

# **Decidim: open source digital infrastructure for participatory democracy**

Nil Hombres  
Decidim Free Software Association





# 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.

## Strategic planning

## Participatory processes

## Assemblies

## Initiatives and citizen consultations

## Participatory budgeting

meta decidim

Search

Help Meetings Activity

Processes / Propose new features

### Propose new features

New proposal +

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

Search

**Status**

- All
- Finished
- Accepted / In progress
- Not answered
- Rejected

**Scope**

- All
- Awaiting funding
- Funding available

To propose a new feature or functionality or an improvement or change upon an existing one, first please check out that it is not already on the roadmap, or that it hasn't been discussed already. Try to be as clear as possible when making a new proposal and take into account the instructions provided on "The Process" section. **Thanks for contributing, your ideas and proposals are very valuable for this project.**

### 808 proposals

Recent Random Most endorsed Most commented Most followed With more authors

**Adding dropdown single select option to surveys**  
Open Source Politics | 2 | 3

**Make sure admins save their changes before leaving**  
Simonas Zilinskas | 0 | 4

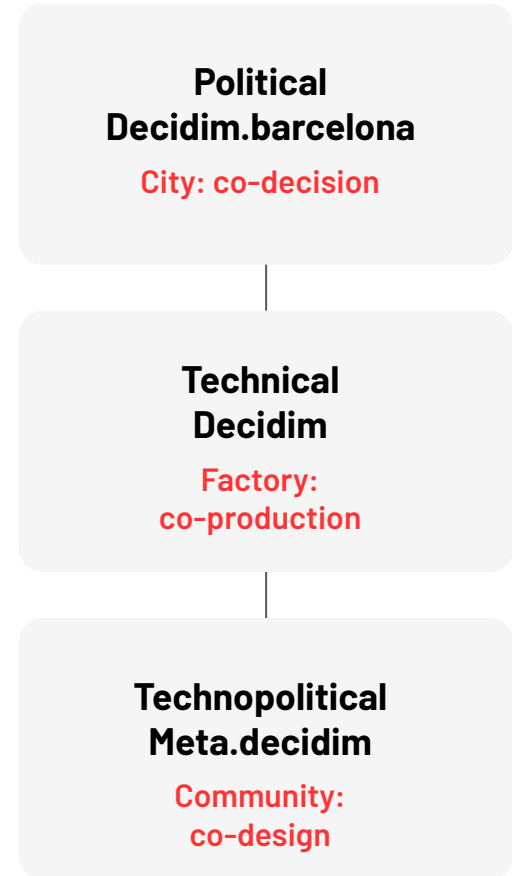
**Add webp format for images**  
CodiTramuntana | 0 | 3 | Finished

**Announce your Decidim Web App?**  
John Willson | 1 | 2

**Role for Translators which doesn't require full admin rights**  
Ruth Cheesley | 0 | 0



# 3 layers model of Decidim



# What makes Decidim unique?



# What makes Decidim unique?

1. **Participation model:** Open, flexible and replicable, a model to maximise citizen participation.
2. **Public-common code:** Building a FLOSS project from public sector
3. **Democratic governance:** Public-community governance of a digital common



# Participation model

The political layer: Open, flexible and replicable, a model to maximise citizen participation 🚀

- A standard for citizen participation adaptable to different local realities
- Core values defined in the code and the Social Contract
  - Transparency
  - Traceability
  - Integrity
  - Democratic Quality
- Decidim takes participation to the next level, allowing thousands of people to interact at the same time.



**+450**

**democratic organizations  
are using decidim today**

30 countries

240 cities and govern organizations

180 social organizations





2023



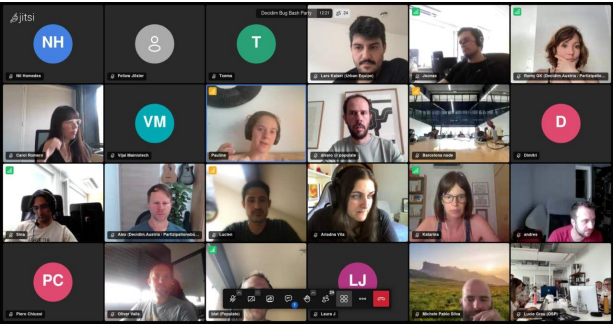
# Public-common code

The technical layer: Building a FLOSS community project from public sector 

- Open to contributions from the first day.
- The community can propose new features and participate in the roadmap definition.
- Building alliances with local partners to implement Decidim around the world.

*“What makes Decidim special is the community” (Simonas Zilinskas, OSP)*

# Community participation



# Translate Decidim

- **33** languages
- **320** project members
- **47,000** words translated


























Decidim (decidim)



## Decidim

Home Activity Discussions

Translations:

|  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <br>★ Catalan<br>99% · 99%      | <br>★ Spanish<br>99% · 99%         | <br>Arabic<br>93% · 0%     | <br>Basque<br>94% · 9%                | <br>Czech<br>99% · 0%                            |
| <br>Dutch<br>99% · 37%          | <br>Esperanto<br>1% · 0%           | <br>Finnish<br>100% · 100% | <br>Finnish (plain)<br>98% · 0%       | <br>French<br>98% · 96%                          |
| <br>Galician<br>94% · 0%        | <br>German<br>95% · 2%             | <br>Hungarian<br>99% · 76% | <br>Indonesian<br>94% · 0%            | <br>Italian<br>97% · 14%                         |
| <br>Norwegian<br>0% · 0%        | <br>Polish<br>94% · 0%             | <br>Portuguese<br>94% · 2% | <br>Portuguese, Brazilian<br>94% · 4% | <br>Russian with many plural form<br>52% · 40%   |
| <br>Spanish, Mexico<br>97% · 0% | <br>Spanish, Paraguay<br>97% · 38% | <br>Swedish<br>96% · 90%   | <br>Turkish<br>96% · 0%               | <br>Ukrainian with many plural form<br>52% · 40% |



### Description

Free Open-Source participatory democracy for cities and organizations  
<https://decidim.org>




### Share Project



### Details

Source language: English  
Project members: 116  
Words to translate: 23 042  
Created: 3 years ago  
Last activity: 1 day ago

### Managers

-  Decidim (decidim)  
[OWNER](#) [Contact](#)
-  Andrés Pereira de Lucena (andreslucena)  
[Contact](#)
-  arnaumonty  
[Contact](#)



2021



2022



2023



# Decidim Fest

23-25  
October  
2024  
Canòdrom  
Bcn



Ecology,  
Technology  
and  
Democracy:  
Disputing the future in  
a world in flames

↪  
Web: [meta.decidim.org](https://meta.decidim.org)  
#DecidimFest24



# Democratic governance



The technopolitical layer: Public-community governance of a digital common 🏔️

- The Decidim Association is the central actor of the project
- Barcelona City Council has ceded to the Decidim Association the management and maintenance of the source code.
- Unique example in the world of how to implement FLOSS as a public policy with a community governance.



Localret



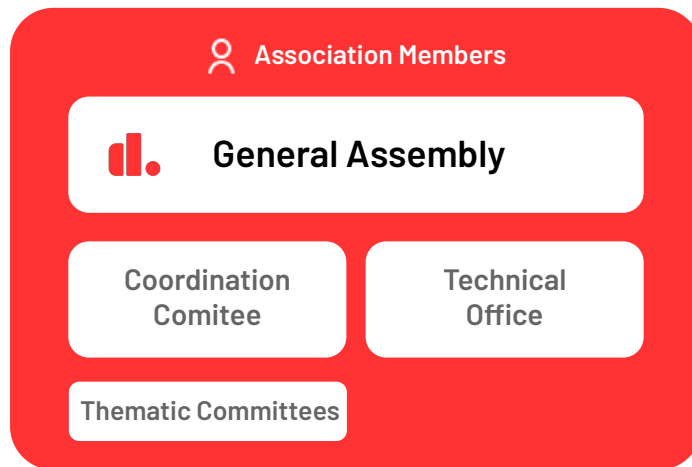
-  Association
-  Community








Localret



 Association

 Community





Association Members




**General Assembly**

Coordination  
Comitee

Technical  
Office

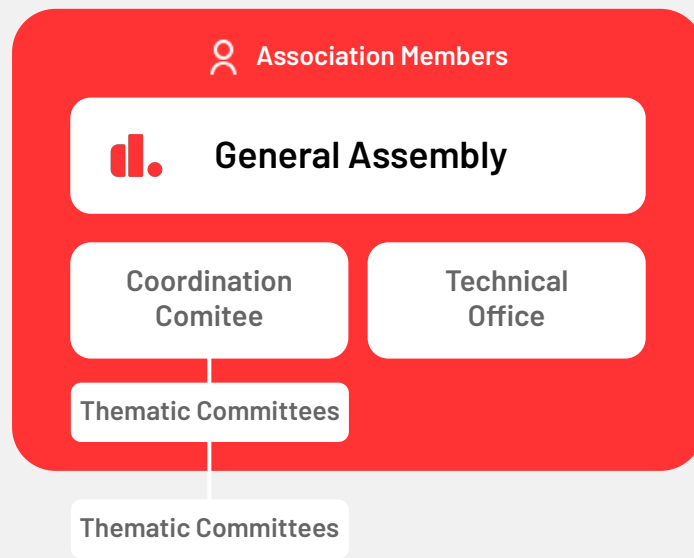
Thematic Committees

 Association

 Community



- Cooperatives
- Public Administrations
- Civil servants
- Developers
- Tech companies
- Hackers
- Organisations



- Local chapter
- Admins
- Universities
- Researchers
- Technical experts in participation
- Facilitation and consultant companies

- Association
- Community



# Decidim official partners

Service providers

PokeCode<sup>XC</sup>

octree

Colectic

PIPELINE  
TO POWER

CodeandoMéxico

OpenSourcePolitics  
l'expérience démocratique

mitgestalten  
Partizipationsbüro

Code for  
Japan

urb  
an equ  
ipe

DIGIDEM LAB

aLabs\*



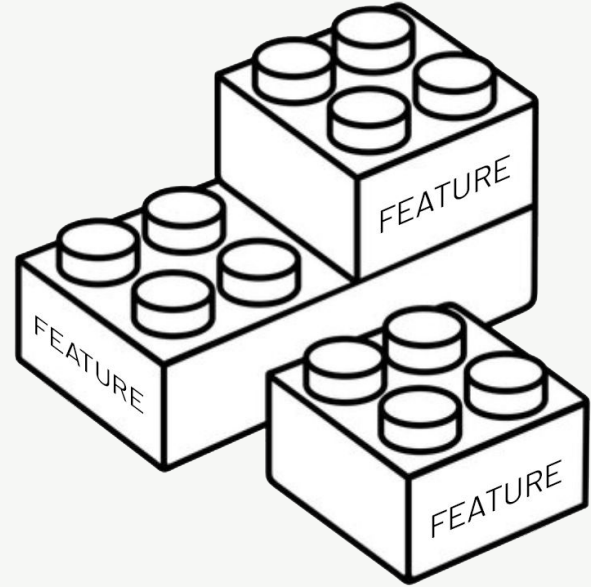
# Decidim

How it works?



# Decidim

How it works?



PARTICIPATORY SPACE



/How it works

# Participatory spaces

To articulate a participatory ecosystem

Processes

Assemblies

Initiatives

9 active processes



Participatory budgets 2024-2027

7 months left

Information from the beginning of the process



Urbanization of the squares of Freser Street

4 months left

Return

Pla Mobilitat Urbana  
2025 - 2030

Urban Mobility Plan 2025-2030

5 months left

Return - Evaluation



MPGM of the Teixonera

4 months left


Follow-up




/How it works


# Components


That can be combined into Spaces


 Pages

 Accountability

 Debates

 Budgets

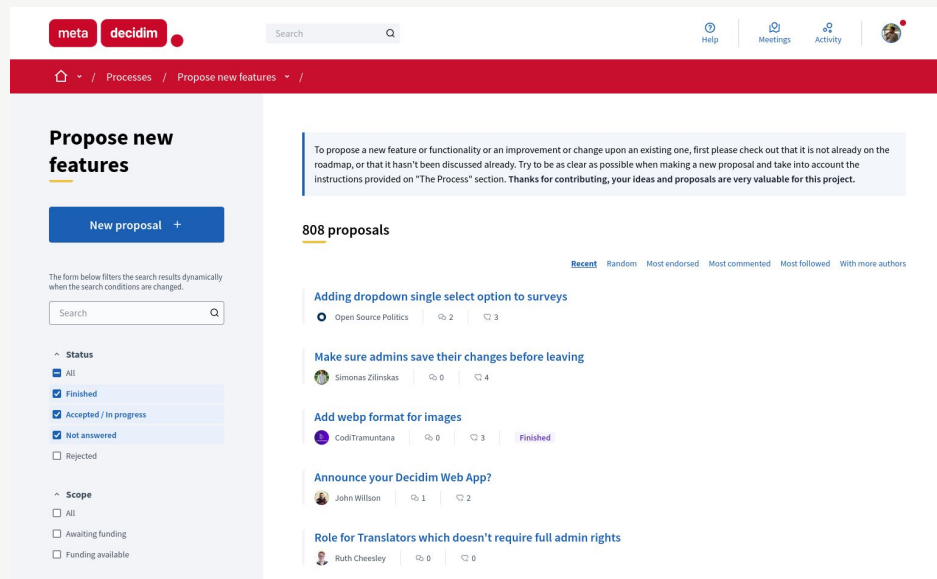
 Surveys

 Blog

 Meetings

 Sortitions

 Proposals



The screenshot shows the Decidim web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'meta' and 'decidim' logos, a search bar, and links for 'Help', 'Meetings', and 'Activity'. Below the navigation bar, a red header contains the breadcrumb 'Processes / Propose new features'. The main content area is titled 'Propose new features' and includes a 'New proposal +' button. A search bar is provided for filtering proposals. The 'Status' filter is expanded, showing options: 'All', 'Finished', 'Accepted / In progress', 'Not answered', and 'Rejected'. The 'Scope' filter is also expanded, showing options: 'All', 'Awaiting funding', and 'Funding available'. On the right side, there is a list of 808 proposals, with the first few visible: 'Adding dropdown single select option to surveys', 'Make sure admins save their changes before leaving', 'Add webp format for images', 'Announce your Decidim Web App?', and 'Role for Translators which doesn't require full admin rights'. Each proposal entry includes the author's name, a profile picture, and counts for comments and replies.





# Participatory spaces


Processes

Assemblies


Initiatives

COMPONENTS

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# Participatory spaces


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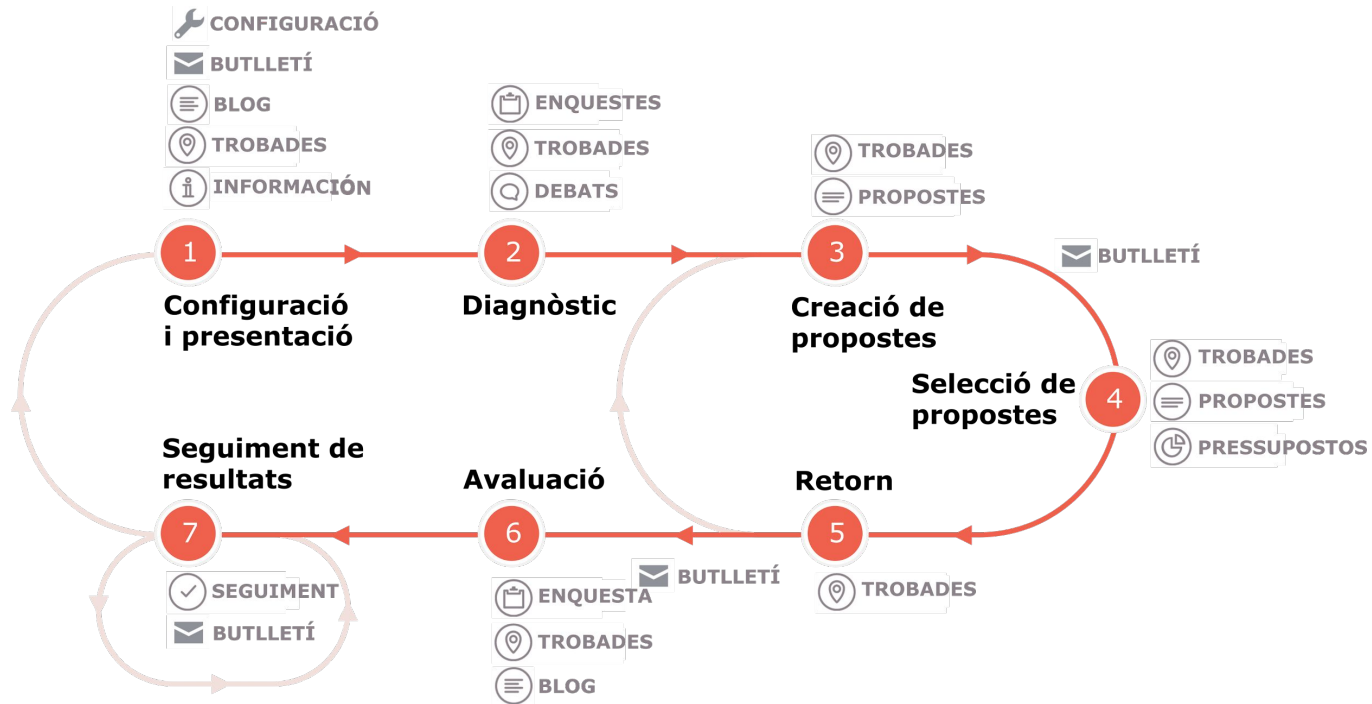
 Blog

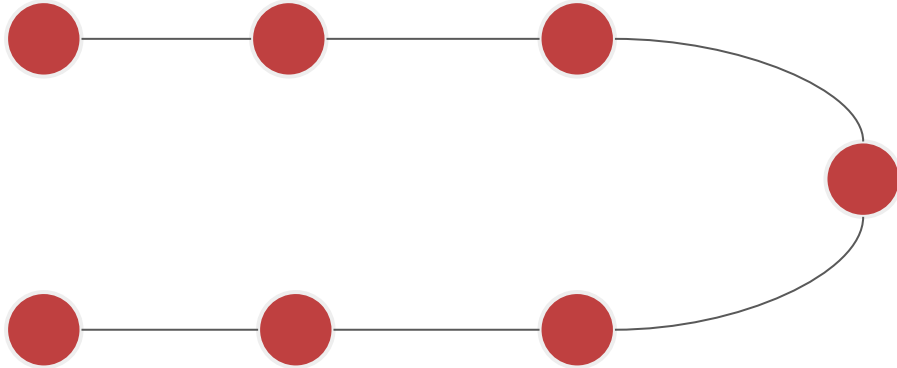
 Meetings

 Sortitions

 Proposals







# Decidim

In use



# Decidim

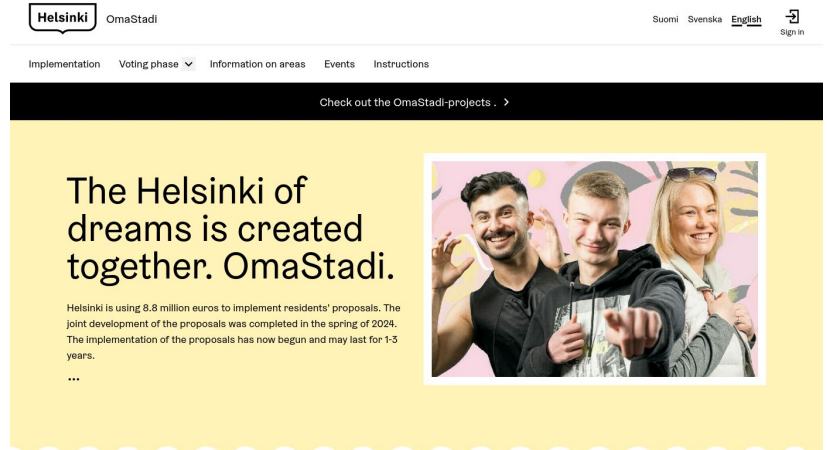
## In use

- Participatory process design
- Technology
  - Log-in strategy
  - Components in use
  - UX and UI



# Helsinki

## Participatory Budgeting



The screenshot shows the Helsinki OmaStadi website. At the top left is the Helsinki logo and 'OmaStadi'. On the top right are language options: Suomi, Svenska, English, and a sign-in icon. Below the navigation bar is a black banner with the text 'Check out the OmaStadi-projects . >'. The main content area has a yellow background with a wavy bottom edge. It features the headline 'The Helsinki of dreams is created together. OmaStadi.' followed by a paragraph: 'Helsinki is using 8.8 million euros to implement residents' proposals. The joint development of the proposals was completed in the spring of 2024. The implementation of the proposals has now begun and may last for 1-3 years.' Below the text is an image of three smiling people (two men and one woman) holding up small yellow objects. The text '...' is visible at the bottom of the main content area.

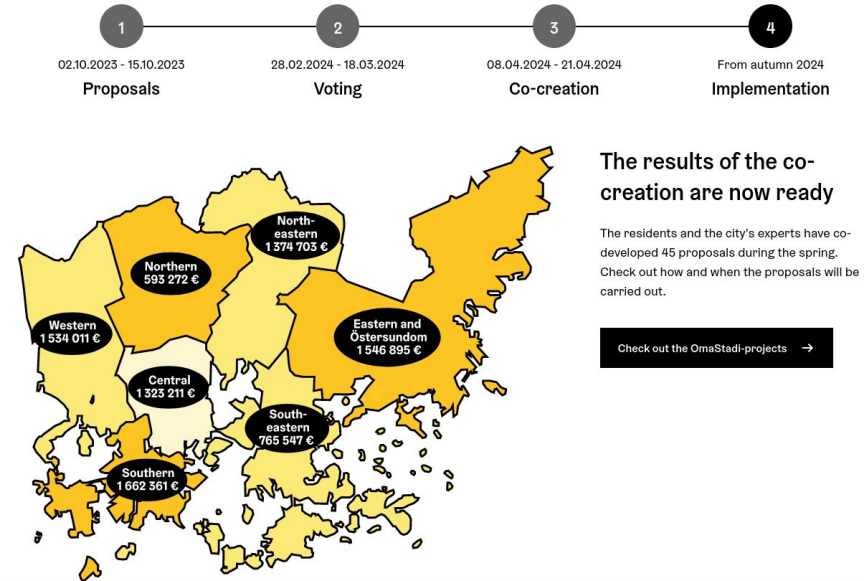




/Helsinki

## Participatory process design

- 4 phases
- 8.8M to implement residents' proposals
- Money divided by districts according number of residents
- Proposals creation:
  - Not exceed 50% of the total funds allocated to a district.
  - Minimum: €35,000.
- Voting: 5 proposals in only one district.
- Co-creation workshops after selecting the proposals.



/Helsinki

## Technology

### Log-in strategy

- Strong authentication to ensure that only those entitled to vote can do it.
- Online bank accounts or pupil accounts.

#### Sign in and verify your identity electronically

Sign in to omastadi.hel.fi with bank ID or mobile ID. Students at comprehensive school can sign in with their pupil's account.

Sign in with bank ID or mobile ID

Sign in with pupil's account

 e-identification

You are identifying yourself to the service

OmaStadi

Select identification method



Certificate card



Mobile certificate



OP Bank Group

Nordea

Nordea

Danske Bank

Danske Bank

Handelsbanken

Handelsbanken

ÅLANDSBANKEN

Ålandsbanken

S-PANKKI

S-pankki

Aktia

Aktia

POP Pankki

POP Pankki

Säästöpankki

Säästöpankki

omaOP

Oma Säästöpankki



Identification methods for foreigners

Common European identification methods and the Finnish Authenticator app.



/Helsinki

# Technology

Components in use

Surveys

Accountability

Proposals

Budgets

Blog

← [Show all proposals](#)

## Making the surroundings of the Herttoniemi metro station more pleasant



[Add to favourites](#) 

[Show proposal on map](#) 

[Show proposal comments](#) 

[Share proposal](#) 

### Information

Number (ID)

1792

Area

Southeastern Helsinki

Theme

Built environment

Budget

€150,000

Amount of votes

1972 pcs

Creation time

12.01.2024

Proposals may be refined by the city after the vote, for example in terms of location or method of implementation.

## Proposal

### Summary

Increasing the pleasantness of the surroundings of the Herttoniemi metro station. This could be done by adding more benches, flower plantings, trees and lights and by tidying up the area, etc.

### Proposal description


Lisätään Herttoniemen metroaseman ympäristön viihtyisyyttä. Ehdotuksia viihtyisyyden parantamiseksi: - Metroaseman ympäristö, myös K-supermarketin puolella, tarvitsee piristystä ja penkkejä bussipysäkkien lähelytyteen. Kun metroaseman remonttia on taas lykätty tulevaisuuteen, tarvitsee sen ympäristö piristystä. Nyt on niin ankea näköinen. Kukkaistutuksia voisi olla molemmilla puolilla metroaseman lähellä. Penkkejä tarvittaisiin varsinkin K-supermarketin puolelle ulos, koska nyt siellä ei ole busseja odottaville mitään tilaa. Tarvitaan katos, jossa olisi muutamia penkkejä. - Herttoniemen M asema on unohdettu kokonaan ja sen ympäristö on todella ruma. Asema itsessään on alkuperäinen joten olisi jo aika laittaa se kuntoon. Tärkeintä kuitenkin olisi saada ympäristö viihtyisäksi esimerkiksi istutuksien sekä valaistuksella. - Metroaseman ulkoalueiden ja kulkuväylien toimivuuden ja silisteyden edistäminen. - Penkkejä 81:n päätöspäiväksille. - Aikukusillan talvikunnostuksesta ja valistuksesta huolehtiminen. - Parannetaan kevyen liikenteen turvallisuutta puilla tai muilla istutuksilla




 Blog

 Meetings

 Proposals

 Budgets

 Surveys

 Accountability

1

02.10.2023 - 15.10.2023

Proposals

2

28.02.2024 - 18.03.2024

Voting

3

08.04.2024 - 21.04.2024

Co-creation

4

From autumn 2024

Implementation



/Helsinki

# Technology

UX and UI

- Customised menus and refined browsing
- Customization of the UI
- Careful design with illustrations
- Creation of a unified graphic style
- Communication campaign

[Home](#) > [Proposals](#) > [Suunnittelijankadulta alkavan rampin parantaminen kävelijöille](#)



## Thank you, Helsinki residents - come and celebrate the third round of OmaStadi!

The city wants to thank all those who participated in the third round of OmaStadi. That's why the Helsinki City Museum will be filled with music, encounters, and speeches of gratitude on Tuesday, June 11th from 4 pm to 6 pm - accompanied by mocktails and snacks.

10.05.2024  0



## OmaStadi äänestystuloksen tarkastuksessa yksi ehdotus lisää toteutukseen

OmaStadi äänestys on päätynyt ja yli 40 000 helsinkiläistä äänesti 45 hanketta toteutettavaksi eri ...

04.04.2024  0



## Become an OmaStadi volunteer!

OmaStadi is Helsinki's way of implementing participatory budgeting, where Helsinki spends 8.8 million euros to implement the suggestions of city residents. In this round, we are looking for OmaStadi volunteers. Volunteers would share information about OmaStadi and encourage residents to submit proposals and participate in voting. Any Helsinki resident who is interested in developing Helsinki together with other residents can act as an OmaStadi volunteer.

16.08.2023  0



## Unelmien Helsinki tehdään yhdessä. OmaStadi.

Milloin voimme toteuttaa unelmiamme? Mitä kallella? 8,8 miljoonalla eurolla? Tuo ehdotuksia 29.10.2023.



## Join Helsinki's participatory budgeting kick-off

How can I participate in the City of Helsinki's OmaStadi participatory budgeting process? What kinds of proposals to improve the city can be submitted? These kinds of questions and more will be answered at the OmaStadi 2023-2024 kick-off on Thursday, 24 August at 16.30-18.

11.08.2023  0



## More benches for the elderly - OmaStadi proposal from idea to implementation

In the OmaStadi vote in the autumn of 2021, new places to rest for the elderly and people with reduced mobility were hoped for. As a result of joint development, benches and lighting will be added to the outdoor recreation areas of Iso Huopalahti, Pääku Huopalahti, Talli and Munkinseutu.

09.08.2023  0



## Learning democracy at its best - a proposal to restore Tuhkimo playground becomes a reality

OmaStadi provides a smooth way to learn the skills of participation and empowerment.

15.02.2023  0



# Brasil

## Plan Plurianual Participativo

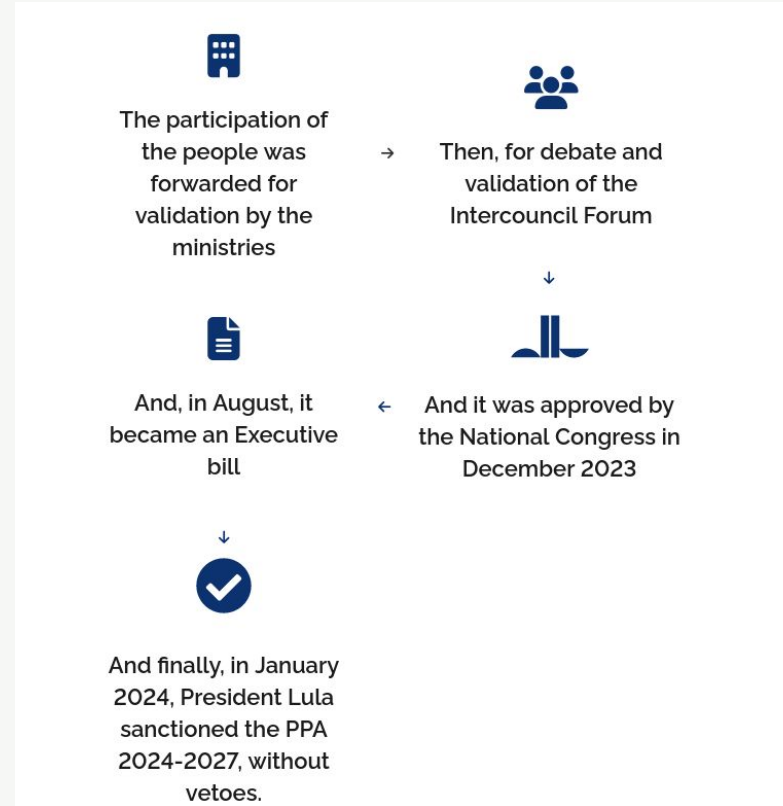
The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'Brasil Participativo' platform. At the top left is the 'gov.br' logo and the text 'Brasil Participativo'. On the top right, there are navigation icons and an 'Entrar' button. A search bar with the placeholder text 'O que você procura?' is also present. The main banner features the 'BRASIL PARTICIPATIVO' logo, the tagline 'A PLATAFORMA DE PARTICIPAÇÃO DIGITAL DO GOVERNO FEDERAL', and a 'Criar perfil' button. To the right of the text are six circular profile pictures of diverse individuals. Below the banner, the section 'Processos participativos' contains three white cards with icons and labels: 'Conferências' (with a group of people icon), 'Consultas Públicas' (with a group of people icon), and 'PPA' (with a speech bubble icon). The background of the banner and bottom section features a repeating pattern of small icons representing various digital and social concepts.

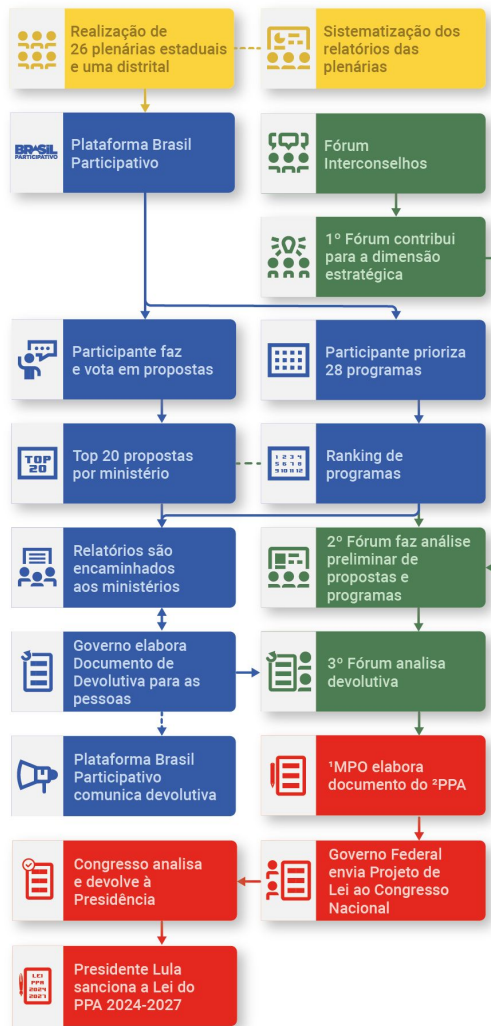


/Brasil

## Participatory process design

- Four years government plan
- Participatory strategic planning
- Collect of proposals
- Voting and prioritization
- PPA approval by President Lula







/Brasil

## Technology

Log-in strategy

- Strong authentication
- Online bank account
- Digital Certificate
- Not allowing sign-up only with e-mail

### Conecte-se

Acesse o Brasil Participativo com a sua conta no **gov.br**

Entrar com **gov.br**

Identify yourself in the gov.br with:


 Number of the CPF


Enter your CPF to **create** or **access** your govbr account

CPF

Continue

Other options for identification:

 Login with your bank YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE SILVER

 Login with QR code

 Your digital certificate

 Your digital cloud certificate

 Do you have doubts and need help?

[Terms of Use and Privacy Notice](#)

### Bancos Credenciados

Crie ou aumente o nível da sua conta para **PRATA**, fazendo login com seu banco.

 Banco do Brasil

 Itaú

 Caixa Econômica

 Bradesco

 Santander

 PicPay/Original

 Mais bancos

Cancelar



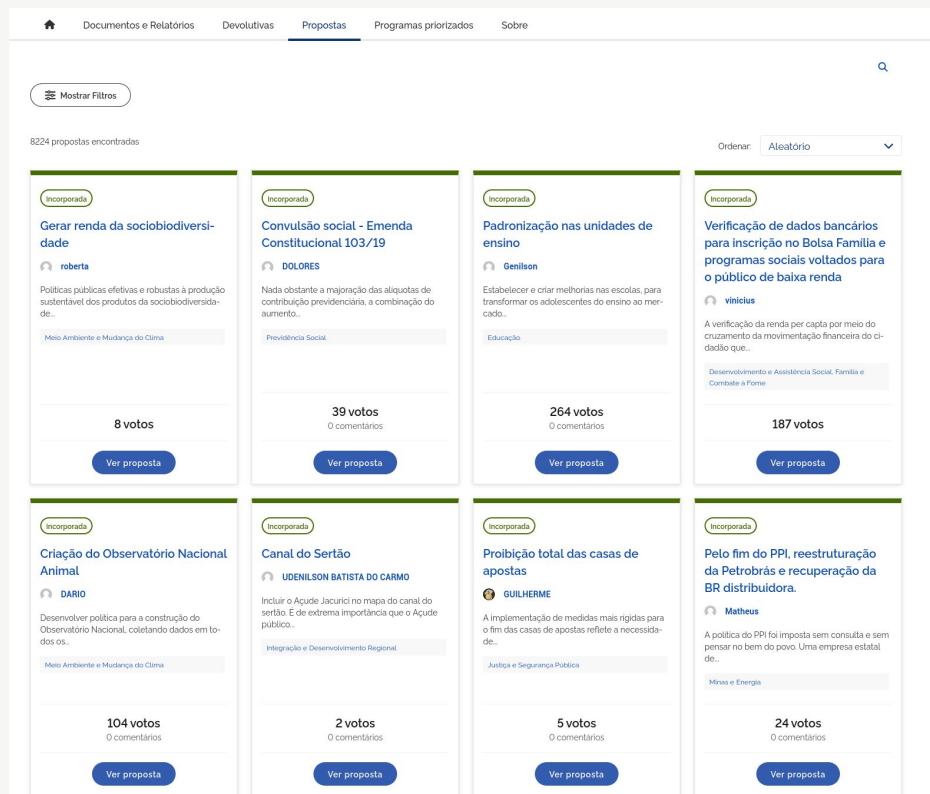
/Brasil

# Technology

Components in use

 Proposals

 Blog



The screenshot displays a web interface for a proposal system. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "Documentos e Relatórios", "Devolutivas", "Propostas" (highlighted), "Programas priorizados", and "Sobre". A search icon is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation bar, there is a "Mostrar Filtros" button and a status indicator "8224 propostas encontradas". A dropdown menu for "Ordenar" is set to "Aleatório". The main content area is a grid of eight proposal cards, each with a green header and a blue "Ver proposta" button. Each card includes a status label "Incorporada", a title, an author name, a brief description, a category, and a vote count.

| Proposta  | Autor                      | Votos |
|---|----------------------------|-------|
| Gerar renda da sociobiodiversidade  | roberta                    | 8     |
| Convulsão social - Emenda Constitucional 103/19   | DOLORES                    | 39    |
| Padronização nas unidades de ensino   | Genilson                   | 264   |
| Verificação de dados bancários para inscrição no Bolsa Família e programas sociais voltados para o público de baixa renda | vinicius                   | 187   |
| Criação do Observatório Nacional Animal   | DARIO                      | 104   |
| Canal do Sertão   | UDENILSON BATISTA DO CARMO | 2     |
| Proibição total das casas de apostas  | GUILHERME                  | 5     |
| Pelo fim do PPI, reestruturação da Petrobrás e recuperação da BR distribuidora.   | Matheus                    | 24    |



 Blog

 Proposals

 Proposals

1

Proposal collection

2

Prioritization

3

Intercouncilum forum  
and ministries

4

Approved by National  
Congress

5

PPA bill approval



/Brasil

# Technology

UX and UI

- Customization of the UI
- Accessibility features
- Mobile first approach
- Changes in the UI cards proposals
- Communication campaign involving influencers in social media

**PPA PARTICIPATIVO**  
**MEMÓRIA DO PROCESSO**  
ABRIL A AGOSTO DE 2023

| Proposal Title   | Official Proposal  | Category   | Vote Count  |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| Specialized Health Care  | Expand access to Specialized Health Care actions and services, according to needs...                 | Health   | 18786 votes |
| Democratic Basic Education, with quality and equity                            | Raise quality and promote equity in all stages and modalities of Basic Education, in...              | Education  | 9192 votes  |
| Right to Culture   | Consolidate culture and the arts as rights and vectors of human, social, and cultural development... | Culture  | 7489 votes  |
| Consolidation of the National Science, Technology and Innovation System - SNTI | Recover, expand, modernize, consolidate and integrate the National Science, Technology and...        | Science, Technology and Innovation                                 | 5705 votes  |
| Public Safety with Citizenship   | Strengthen the prevention and confrontation of violence and crime, promoting security...             | Justice and Public Safety  | 4283 votes  |
| Food and Nutrition Security and Fight Against Hunger                           | Promote the production, supply, access and consumption of adequate and healthy water and food...     | Development and Social Assistance, Family and Fight Against Hunger | 15161 votes |
| Higher Education: quality, democracy and sustainability                        | Expand access, retention and quality training in undergraduate and postgraduate studies, with...     | Education  | 6428 votes  |
| Neoindustrialization   | Expand innovation, productivity and competitiveness towards a green economy...                       | Development, Industry, Trade and Services                          | 3168 votes  |



# Decidim

Open Source Technology



## /Open Source Technology

- 2-3 new releases per year
- Security and accessibility audits
- New Re-Design of the UI
- Continuous improving

v0.29.0 Latest



### Security fixes

This release addresses two security issues:

- [CVE-2024-32034](#)
- [CVE-2024-45594](#)

One of these security issues ([CVE-2024-32034](#)) was already available in v0.27.7 and v0.28.2, so it will be published on September 16th 2024.

The other security issue ([CVE-2024-45594](#)) will be published on November 10th 2024, which is two months after the release date of this version. For more information, please refer to our [Security Policy](#).

### Upgrade notes

As usual, we recommend that you have a full backup, of the database, application code and static files.

To update, follow these steps:

#### 1.1. Update your ruby version

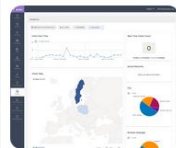
If you're using rbenv, this is done with the following commands:



## /Open Source Technology

- Easy to customize thanks to modular architecture.
- You can create your own module.
- Everybody can participate in the definition of the roadmap.

## Community



### Analytics

Enables tracking through Matomo and adds a tab in the admin panel showing one Matomo dashboard (or more) of your choice.

[More information](#)



### Budgets Enhanced

Enhanced Budget component . Allow assigning a color for each budgets category.

[More information](#)



### BudgetsPaperBallots

This module allows an admin to import paper ballots in a participatory budgeting vote. The import process can be repeated as many times as desired, or done at once. It isn't possible to edit a value that was wrongly imported, but it is possible to import a negative number of votes to apply a correction. The number of paper votes for each project can then be seen in the admin panel and the aggregated number of votes for each project (both paper and online) can be seen on the frontend. These values are also made available in the various data exports (from the admin panel, the open data and the API).

[More information](#)

## /Open Source Technology

### The magic of Open Source

1. Helsinki needs a customisation and decides to develop a module
2. Helsinki pays for the development of the module and publishes it.
3. The module is released under the same licence as Decidim and can therefore be reused by anyone.
4. Then, Barcelona sees the module and installs it because it meets a need.





# Decidim in the future

## Challenges and objectives

- Becoming a Digital Public Infrastructure for participation of worldwide reference.
- Improve installation process.
- Expanding use cases beyond governments.
- Road to version 1.0. (LTS version)



# Thanks!

More info at: [decidim.org](https://decidim.org)

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