



DemocracyOS France
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Endorsement letter from DemocracyOS France

Promoting open source methodology and platforms in civil society participation is our core ambition at DemocracyOS France. We are glad to share this objective with the City of Paris. If public institutions and long-time elected representatives might sometimes be reluctant to adopt open government principles, the Council of Paris and the high-level civil servants it relies on are an example of a modern policy-making team which understands and promotes the development of civic technologies and bottom-up participation in the process of shaping renewed and better public policies.

Doubtlessly, the creation of a participatory budget shortly after the 2014 election has been a major success. The process has improved year after year, starting from the selection of priorities in a range of already-planned projects to a year-long program in which citizens and district committees propose, choose and develop urban investments by themselves. With 100 millions euros to spend this year, the Parisian participatory budget is one of the world's most ambitious initiatives of its kind.

By developing a French version of the Argentinian-based open source software DemocracyOS, we aim at helping a younger audience to join the discussion. As an emerging organization dedicated to the online participation of civil society, we are proud and thrilled to share thoughts and take part in several projects the Council of Paris is launching this year. Annual reporting sessions by the Mayor, her team and administration are going digital. "The Night of Debates", a new event that will take place for the first time in April 2016, invites citizens from all backgrounds and areas to host or join gatherings and talks on the issues they want to deal with. In a network of architects, designers and entrepreneurs, we are also starting to imagine innovative ways to involve civil society both online and on the field during the OGP conference that France will host at the end of the year.

Cradle of the French Revolution, Paris has played a singular role in the history of democracy. After the dark times it had faced last year, the "City of Light" has chosen progress and openness. Selecting Paris as a member of OGP's new pilot program for subnational governments would not only be a way to honour its inheritance and values, but also a great support to its projects and good practices.

On behalf of DemocracyOS France,

Valentin Chaput & Virgile Deville

Two handwritten signatures in blue ink are positioned below the names. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right, both appearing to be cursive and somewhat stylized.