES

ADD MULTIPLE NEW TRANSLATION IMPORT EXPORT

<input type="checkbox"/>	TRANSLATION KEY	ORIGINAL TERM	CUSTOMIZED TERM	
<input type="checkbox"/>	decidim.proposals.answers.accepted	Accepted	Done	
<input type="checkbox"/>	decidim.proposals.answers.evaluating	Evaluating	In progress	
<input type="checkbox"/>	decidim.proposals.application_helper.filter_state_values.accepted	Accepted	Done	
<input type="checkbox"/>	decidim.proposals.application_helper.filter_state_values.evaluating	Evaluating	In progress	



Decidim en què invertir els Pressupostos Participatius!

Entra i participa! 

Benvinguda a la plataforma de participació ciutadana de l'Ajuntament de Barcelona

Construïm una societat més oberta, transparent i col·laborativa.
Uneix-te, participa i decideix.



Play Your Part: Your Money, Your Community, Your Vote!

The People's Money is New York City's annual citywide Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiative where community members decide how to spend part of the city's budget. Every year New Yorkers vote to decide what projects to implement in their communities.

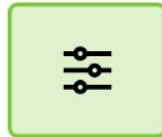
[LEARN MORE](#)



HOW THE PEOPLE'S MONEY WORKS



Phase 1
Idea Generation



Phase 2
Borough Assemblies



Phase 3
Citywide Voting



Phase 4
Project Implementation



BRASIL
PARTICIPATIVO

A PLATAFORMA DE
PARTICIPAÇÃO DIGITAL
DO GOVERNO FEDERAL

 Criar perfil



Processos participativos



Conferências



Consultas Públicas



Planos



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Challenges

- Financing from public institutions outside of Catalonia
- Growth of the association's technical team and the sustainability through grants
- Updates of the downstream applications



In this way, the Brazilian government is taking a decisive step by engaging in the **collective governance of a Digital Public Good**, thus reaffirming its commitment to the Decidim project. Brazil is the **first government outside Catalonia** to sign a collaboration agreement with Decidim, paving the way for other governments around the world to follow in its footsteps.

The MoU marks a pivotal moment in Decidim's journey toward internationalization and the establishment of a global governance model. This model will be a reference when it comes to thinking about how to implement governance that **involves public institutions from all over the world in coordination with a community**, with the aim of maintaining and promoting a digital common good.

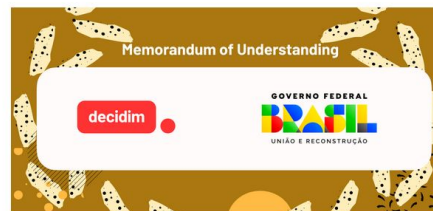
<https://decidim.org/blog/2024-12-20-brazilian-government-and-decidim-association-formalize-partnership-with-a-memorandum-of-understanding/>



← Blog

Brazilian Government and Decidim Association Formalize Partnership with a Memorandum of Understanding

20/12/2024



On December 5th, the Decidim Association and the Brazilian Government formalized their partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at a ceremony held in the Presidency Palace. This MoU establishes a collaborative framework aimed at advancing social participation, digital democracy, and the use of free software.

The agreement commits both parties to promoting the use and adoption of Decidim as a public infrastructure for participation, reinforcing its role as a Digital Public Good. Signatories included Nil Homedes and Kelli Maforé, alongside notable attendees such as Renato Simões, Mar Fernández-Palacios, Spanish Ambassador Maria del and Lázaro Tuñón, the Spanish representative of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).



Thanks!

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GitHub: <https://github.com/decidim/decidim>

Twitter: [@decidim_org](https://twitter.com/decidim_org)

