

DeCiDE Project

Project Name: *"Boost Democratic Participation in Cities to Recharge Democracy in Europe" (DeCiDE)*

Implementing Organisations: *Global Parliament of Mayors and Human Rights Cities Network*

Duration: *2 Years - Starting October 2024*

Project Summary

The Global Parliament of Mayors (GPM) and the Human Rights Cities Network (HRCN) invite cities to embark on the "Boost democratic participation in cities to recharge democracy in Europe" (DeCiDE) project. This EU funded project aims to strengthen local democracy and to reinforce citizens' rights in the delivery of public policies.

The DeCiDE project envisages the development of a monitoring system for human rights in cities, in respect of each city's political priorities and challenges. This unique system foresees the co-production, between local administration and civil society representatives, of a set of indicators and monitoring tools integrating people and their rights at the center of the public policies and practices. With this, local authorities will enhance a human rights-based approach in their public services and will be able to regularly assess the impact of their work on people's life through a democratic and inclusive approach.

Scope

The project will involve **10 pilot cities** from 10 European cities selected based on criteria related to geographical balance, size of the city, its diversity, and the level of commitment to human rights. The main participants in the project will be representatives of the local administration and local civil society.

Objective

The overall objective of the project is to **enhance urban democracy** and **human rights practices** in European cities, through community participation in human rights monitoring and knowledge sharing between cities' networks.

The aim is to enhance urban equality, diversity and democratic participation. By doing so, participating cities will also become part of a wider network promoting human rights and democracy. While fostering **solutions to make human rights a reality in cities based on expertise and exchanges among peers**, the DeCiDE project will also reinforce the development of the human rights cities' movement at the local, regional and global level.

The project will contribute to achieving the following Specific Objectives (SO) at the outcome level:

1. Support ten European cities to **improve monitoring capacities** of public service delivery with a participatory, inclusive and human rights-based approach;
2. **Strengthen** cities and local civil society's **capacity to guarantee democratic participation** and **access to human rights** through enhanced consultation mechanisms with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the design of public services;
3. **Improve knowledge of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** through capacity building and exchange of experience to translate it into practices at local level, promoting solidarity among citizens and engaging transnational city networks in policy dialogue.

Main Activities

The first year of the project will mainly focus on the training and the co-design of the monitoring system, with the support of a senior monitoring expert. During the second year, participating cities will implement the monitoring system while taking part in a wider capacity-building programme run by academics affiliated with the project. Regular exchanges of good practices and sharing of experience among participants will strengthen the network of cities.

While **most of the project activities will be online** to ensure costs and time efficiency for participating cities, key high level events in person will ensure bonding ties among participants. The costs for the in-person activities will be partially covered by the project. The project includes the following main activities:

- Official **launch of the project (in-person)**, November 2024);
- **Developing of a participatory and inclusive methodology** for the monitoring system (**online**, first year);
- **Training on a participatory and inclusive monitoring system (in-person)**, first quarter of 2025);
- **Implementation** of a participatory and inclusive monitoring system (**online**, between the first and the second year);
- **Standardisation and exchange of good practices** on a participatory and inclusive monitoring system (**online**, second year);

- **Consultations with civil society** on the shaping, implementation and evaluation of public policies (**online**, second year);
- **Raising awareness about the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (online**, throughout the project);
- **High level policy dialogue** and consultation meetings with citizens, EU institutions and policy makers (**in-person**, second year);
- **High level panel discussion raising awareness about the monitoring system (in-person**, second year).

The in-person activities in which cities are expected to participate are the exchange of good practices and the high level policy dialogue, both taking place in the second year of the project.

Contact Information

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