

2 Juni 2023



**European Capital  
of Democracy**

**STADT-DEMOKRATIE | LINZ**

We need to **innovate and  
strengthen democracy** –  
together.

**European Capital of Democracy**: non-profit organisation,  
founded by **Innovation in Politics Institute**.  
(flagship events: Innovation in Politics Awards, ACT NOW Mayors' Conference)

A **Europe-wide initiative** dedicated to improving politics,  
with offices in Vienna & Berlin, and a **network of partners in  
20 countries** in Europe and beyond.



# Cities are strongholds and **incubators for democracy.**

**Citizens play a crucial role in  
securing Europe's democratic  
future.**

Our **successful experiences with Citizens' Juries**  
(credibility, outstanding quality and broad acceptance)  
encourage us to create the **ECoD Citizens' Jury**.

**Network of up to 10,000 social innovators from 47 countries.**

They select a European Capital of Democracy every year and  
serve as a **unique sounding board and community** for issues  
such as participation, democracy & sustainability.

1. DECLARATION OF INTENT
2. APPLICATION—CALL SUBMISSION
3. ADMISSION TO THE NETWORK
4. EXPERTS' JURY—EVALUATION (SHORTLIST)
5. CITIZENS' JURY—SELECTION

Experts & Citizens are looking  
for **innovative democracy**  
**projects with impact.**



- 1. Collaboration**  
*Active partnerships with other organisations, institutions and stakeholders*
- 2. Exchange**  
*Communication, dissemination and sharing of local initiatives*
- 3. Innovation**  
*Ambition and appeal of the programme and its main activities*
- 4. Organisation**  
*Management capacity, project and budget resources*
- 5. Output**  
*Measures and formats to reach relevant target audiences, media and citizens*



## Community

Community projects contribute to remarkable services, protecting the city's inhabitants from harm by future-oriented policies and long-term planning.



## Participation

Participation projects provide the city's inhabitants with access to a range of tools to become an active part in decision-making processes.



## Technology

Rapidly developing technology will profoundly shape the future of democracy. The opportunities presented by digitisation are infinite and so are the challenges it poses.



## Empowerment

Empowerment projects enable the city to establish and maintain strong partnerships with civil society, academia and other relevant stakeholders.



## Sustainability

Sustainability projects aim to foster an international discourse, supporting citizens and other cities in ensuring that radical climate transformation is a democratic, and not just a technocratic process.



The title-holding city **hosts**  
**and organises the**  
**Programme Year.**



**Climate Protection Project**  
Developing a format to inspire citizens within the city-wide goal of cutting carbon emissions.



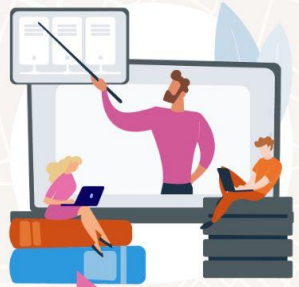
**Innovation in Politics Awards Finals**  
Honouring best practice projects in various categories.

**Opening Ceremony**  
Lively events throughout the title-holding City.

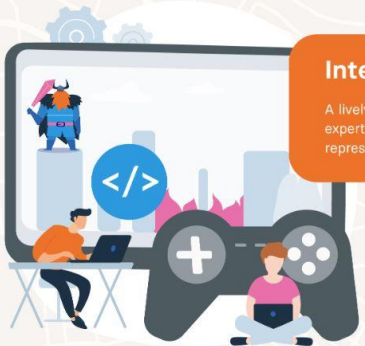
**Act Now International Mayors' Conference**  
Tackle global challenges at the local level.



**Art Of Democracy**  
Art Festival around the topic of politics & democracy.



**International exchange**  
A lively exchange of best practices between experts, political professionals and elected representatives.



**Youth Think Tank Session**  
Young changemakers, discussing, deliberating and bringing out their best ideas on the strengthening of democracy.



**Truth, Lies & Democracy**  
Competitive development of electronic games which promote and explain the workings of democracy.



All cities that submit a full  
application become **members**  
of the **ECoD City Network.**





# European Capital of Democracy

Martina Füllrutter

[mf@capitalofdemocracy.eu](mailto:mf@capitalofdemocracy.eu)

+43 670 2086889



Register as a  
Citizens Juror