

DIGIDEM LAB

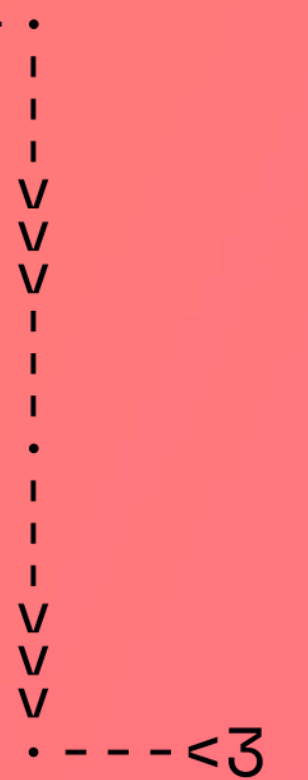
**10 YRS!
2026**

Digidem Lab

DEEP DIVE , 12 August 2026

Democracy needs us: Global challenges, collective action now

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Our porpuse (reason for being)

Digidem Lab works to bridge the gap between citizens and decision-making by designing democratic processes and digital tools that make participation more meaningful, inclusive, and legitimate

Our Impact

The impact is stronger and more resilient democratic societies.

Digidem Lab is an independent democracy lab for participatory democracy. We study, test, and offer internationally tested methods and tools for citizen participation.



Our tools

Assemblies &
Participatory
budgets



Trainings
Democracy
Fitness etc



Consulting



Open Source IT

Decidim, Collective Tools



Research

Q1. From Participation to Power

- > Many organisations successfully engage citizens, but far fewer actually shift decision-making power. What distinguishes meaningful participatory democracy from consultation, and what conditions need to exist for participation to genuinely influence policy?

1. Clear mandate and connection 2. to decision-making

Participants need to know what they can influence, how their input will be used, and who is accountable for responding. Participation must be formally connected to political or organisational decision-making.

2. Real influence, not just a voice

Meaningful participation starts when citizens can influence priorities, shape proposals and affect final decisions — not simply comment on decisions already designed by institutions.

3. Inclusive, informed and transparent processes

Genuine influence requires diverse participation, equal opportunities to contribute, access to relevant knowledge, and transparent feedback showing what changed, what did not, and why.

Q2. Technology with democratic values

- As AI and digital technologies become embedded in public participation, how can we ensure they strengthen inclusion, transparency, and trust rather than reinforcing existing inequalities or concentrating power?

1. Democracy by design

Technology should serve democratic goals — not define them. Digital and AI tools must be designed around inclusion, accessibility, transparency and meaningful human participation. This not the purpose of Big Tech. Or the algorithms in SoMe.

2. Keep humans accountable – human in the loop

AI can support analysis, translation and participation at scale, but **decisions must remain explainable and accountable to people**. Citizens should know when and how AI is being used and who is responsible. This is not true during war.

3. Build public digital power

Avoid dependence on a few commercial platforms and proprietary algorithms. Invest in open-source solutions, digital literacy and public/civic capacity so communities and institutions retain control over their data and democratic infrastructure. E.g. who owns the infrastructure the public sector is dependent on? The more people use AI the wider the gap becomes (both wealth and dependencies).

Q3. Scaling democratic innovation

- You've worked with municipalities, civil society organisations, and international partners. What have you learned about scaling participatory democracy? Is the biggest challenge technology, political culture, institutional capacity, or something else entirely?

1. Technology is rarely the main barrier

The tools already exist. The bigger challenge is **political will and institutional culture** — whether decision-makers are genuinely prepared to share influence and integrate participation into how decisions are made.

2. Build capacity, not just projects

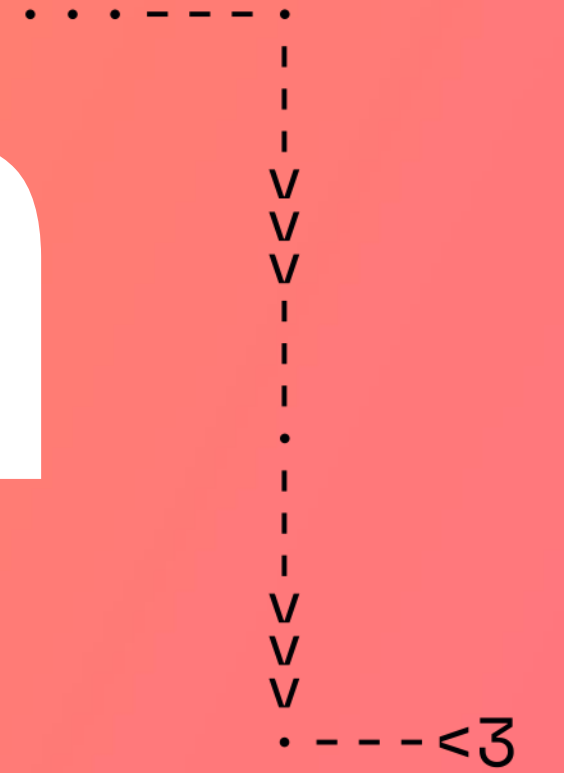
Scaling requires skills, resources, clear mandates and long-term ownership inside institutions. Participatory democracy needs to become part of everyday governance rather than a series of isolated pilot projects.

3. Scale principles, adapt the methods

There is no universal model. Successful approaches share core principles — **inclusiveness, transparency, deliberation, and real influence** — but methods must be adapted to local contexts, institutions and communities. Democracy is the core, not an option.

DIGIDEM LAB

Call to Action





Mail

Email integrated with Office



Messages

Encrypted messaging for teams



Office

Files, calendars, and contacts in one place



Notes

Notes for everyone



Meet

Video meetings made simple



All tools

Explore all our tools

We help you stay in control of your digital life. Launching soon.

See pricing

collective.tools

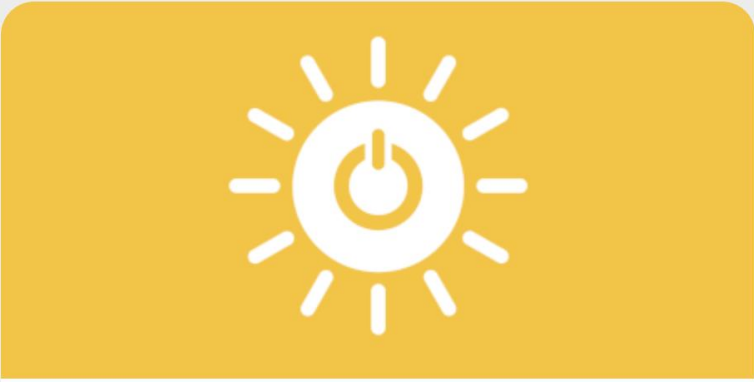
Tools

Solutions

Public Sector

Pricing

Contribute to the Digital Agenda for Sustainable Development



Sustainable energy for all

Our servers run on renewable energy in Europe. We use services without excessive data collection or unnecessary AI use.



Resilient infrastructure and innovation

A sovereign digital infrastructure, independent of any single provider or non-European actors. Open source means it can be audited, improved, and built upon.



Sustainable cities with participatory planning

With tools for citizen dialogue, residents can help shape their municipality. Participation is built into the digital infrastructure.

Collective Tools' new services are launching in August! [Sign up for early access.](#)

collective.tools

Tools

Solutions

Public Sector

Pricing

Resources

Tools for *non-profits*

Digital tools for your organisation. Easy to get started with, easy to manage.



DIGIDEM LAB

**Want to make participation more
inclusive, legitimate, and effective?**

Talk to Digidem Lab.

ali@digidemlab.org

+46 703 10 33 04

