

Decidim Helsinki: Collaborative software innovation for participatory budgeting

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Platform & Community

[Decidim](#) is an open source participatory democracy platform used by dozens of cities across Europe. The development is lead by the city of Barcelona.

International Metadecidim community develops the platform, making use of crowd-based software development methods.

The community consists of diverse stakeholders from different countries: entrepreneurs, public servants and individual citizens from Finland, Spain, France etc.

Ideation, co-ordination and decision making takes place mostly on the online collaborative innovation platform but there are also physical events, e.g. DecidimFest

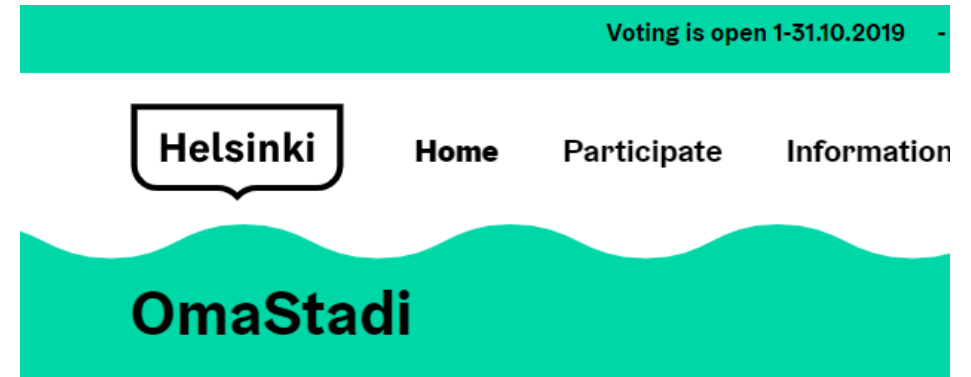


Decidim at Helsinki

Helsinki piloted Decidim with youth budgeting in 2017-2018 and deployed it for the city wide participatory budgeting in 2018-2019 (omastadi.hel.fi).

Due to its flexibility, Decidim has also been used to various smaller participative experiments, e.g. to implement the mayor's idea competition

Decidim Helsinki is an active member of the Metadecidim community, e.g. we continuously submit feature suggestions and make bug fixes. We have also developed seven new Decidim modules.



Participatory budgeting makes your ideas and voice heard

OmaStadi – Helsinki's participatory budgeting



Learning Experience

City was most familiar with two approaches to open source development: using somebody's else source code OR publishing own code under an open source license (inbound or outbound innovation).

Decidim development is different from these two because there is genuine collaboration and co-development (coupled innovation).

Some lessons learned:

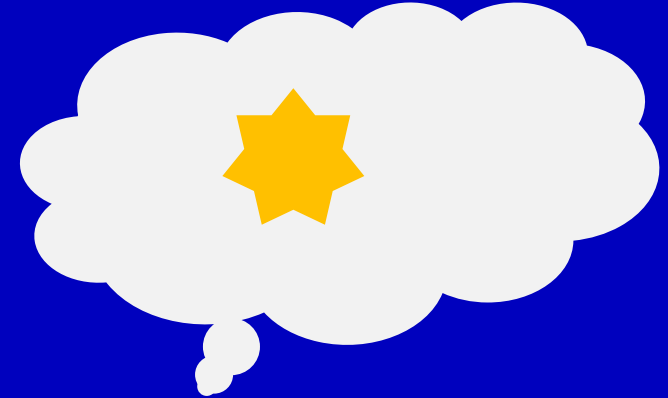
- Collaborative open source development needs investments in time and resources.
- Collective decision-making is time consuming, but definitely worth it. 😊
- Modular software architecture is important. Decidim is also an ecosystem.



More information

International Decidim:

- info: <http://www.decidim.org>
- community: <http://metadecidim.decidim.org>
- source code: <https://github.com/decidim/decidim>



Decidim Helsinki:

- info: <http://dev.hel.fi/projects/decidim-helsinki>
- source code: <https://github.com/City-of-Helsinki/decidim-helsinki>
- contact: Katja Henttonen, katja.m.henttonen@hel.fi