

## Local-level citizen consultations

### Democracy without mediation

**Fabra i Coats**  
**Democratic Innovation Laboratory**  
**Monday, 18 June**  
**9.30 am-2.45 pm**

Citizen consultations are direct-democracy channels found in many of the world's cities and which are part of the normal democratic framework. That does not mean, however, that they are free of conflict when they are held.

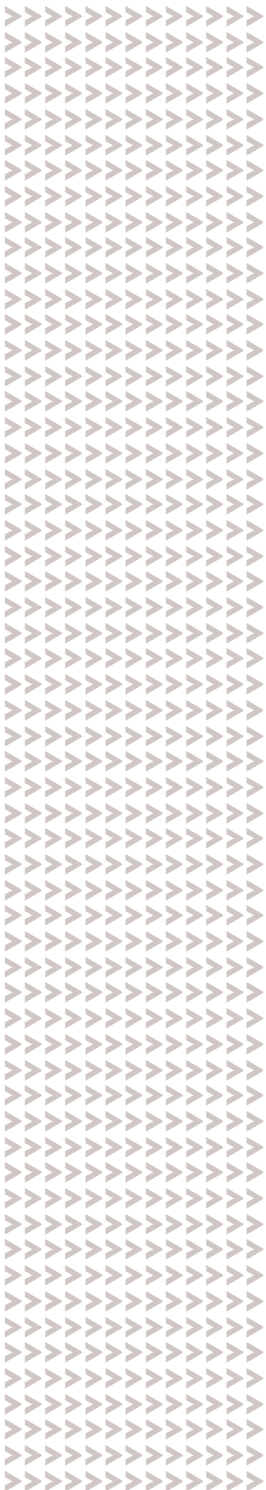
A workshop entitled "Local-level citizen consultations. Democracy without mediation" **will include international experiences from various cities that have carried out local-level citizen consultations.**

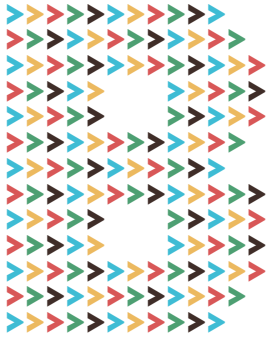
The functioning of the democratic system, particularly the system of representation, has recently been questioned in Catalonia and the Spanish State, as has the need for expanding democracy through other, more direct channels, without mediation. Do we have, however, a sufficiently mature democracy that respects popular sovereignty?

**Are we talking about a full democratic system without direct-democracy mechanisms?**

It is in these workshops, based on experiences from local governments and citizen initiatives with the cities **San Francisco, Krakow, Cajamarca, Rome, Olesa de Montserrat, Grenoble, Berlin, Madrid and Barcelona**, that we will be sharing what happens when power is directly exercised by citizens. What roles do citizens, governments and pressure groups adopt? How do the various political and economic players intervene here?

And that is because citizen participation, when it goes to the heart of political decisions, implies a (re)distribution of power and consequently involves conflict, given that it arises from existing urban conflicts.





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### The workshop's programme

- 9.30 am** Accreditations
- 9.45 am** Presentation of the day by **Fernando Pindado**, Commissioner for Participation and Active Democracy.
- 10 am** Opening talk entitled "Direct Democracy - Promises and Challenges" by **Céline Colombo**. Political scientist and researcher, University of Zurich.
- 10.45 am** Pause
- 11.10 am** The first table, moderated by the journalist **Ramon Suñé** from the newspaper La Vanguardia, will explain the experiences of consultations launched by the local governments of several cities:
- San Francisco**, with **John Avalos**, a former city councillor
  - Grenoble**, with **Pierre-Loic Chambon**, director of the area of local democracy
  - Olesa de Montserrat**, with **Pilar Puimedon**, the Mayor of Olesa de Montserrat
  - Madrid**, with **Pablo Soto**, the City Councillor for Citizen Participation, Transparency and Open Government
  - Barcelona**, with **Gala Pin**, the City Councillor for Participation and Districts.
- 1 pm** The workshop's second table will be moderated by **Jaume Asens**, the Third Deputy Mayor at Barcelona City Council, with people taking part from around the world who have launched consultations through citizen initiatives. The table will be made up of the following cities:
- Krakow**, with **Alicja Beryt**, a member of Krakow Against Olympics / The Common City, and Deputy Chair of the Ogniw cooperative.
  - Cajamarca**, with **Renzo García**, a biologist and joint founder of the Environmental Committee in Defence of Life and the Network of Environmental Committees of Tolima, Colombia.
  - Barcelona**, with **Quim Pérez**, an activist from Ecologists in Action and the Water is Life platform.
  - Berlin**, with Ulrike Hamann
- 2.30 pm** Workshop is formally closed by Jaume Asens and Gala Pin

