

Collaborative policy making

This set of tools enables citizens to participate in the policy making process using collaborative online platforms.

D-CENT is currently running a series of pilots that are testing the technology and using them in real world settings.

WHO ARE THEY FOR?

These tools are aimed at democratic organisations that want to involve their members to make consistent and fair decisions or introduce new policy in order to achieve desired outcomes. They can be used to engage citizens in writing political manifestos, determining policy priorities, deciding about the allocation of municipal budget and actively participating in the political decision-making process. So far they have been tested by political parties, cities, local councils, members of Parliaments, community groups and grassroots organisations.

Objective 8

Objective 8 is a policy drafting tool that allows organisations to work with their members to produce transparent and crowd-sourced policies. Often a policy document is written by a single person or small team, and not shared until complete. Objective 8 has been designed to help organisations create policy in a more open, transparent and collaborative way. It allows a wider community to shape and inform policy drafts compared with the traditional method.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

The tool supports the idea of collaboratively producing policy by allowing members of a community to review, comment and annotate versions (drafts) of a policy. The feedback provided by the community is then made accessible to the policy writers so that it can be included in the next version of the draft.

Through the tool, users can gather community opinion, generate ideas, share, discuss, vote and collaborate with experts to draft the new policy. This could include specific policies, manifesto pages, election promises, etc.

FEATURES

- **Create policy ideas:** Users create a policy idea – called an ‘objective’ – that acts as an individual and shareable area of the site and is a hub for discussion, gathering opinions and discussing drafts of policy documents.
- **Ask questions and submit answers:** Questions can be attached to objectives in order to gather community feedback and consensus around a specific issue or point of discussion.

- **Comment on a policy:** Comments can be added on the objective page and on drafts of documents, allowing users to discuss the overall intent of a policy being produced as well as the content at the document level.
- **Share via social networks:** Each objective and question can be shared via Twitter, Facebook, Reddit and other social media in order to gather input and feedback from the community.

TECHNICAL SPECS

Objective 8 was built in Clojure, a JVM-based language. It uses a PostgreSQL database to store the data. It supports authentication through Facebook, Twitter and Stonecutter using the OpenID Connect specification.

FIND OUT MORE

You can find our more at: objective8.dcentproject.eu

Or find it on Github at: github.com/d-cent/objective8

Collaborative policy making

Consul

Consul is an e-government and e-participation digital platform software originally developed for the Madrid City government. Since it launched in September 2015, new features have been added and other cities have started to use the software to develop their own participatory digital platforms - including Barcelona.

The main principles on which the platform is based are: open participation, transparency, the combination of online and offline participation, and citizen empowerment. The platform helps to manage the complexity of participation, which is often a challenging task for councils. The platform brings government closer to the citizenry by opening up direct participatory channels for policy making.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

Consul allows citizens to be an active part of the city government by offering them different kinds of participatory mechanisms for direct democracy, deliberation and other collaborative political practices.

Consul allows users to launch collective debates, to propose and support proposals, to organise physical meetings, to run citizen surveys, to organise votes on how investment should be distributed, or to write laws in a collaborative way. In summary, a key value has been to integrate several functionalities into the same digital participatory platform.

FEATURES:

- **Start debates:** the platform provides an open space for sharing and discussing the things that matter to citizens.
- **Open proposals:** it allows citizens to submit proposals related to the kind of city that they want to live in.
- **Make collaborative decisions:** citizens can vote on whether to accept or reject the most supported proposals. If a proposal is accepted by the majority, the City Council accepts it as its own and makes it happen.
- **Participate in budgets:** it enables citizens vote to decide how to distribute investment across the city and the districts.

TECHNICAL SPECS

Consul is a free software, with licence AGPLv3, which means that anyone can use the code freely, copy it, see it in detail, modify it and redistribute it with the modifications.

FIND OUT MORE

decide.madrid.es

decidim.barcelona

github.com/consul/consul

[github.com/
AjuntamentdeBarcelona/
decidim.barcelona](https://github.com/AjuntamentdeBarcelona/decidim.barcelona)

Collaborative policy making Consul

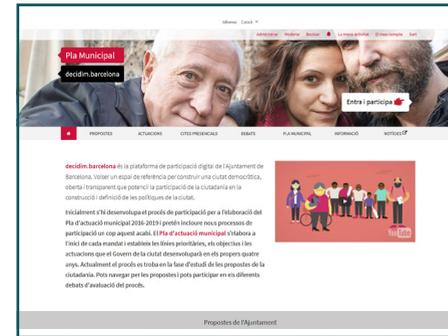
THE TOOL IN ACTION



DECIDE MADRID

decide.madrid.es

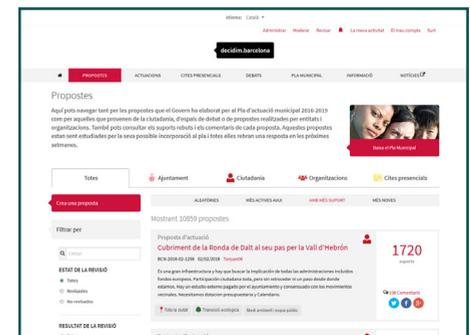
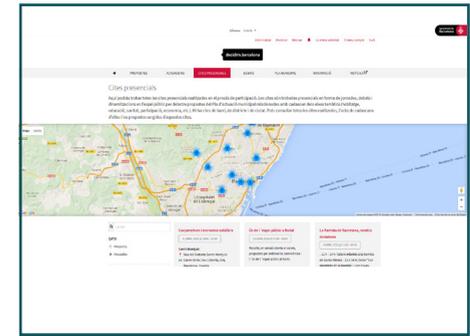
The Ahora Madrid coalition launched its Decide Madrid platform after the recent municipal elections in order to enable citizens to propose, debate, prioritise and implement policy for the city.



DECIDIM BARCELONA

decidim.barcelona

The City of Barcelona launched its participation platform in February 2016. The aim of the tool is to build a democratic, open and transparent government by enhancing citizen participation in the definition and development of policies. Since its launch, it has received 10,945 proposals and 18,680 comments from 24,000 registered users, and has facilitated 480 physical meetings for 10,800 attendees.



Collaborative policy making

Your Priorities

You can find out more at
yrpri.org

Or find it on GitHub at
[github.com/rbjarnason/
your-priorities-app](https://github.com/rbjarnason/your-priorities-app)

Your Priorities is a social network app designed specifically for citizens.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

It helps to connect citizens and government in order to give citizens more influence on policy and budgets while building up trust between citizens and government.

FEATURES:

- Allows citizens to submit and prioritise ideas.
- Ideas can be debated, with points awarded for and against and debate points prioritised.
- Includes a Facebook style newsfeeds for ideas, groups, communities and domains.
- Features activity streams and browser and email notifications.
- Google Maps and Google Streetview integration for ideas.
- Support for social media login and SAML for electronic IDs.

TECHNICAL SPECS

Open Standards used: Web Components, HTML, EcmaScript.

THE TOOL IN ACTION

Better Reykjavik

The city of Reykjavik has been using Your Priorities since 2010, both for getting citizens' voices heard at city council meetings and to gather and prioritise ideas for participatory budgeting.

Rahvakogu People's Assembly in Estonia

After political scandals in Estonia in 2012, grassroots organisations with official ties led a law reform project. Ideas were gathered through Your Priorities, which was installed and modified locally. Over 50,000 people took part and submitted over 2,000 proposals. The President of Estonia submitted the top 15 ideas to the Parliament, and seven of those have since become Estonian law.

Pirate Party 2015 Annual Meeting

The Icelandic Pirate Party, which holds five percent of seats in Parliament, used Your Priorities to communicate with its members to find out their most important common priorities.

