Decidim’s white paper

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Decidim’s White Paper?
Decidim: political and technopolitical networks for participatory democracy

Decidim’s project white paper
# Decidim: a brief overview

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2. Why Decidim?  
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   1.2.2. The rise of the network society, cognitive capitalism and knowledge commons  
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1. Decidim: a brief overview
decidim: a brief overview

We have been busy building Decidim, it is now time to explain it. The goal of this white paper is to explain in detail the nature of the Decidim project. The paper comes to fill a long lasting gap and outlines what the project is really about, why it is relevant, and how we (the Metadecidim community) have made it possible and developed it so far. It presents the Decidim platform, its features and design principles, but also other dimensions of the project, from the political to the technical. It also outlines the theoretical and political vision, as well as the practical and organizational work behind the project. This document also situates Decidim in a historical context defined by political struggle. Furthermore, it discusses some of the sociopolitical problems it tries to address and the possibilities it opens up looking forward. Authorship of this document entails not more, not less, than putting together, making explicit and elaborating a set of theoretical and practical principles and guidelines that have been developed by a multitude of participants in our community.

How to read this white paper and make it yours. Readers might be interested on different dimensions of the project and we encourage you to find the chapter or section that best matches your interests. The introduction however is worth reading for any of you. We start with a brief explanation of what is Decidim, a definition of the project, how the platform works, the social contract that binds the project together, a description of the community and ecosystem behind it, the model of democracy that it embodies and the three dimensions of the project: the political, the technopolitical and the technical. We next move into the context in which Decidim has been developed to explain why we thought it was necessary to initiate or join this project, why it is relevant today both in the context of a crisis of democracy as we knew it and the context of an increasing control of social digital infrastructures by a few corporations. The rest of the pa-
Enabling democracy

Decidim is a multi layered project, each layer enables the next producing a vertical integration of democratic processes.
ToC
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3.1 Architecture
Functional architecture for participation
3.2 Design principles

- No users but participants
- Not designed
- Technopolitical implications
- Design principles
  - Compositoinality
  - Relationality
  - Polymorphic follow
  - Multiplicity of actors
  - Vertical and horizontal communication
  - Multitenant and federation
- Social contract as design principle
3.3 Configuration
Processes
3.3 Configuration
Assemblies

1. Creation of a new proposal
   Any member of the organization can create a proposal, comment and support it.

2a. Proposal rejected
    The proposal is rejected by not getting sufficient supports to become accepted into the next meeting agenda.

2b. Proposal accepted
    The proposal is accepted to be discussed and decided upon during next meeting of the Assembly.

3. Accepted proposals imported
   Administrators import the proposals accepted for the meeting agenda.

4. Creation of new proposal
   Only available to members of the Assembly.

4a. Proposal is rejected
    Proposal is rejected by deliberation during the meeting or voting by members of the Assembly.

4b. Proposal is approved
    By decision made during the meeting or online support/voting by members of the Assembly.

5. Assembly members support/vote
   Assembly members support/vote for the proposals, amend them, etc.

6a. Proposal is rejected
    Proposal is rejected by deliberation during the meeting or voting/support by members of the Assembly.

6b. Proposal is approved
    By decision made during the meeting or online support/voting by members of the Assembly.

7. Result monitoring
   The approved proposal becomes a result whose execution is monitored.

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3.3 Configuration
Proposal flow

Potential life-cycle of a proposal

[Diagram showing the life-cycle of a proposal with stages such as Create collaborative draft, Endorse Comment Share, Accept collaborator, Publish, and decision points like Amend, Accept, Reject, Publish as amended, etc.]

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decidim.org

3.5 meta.decidim.org

- decidim.barcelona
- meta.decidim
- som.meta.decidim
- lab.meta.decidim

Other institutions

Decidim Team
Research, Development & Innovation Directorate for Participation, Transparency & Citizen Rights at Barcelona City Council
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4. The technical plane
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decidim docs
this is the documentation site for decidim.

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project and community

social contract
code for democratic guarantees and open collaboration.

functions and features

decidim’s white paper
decidim; political and technopolitical networks for participatory democracy [work-in-progress].

software manuals

software deploy and admin-
developers’ manual
overview

By reading this document you can learn:

- How documents for the Decidim project are written and stored.
- What software tools you need to collaboratively edit the documents and how to install them in your computer.
- How the documents are formatted to be presented in the documentation website.
- How the documentation website is assembled.
- How the documents are formatted to be rendered as a PDF file.
- How to contribute to the documentation.
- How to translate some document to a new language.
- How to clone (fork) any of the documents and start hosting your own version.

External collaborators

People that do not take part in the core team that develops Decidim are also encouraged to contribute to any of the documents. Users, administrators, advocates, all are welcome.

See section External collaborators to know how to contribute.
4.3 Legal framework
4.3 Legal framework

- Social contract
- Institutional agreements
- Public procurement
- Regulations for participatory democracy
- Internal regulation Decidim Association
- ...

decidim.org
4.4 Lab

Cross-cutting resources

A. Knowledge
B. Human team
C. Technology
D. Legal support
E. Funding

Dimensions

1. Co-decision
2. Co-design
3. Co-production

LAB MATRIX

PROJECTS

INFRASTRUCTURE
TAULA TRAPEZI
White paper
Needs you!
https://docs.decidim.org/whitepaper/en/decidim-a-brief-overview/
We have been busy building Decidium, it is now time to explain it:

The goal of this white paper is to present a document that expresses the principles, vision, technical details and insights of a project with the goal of explaining, detailing, and contextualizing its value, to help others understand, join, and support the project. It is to explain in detail the nature of the Decidium project. The paper comes to fill a long-standing gap and outlines what the project is really about, why it is relevant, and how we (the Metadecide community) have made it possible and developed it so far. It presents the Decidium platform, its features and design principles, and other dimensions of the project. From the technical to the technical. It also outlines the theoretical and political vision, as well as the practical and organizational work behind the project. This document also situates Decidium in a historical context defined by political struggle. Furthermore, it discusses some of the sociopolitical problems it tries to address and the possibilities it opens up looking forward. Authorship of this document entails not more, not less, than putting together, making explicit and elaborating a set of theoretical and practical principles and guidelines that have been developed by a multitude of participants in our community.

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thanks!

https://decidim.org

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