



Webinar

## AI & Local Democracy – What Are We Talking About?

Friday, 21 March 2025  
16:00-17:30 (CET)

online  
interpretation available  
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[English](#) - [Español](#) - [Português](#) - [Français](#) - [Italiano](#)

### English

#### [AI & Local Democracy – What Are We Talking About?](#)

#### [How Can Participatory Democracy Meet the Challenge\(s\) of Artificial Intelligence?](#)

### Español

#### [IA y democracia local - ¿De qué estamos hablando?](#)

#### [¿Cómo puede la democracia participativa hacer frente a los retos de la inteligencia artificial?](#)

### Português

#### [IA e democracia local - De que estamos falando?](#)

#### [Como é que a democracia participativa pode enfrentar o\(s\) desafio\(s\) da inteligência artificial?](#)

### Français

#### [IA et démocratie locale - De quoi parlons-nous ?](#)

#### [Comment la démocratie participative peut-elle relever le\(s\) défi\(s\) de l'intelligence artificielle ?](#)

## Italiano

### [AI e democrazia locale - Di cosa stiamo parlando?](#)

### [Come può la democrazia partecipativa affrontare le sfide dell'intelligenza artificiale?](#)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming governance, reshaping decision-making processes, and redefining the way citizens engage with democracy. While AI holds immense potential to enhance participation, accessibility, and efficiency in governance, it also poses significant risks, including biases, transparency challenges, and external political and financial constraints on local authorities.

This webinar, organized by the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) and its partners, will explore the intersection of AI, participatory democracy, and human and environmental rights. As digital governance becomes a reality, we must ensure AI strengthens democracy rather than undermines it.

Why You Should Attend?

#### Key Speakers

- UCLG Secretariat
- SALAR / SKR
- Michelangelo Secchi, Eudema.net Digital Sustainable Transitions
- Flavia Marzano, Expert of AI in the Task force for Open Government of OGP-Italy
- Gerardo de Luzenberger - Global Chair of International Association of Facilitators (IAF)
- Cesare Ottolini, Global coordinator of the International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI)

This interactive discussion will bring together experts, local authorities, technologists, and civil society representatives to:

- Examine how AI can support decision-making and public services while engaging citizens.
- Identify risks such as algorithmic bias, misinformation, and the exclusion of marginalized communities.
- Highlight best practices for ensuring AI-driven governance aligns with democratic values.
- Lay the groundwork for a shared platform of institutions, organizations, and academics dedicated to democratic AI governance.

As we navigate the digital age, it is crucial to ensure AI is aligned with democratic principles. We invite local authorities, policymakers, social organizations, academics, and all interested stakeholders to join us in this vital discussion. Your participation will contribute to shaping a future where AI serves people, strengthens democracy, and safeguards human and environmental rights.

- [Click here to see the full concept note](#)

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation!

- [Register now](#) and help us build a democratic AI future.

## **Organizers and supporters**

International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR), International Alliance of Inhabitants (IAI); PHOENIX Project/CES - University of Coimbra; International Association of Facilitators (IAF).

## **Resources:**

[23rd OIDP Conference in Valongo “Authoritarian Threats: Building Democratic Resilience through Participatory Communities.](#)

[ALDA Europe \(2024\), “Local Democracy in the Digital Age: towards unexploited opportunities and future challenges.”](#)

[Bloomberg Cities Network \(2024\), “Strategies for spreading AI throughout local government.”](#)

[Verhulst, Stefaan G. and Claudia Chwalisz \(2025\), “The case for local and regional public engagement in governing artificial intelligence”, DemocracyNext, The GovLab, and The Data Tank.](#)

[Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions \(SALAR\), International Alliance of Inhabitants \(IAI\), Phoenix Project - Center for Social Studies at the University of Coimbra \(CES\). 23rd OIDP Conference in Valongo, \(2024\). “The new frontier of alliances for the Right to the City. Participatory Democracy Challenging Artificial Intelligence.”](#)