



Proposal for a challenges platform based on Decidim

May 2020

1. Framework	2
2. Objectives	3
3. Challenge module on Decidim	4
3.1. Challenge area	4
3.2. Collaborative workspace	6
3.3. Meetings area	6
3.4. Statistics	6
4. Search tool	6
4.1. Advanced search	7
4.1.1. Challenges	7
4.1.2. Problems	8
4.1.3. Solutions	8
4.1.4. Entities and people	8

1. Framework

This proposal is presented within the context of the [shared agendas for sustainability and social change](#) promoted by the RIS3CAT strategy. The agendas use a model of participatory governance to articulate the collective action of diverse actors in order to address common and shared challenges and the problems that derive from them (typically in relation to sustainable development goals) across the territory. They focus on transformation as to move towards more sustainable and inclusive development patterns.

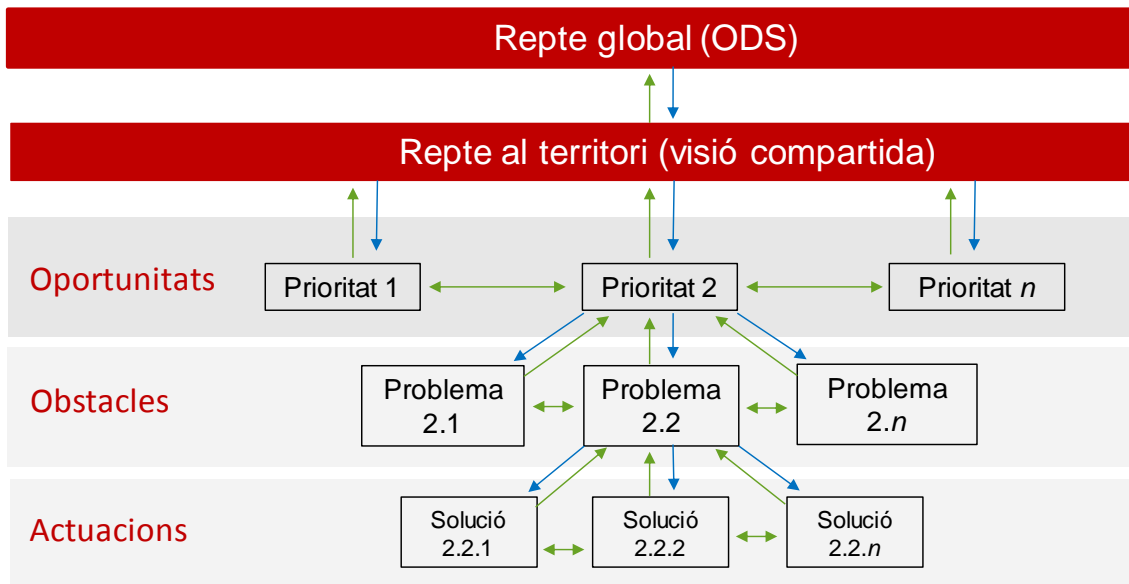
The exact configuration of each shared agenda depends on the challenge, the geographical area and the actors involved. However, all the agendas have one thing in common: collaboration between diverse actors to find innovative and collaborative solutions that will allow to address complex shared challenges more effectively.

The starting point is always the identification of a significant challenge for a given area or collective, which calls for the development of new approaches and collaborative solutions. The challenges could include, for example, moving towards zero waste or biobased economy, reducing air pollution, rehabilitating a natural space, improving mobility within a neighbourhood or tackling dependence issues for older adults, all of which present significant challenges.

In an effort to move in the desired direction, shared agendas search for and prioritise any opportunities associated with the challenge they address. They analyse which obstacles (*problems*, in the terminology used by the shared agendas) are preventing these opportunities from becoming realities, and they propose, develop and test concrete solutions to address them. We must bear in mind that these problems are often complicated or complex and have several possible solutions. Specific technical knowledge and a shared learning process among the different actors is, therefore, essential.

Digital tools can provide key support when working on shared challenges. They can facilitate the collaboration dynamics between a diverse group of actors. These dynamics are necessary for the co-development and testing of solutions, as well as for generating and sharing new knowledge.

Schematic for shared agenda challenges



Global challenge (SDG) = repte global (ODS)

Territorial challenge (shared vision) = repte al territory (visió compartida)

Opportunities. Priority X

Obstacles. Problem X.Y

Actions. Solution X.Y.Z

2. Objectives

The goal is to develop a module (Challenge Platform) through the Decidim platform that will allow a range of different entities (public administrations, non-profit organisations, universities, businesses and associations) to propose shared challenges (i.e. challenges that affect an area or a collective) and coordinate a collaborative response from interested parties and entities, as well as to seek funding for developing innovative solutions.

The first step would be to develop a challenge module on the Decidim platform. That module can then be used by entities to build a challenge portal, adapting it to the needs and preferences of their territory or area of action and including additional features. The Autonomous University of Barcelona has already launched a challenge platform based on the Decidim platform, and that will be reviewed when developing the challenge module (<https://unicorn.uab.cat/>). The Diputació de Lleida has also begun the process of building a platform to address regional challenges using the shared agendas methodology and the Decidim platform. Synergies and complementarities with these two actors will then be sought

Each entity promoting a challenge portal will manage it independently. However, the aim is to promote and facilitate data interoperability between challenges, solutions, actors and collaborative innovation processes. Therefore, every effort should be made to ensure that all persons or entities can consult the challenges being worked on in any given geographical area, the proposed solutions for those challenges and the actors participating in collaborative innovation processes, etc. Minimum requirements will, therefore, must be established and met by all portals to ensure the use of open data and include it in a single challenge and solution search tool.

A new search tool must also be developed (see section 4) and protocols defined to automate data transmission and aggregation processes between the various challenge portals.

Furthermore, a network of actors will need to be built to generate and share knowledge around the shared challenges, and make improvements based on learning, tools and methodologies. The promotion of funding sources for challenge solutions may also be considered (crowdfunding, idea contests and others).

3. Challenge module on Decidim

The spaces, channels and tools used for the first version of the challenge module will be those currently available on the Decidim platform. The following essential elements must be included in the challenge module.

3.1. Challenge area

The challenge area will be developed through the Processes channel on the Decidim platform. Each entity managing a portal through the challenge module will be able to use it to suggest challenges and include all the information it considers relevant. The portal's managing entity must ensure the following minimum information in open data format is included in the challenge definition:

1. Challenge file

Title

Description of the challenge at a territorial level

Description of the challenge at a global level

Keywords

SDG

Territory (county/municipality)

Status (proposed, ongoing and finalised; including the starting and finish dates for each stage)

Coordinating entities

Collaborating entities

Each challenge may have several associated problems requiring simultaneous work on

multiple solutions. Each of the identified problems will be associated with two types of files (or forms): the problem file and the solution file. The portal's managing entity will have to provide the following minimum information in open data format to be included in such files:

2. Problem file

Title

Challenge (title of the challenge with which it is associated)

Description (problem to be addressed)

Keywords

Causes

Collectives affected

Relevant sector

Relevant technological field

Territory (county/municipality)

Status (proposed, ongoing and finalised; including starting and finish dates for each stage)

Proposing entities

Collaborating entities

3. Solution file

Title

Challenge (title of the challenge with which it is associated)

Problem (title of the problem with which it is associated)

Description

Keywords

Territory (county/municipality)

Objectives

Indicators

Beneficiaries

Requisites (technical, economic, funding, etc.)

Type of funding (tendering, subsidy, idea contest, crowdfunding, etc.)

Relevant sector

Relevant technological field

Status (proposed, ongoing and finalised; including starting and finish dates for each stage)

Proposing entities

Collaborating entities

3.2. Collaborative workspace

The collaborative workspace will be developed through the Assemblies channel on the Decidim platform. This space will be a communication channel that organisations and anybody working jointly on a challenge, problem or solution can use to debate, arrange meetings, post updates and share documents, videos and images... In the first phase, tools available will be those currently provided by the Assemblies channel.

3.3. Meetings area

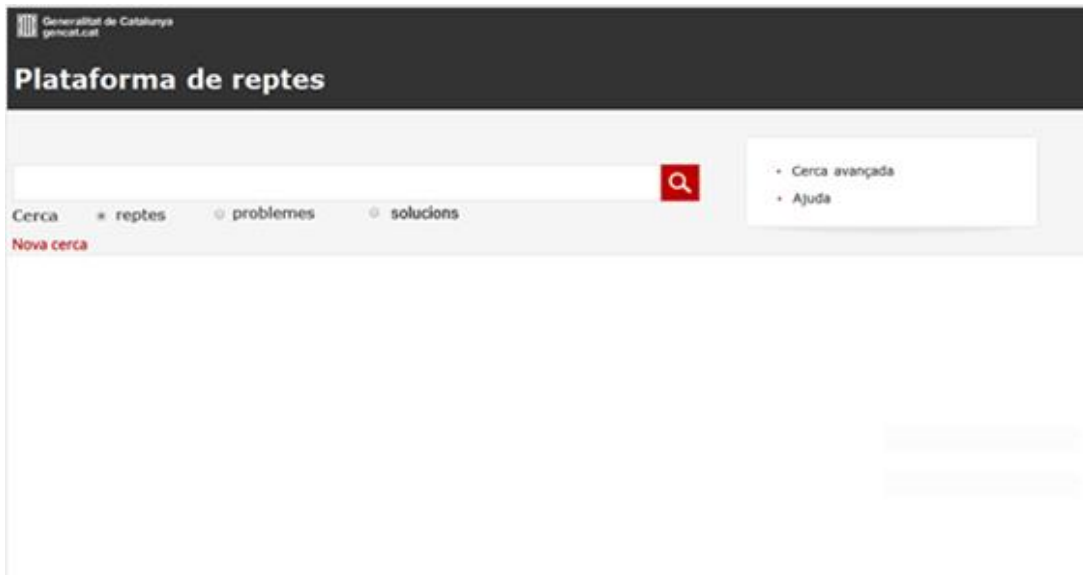
This space will be based on the Meetings channel of the Decidim platform. It will allow participants to convene and hold online courses and talks on topics related to the challenges at hand.

3.4. Statistics

The statistics section available on the Decidim platform gives an aggregated view of the portal's primary activity data.

4. Search tool

The Government of Catalonia will create a search engine allowing users to make open data searches on challenge portals.



Users will be able to run searches across one, two or all three of the search criteria (challenges, problems and solutions).

The advanced search option extends the search to entities and people. Search criteria through this option are therefore:

- All simultaneously
- Challenges
- Problems
- Solutions
- Entities and people

4.1. Advanced search

4.1.1. Challenges

Status:

- All
- Proposed (starting and finish dates)
- Ongoing (starting and finish dates)
- Finalised (starting and finish dates)

Keywords

SDG

Users

Period

Territory (county/municipality)

4.1.2. Problems

Status:

- All
- Proposed (starting and finish dates)
- Ongoing (starting and finish dates)
- Finalised (starting and finish dates)

Keywords

SDG

Users

Period

Territory (county/municipality)

Relevant sector

Relevant technological field

4.1.3. Solutions

Status:

- All
- Proposed (starting and finish dates)
- Ongoing (starting and finish dates)

- Finalised (starting and finish dates)

Keywords

SDG

Users

Period

Territory (county/municipality)

Relevant sector

Relevant technological field

Type of funding

4.1.4. Entities and people

- Entities and people managing challenge portals
- Entities and people coordinating challenges
- Entities and people proposing problems to address
- Entities and people suggesting solutions to problems
- Entities and people collaborating on problem-solving
- Entities and people collaborating on solutions
- Search for an entity or person by name (keywords)