

Building Sustainability: A Case Study in Funding Diversification for Decidim

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FOSDEM

Structure

1. Introduction to Decidim
2. The origin: Why we develop a Sustainability Plan
3. Developing a Sustainability Plan
4. Key aspects of our Sustainability Plan
5. How is it going
6. Learnings and challenges



Decidim is a digital platform for citizen participation

Free/libre, open and safe technology.
With all democratic guarantees.
Reprogramming democracy is now possible with Decidim.



+450

democratic organizations
are using decidim today

30 countries
240 cities and govern organizations
180 social organizations

The origin

A funding crisis that nearly jeopardized the project

- 2019: Creation of the Decidim Association
- 2022:
 - Two contracted workers paid
 - Two public grants (€50k each one)

And then...

- Barcelona City Council does not pay us a grant that was due to us.
- That gives us a negative balance of 50k.



We realized that...
we should diversify our income sources.



Developing a Sustainability Plan

Main goals

- Explore sustainability strategies that make us **resilient** by having different income avenues
- Define an Action Plan for a 5 year span
- Prepare projects and programs to be ready to apply for new funding opportunities
- Knowledge on how the funding world works

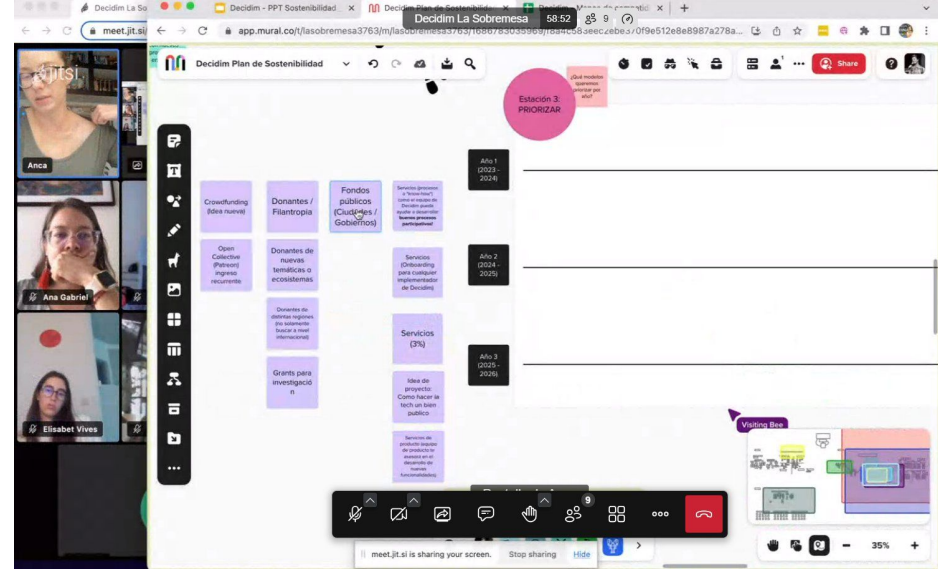
Acompañamiento en el Plan de sostenibilidad y desarrollo de alianzas estratégicas de Decidim

Diseñado por La Sobremesa, Marzo 2023



5 workshops

- Workshop #1: Internal diagnosis
- Workshop #2: External analysis
- Workshop #3: Donor analysis and sustainability models
- Workshop #4: Definition of goals and activities
- Workshop #5: Reviewing the Action Plan



Sustainability Plan

Needs

- 💰 Reduce dependence on public funding and diversify funding sources.
- 💰 Achieve a stable income base in the medium to long term.
- 🏠 Overcoming the limitations of the current development model, dependent on public contracts.
- ⚙️ Have a team that allows to gain operational capacity.
- 📢 Improve external communication and storytelling.
- 🧩 Encourage participation in the community.
- 🌱 Fostering the project's alliances with its environment.

Strengthening the operational capacity of the Association's Team is an urgent necessity in order to be able to fulfil all its responsibilities, ensure sustainability and allow Decidim to grow.

(pg. 8)

Income alternatives



Public funding



Private funds (Philanthropy, research and other funds)

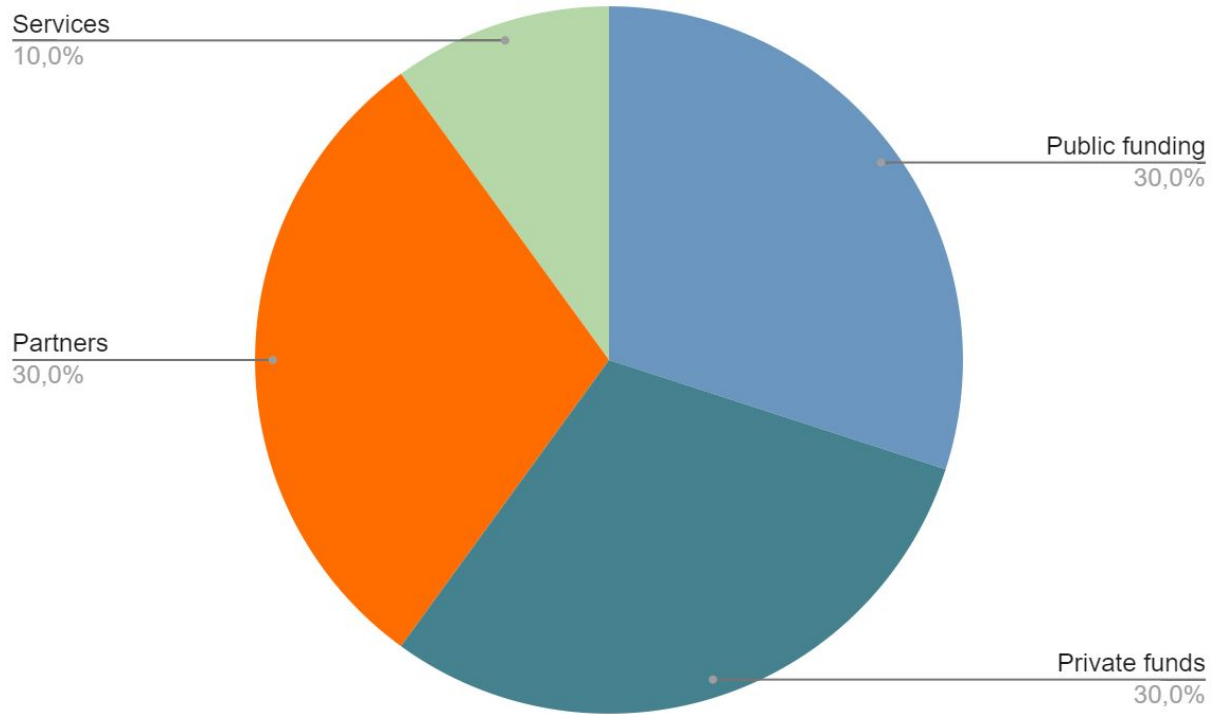


Services

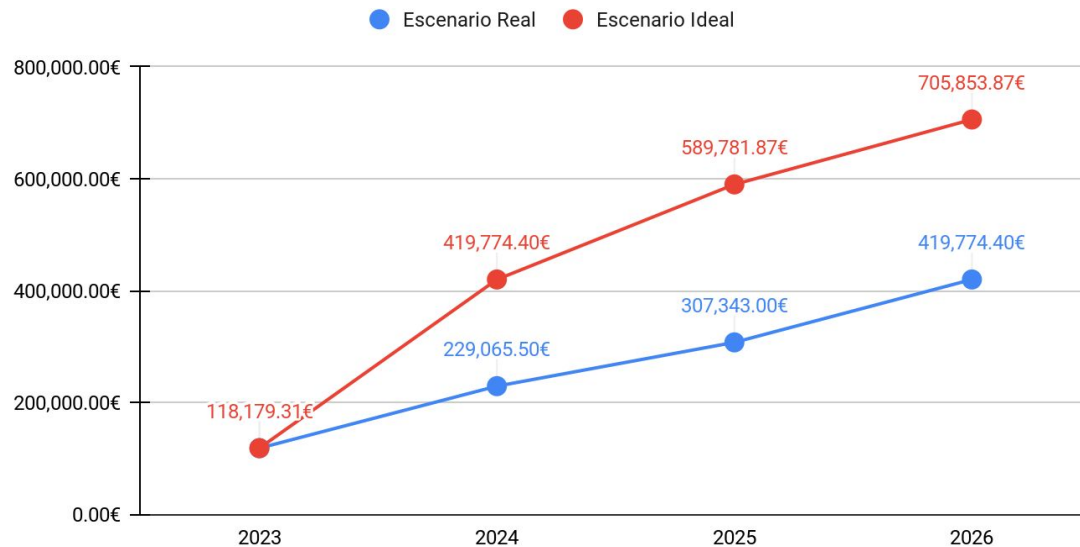


Donations and partners

Ideal distribution outlined in the sustainability plan



Costs escenarios



Realistic scenario

- The aim is to reach a budget of around **400,000 euros** by 2026.
- With a team of **6 people** paid by the Association

Ideal scenario

- The aim is to reach a budget of around **700,000 euros by** 2026.
- With a team of **10 people** paid by the Association

How is it going

Reviewing the SP two years after

Action Plan

- Partnership policy
- Donations
- Fundraising
- New alliances with Public Organizations



Partnership policy

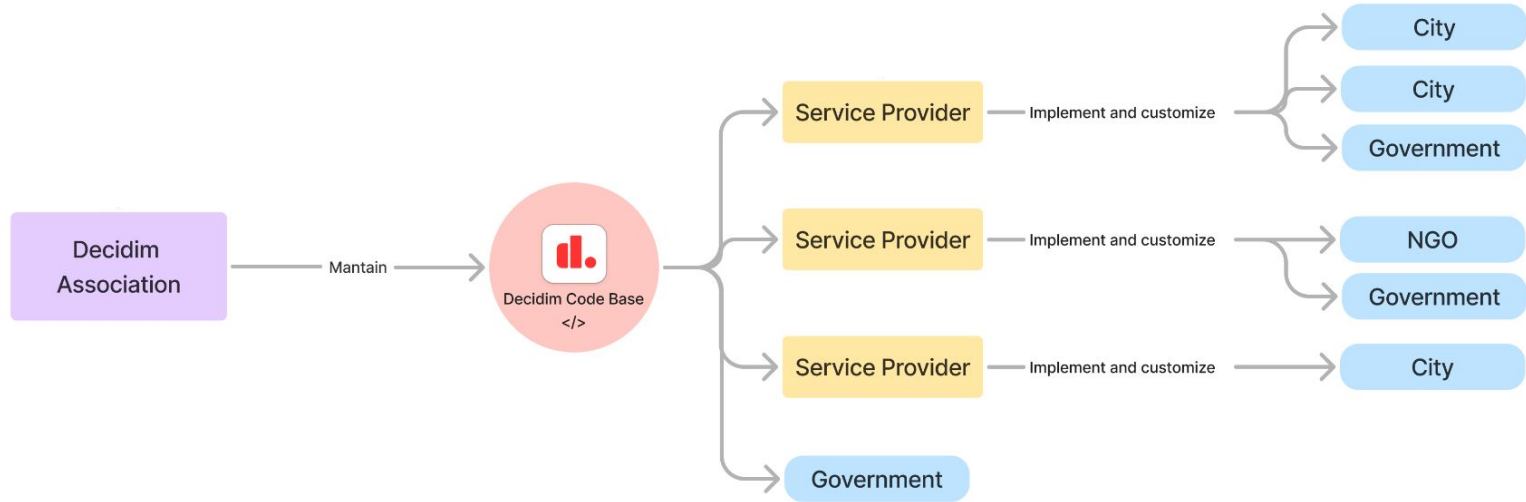
Why?

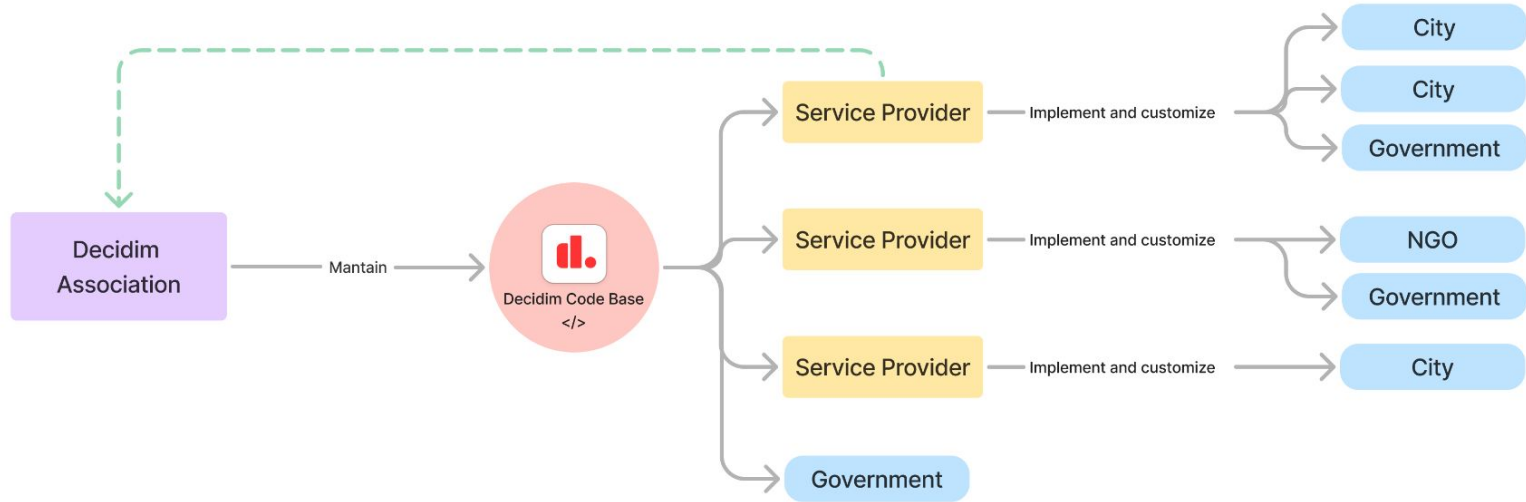
To ensure the sustainability of Decidim as a digital commons.

Conditions:

- Contribute back to the Decidim Association
- **Fee of the 3% of the yearly income** generated by Decidim activities.
- Every Decidim Partner will be made publicly visible in the Decidim website







PokeCode 

octree

Colectic

 PIPELINE
TO POWER

 CodeandoMéxico

opensourcepolitics
l'expérience démocratique

mitgestalten
Partizipationsbüro

 Code for
Japan

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




DIGIDEM LAB

aLabs*

KOMUNIKATIK:
KOMUNIKAZIOA ETA PARTAIDETZA

Top financial contributors

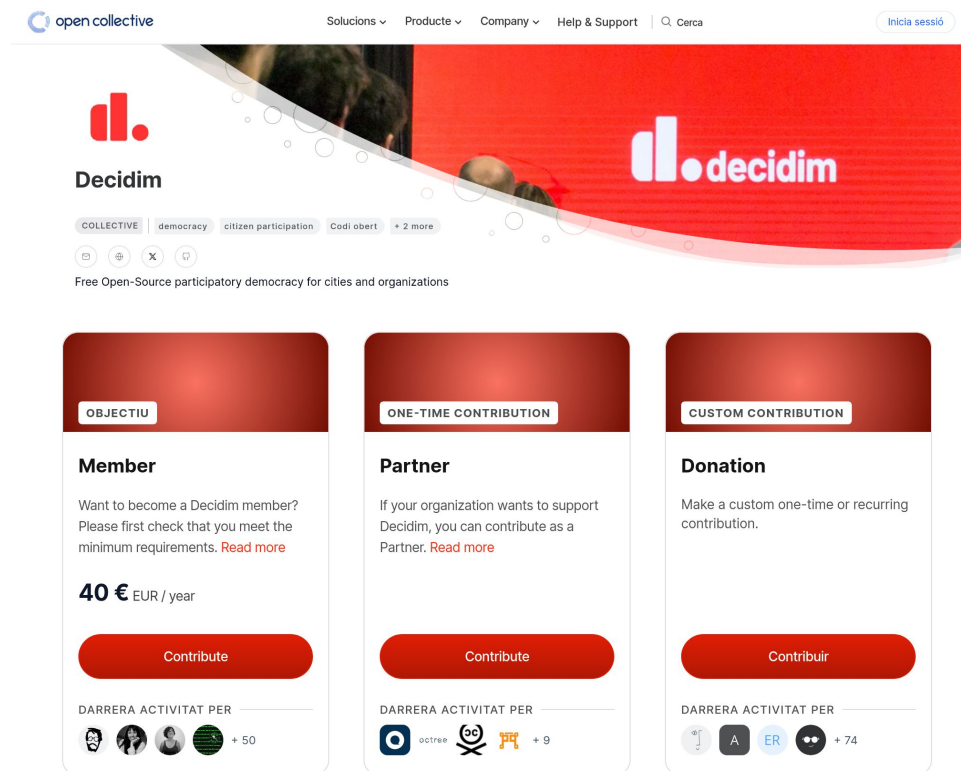
Organizations

- | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|----|--|---|
| 1 |  | Open Source Politics
€60.000 EUR since maig del 2023 | 2 |  | Octree
€14.300 EUR since des. del 2022 |
| 3 |  | Pokecode
€3.000 EUR since nov. del 2022 | 4 |  | CodiTramuntana
€1.500 EUR since set. del 2023 |
| 5 |  | Code for Japan
€1.359 EUR since febr. del 2024 | 6 |  | Urban Equipe
€1.011 EUR since febr. del 2024 |
| 7 |  | Colectic
€1.009,25 EUR since des. del 2022 | 8 |  | Partizipationsbüro
€865 EUR since gen. del 2024 |
| 9 |  | altagamma srl
€200 EUR since maig del 2023 | 10 |  | Digidem Lab
€180 EUR since abr. del 2024 |




Open Collective

- Membership fees
- Partners donations
- Economic transparency

<https://opencollective.com/decidim>



Fundraising work done

- 15 Projects submitted 
- 9 Refused 
- 6 Accepted 

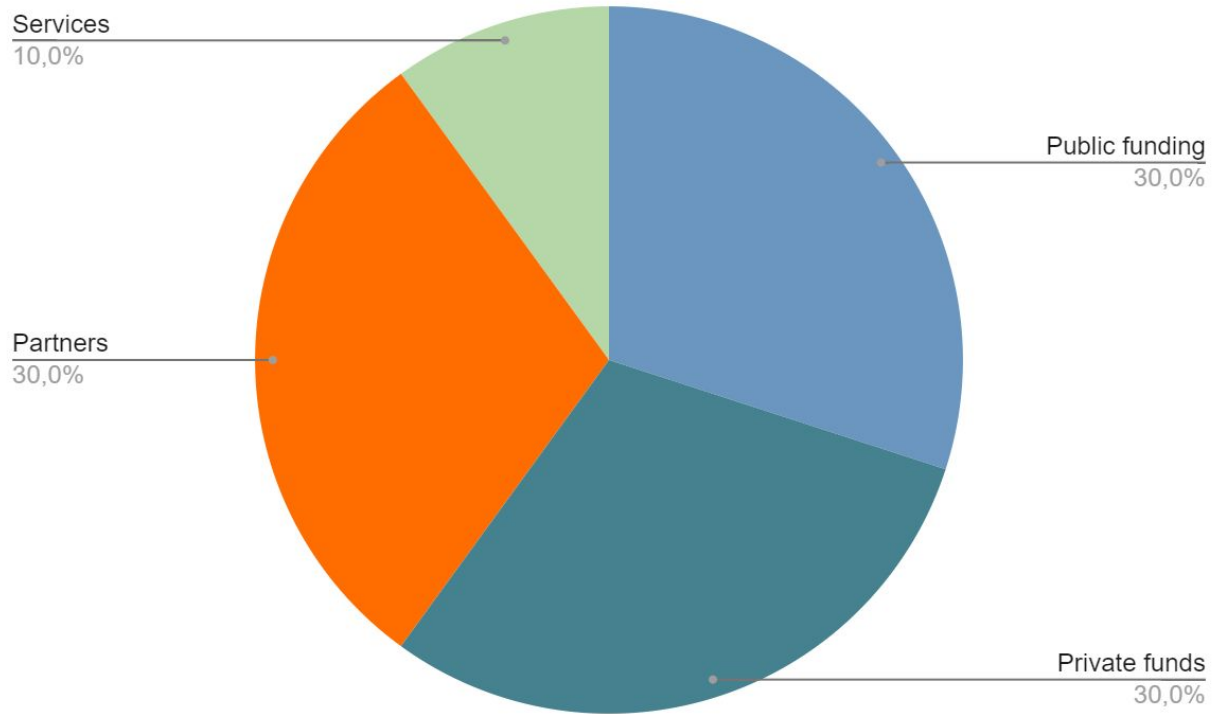
Accepted projects

Total = **213.000 Euros**

- People Powered DDA - *Public Money, Open Software* (15k)
- Metagov Interoperable tools - *CSV interoperable exports/imports for participatory objects like on Decidim* (30k)
- BSC VCity Project - *API and Open data enhancements* (50k - 2 years)
- MultiPoD (EU Project) - *Political participation in multilingual spaces* (100k - 3 years)
- NGI Zero Commons Fund - *Decidim Revamp* (18k)

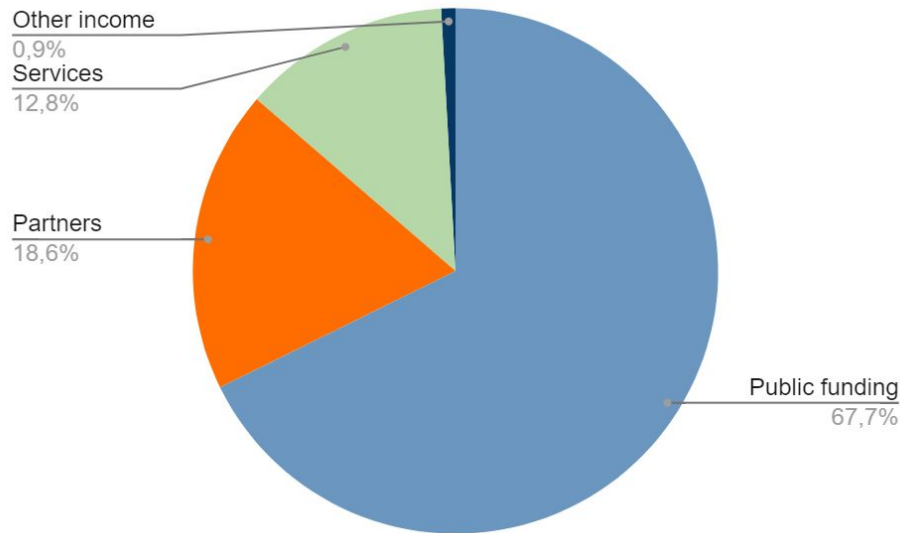


Ideal distribution outlined in the sustainability plan

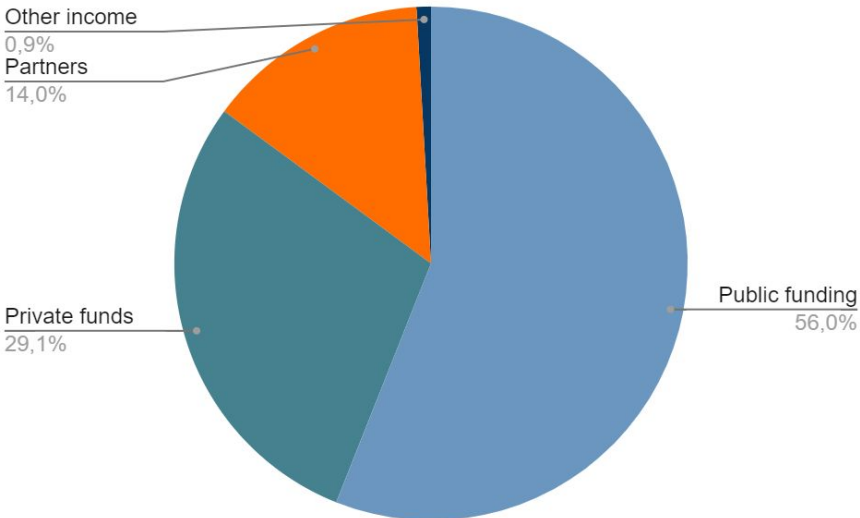


Evolution in the distribution of income sources

2023



2024



Challenges and learnings

Funding FLOSS

1. From a local-based project to an global community
2. Receive grants from public organisations from other countries.
3. How do we finance maintenance work?
4. Submit projects that do not divert you from your core mission.
5. We need to internationalize our legal and financial structure.
6. We need a Public Agency for funding FLOSS.

Thanks!

More info at: decidim.org

Contact: hola@decidim.org

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Nil Homedes Busquets

Director

Decidim Free Software Association

With the support of:



Localret

