

10TH EUROPEAN GATHERING ON PARTICIPATION

DIJON

November 23-25
2026

**Decide together,
a tenable promise ?**

COMPLETE THE 2026 CONTRIBUTION FORM



CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE RENCONTRES

For the tenth consecutive year, Décider ensemble is organizing the Rencontres européennes de la participation (European Gathering on Participation), in collaboration with the city of Dijon : a week to exchange, question, compare and share our practices, our conceptions and expectations of citizen participation and participatory democracy for this new term of office.

An annual meeting of participatory democracy actors in France and Europe, these days welcome more than 1,500 participants at each edition.

The program for the Rencontres is the result of a co-construction with several key partners in the sector, including the city of Dijon, the CESE, the CNDP, the Banque des Territoires, EDF, the Ministry of Ecological Transition, SNCF Réseau, the CNCE, the GIS Democracy & Participation and the OIDP.

[More information on our website](#)



THIS 10TH EDITION IS CO-ORGANIZED BY



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YOU TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRAMME !

Through this call for contributions, we invite those interested in organizing and/or facilitating a discussion session related to the sub-themes of this 10th edition of the Rencontres (see page 3) to submit their contribution on the following platform. The Rencontres draw their strength from the diversity of contributions, participants, and shared perspectives. Therefore, we hope that the program will include organizations of all sizes and backgrounds : local authorities, citizens, associations, businesses, researchers, etc.

Note : We aim for a balanced program that combines traditional experience-sharing formats with innovative workshops, interactive debates, and participatory sessions. Indeed, to maximize the exchange of ideas at this event, we will pay particular attention to the interactive and participatory nature of the contributions!

INNOVATION THIS YEAR!

For the first time, we want the choice of workshops to be collaborative ! REP participants will be able to vote for their favorite workshops ! The 10 workshops receiving the most votes will be directly selected !

CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

- ✿ Contribute to the platform before 30/06/2026
- ✿ Representing a community, an association, a citizens' group, a company **public or private, an institution, or being a citizen or a researcher**
- ✿ **Consultation and participation agencies (consulting firms, civic tech companies, etc.) cannot participate in this call for proposals on their own. However, they can respond jointly with the actors mentioned above.**

DAYS CONCERNED

- ✿ **In person: Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th November 2025 at the Dijon Exhibition and Convention Centre (3 boulevard de Champagne in Dijon)**
- ✿ **Online: Thursday 26th and Friday 27th November 2026**

THEME 2026



DECIDE TOGETHER, A TENABLE PROMISE?





THEME 2026 (CONTINUED)

Can we really decide together ? The results of the 2026 municipal elections in France clearly showed that there is an urgent need to act collectively, to establish democratic and participatory dynamics together to fight against disinformation, ideas promoted by the far-right, discrimination and the takeover of power by a handful of decision-makers.

Today, it is crucial to work across all territories to resist and create new dynamics that promote the inclusion of everyone, the sharing of experiences and expertise in a vibrant and dynamic society. There is an urgent need to make the citizen an essential player in shaping cities and public policies.

In this anxiety-inducing political and media climate, we are emphasizing the importance of information this year. The cornerstone of Arnstein's ladder, information is at the heart of the democratic struggle. By seizing control of the media landscape more than ever, massive disinformation is having devastating effects on our democracy and on our ability to engage with issues. Information must therefore be disseminated everywhere, at both national and local levels, so that everyone can be informed, enlightened, and fully understand the ins and outs of the situation.

Local government is a place of power. The 2026 municipal elections, as well as the participation awards, demonstrate this every year : local initiatives, the building of collectives, and the consideration of citizens for collective organization and shared decision-making are all opportunities offered by local territories. Without disconnecting it from national power, the debate is open : does local government ultimately have the strength to shift the status quo and then spread throughout the country ?

Finally, the democratic gap is widening, voter turnout is declining, and the participants in citizen participation mechanisms are almost always the same. How can we make citizen participation a tool for everyone, and empower each individual to take ownership of democracy ? Making our democracy an inclusive one that allows the participation of all also seems crucial today in order to be able to make decisions together.

It is in this spirit that, after a call for proposals and a vote among the Décider ensemble community, the city of Dijon and Décider ensemble chose to focus the theme of the 10th edition of the meetings:

DECIDE TOGETHER, A TENABLE PROMISE?



Get informed
to resist

The power
of the local

Participation
for everyone



DECIDE TOGETHER, A TENABLE PROMISE?

The 2026 theme is structured around the sub-themes developed below:

Get informed to resist

Information, at the heart of the dialogue between decision-makers and citizens, is vital in our democracy. The former must report, explain, and persuade, while the latter seek to understand, verify, and make their voices heard. But today, information circulates poorly, becomes fragmented, and disinformation sometimes takes up as much (or even more) space than facts. When access to reliable information is no longer guaranteed, trust erodes: the people feel neglected and disengaged, and decisions lose legitimacy. The challenge, therefore, is to preserve reliable and clear information that guarantees freedom of expression, public debate, and fosters the formation of personal opinions within an informed framework. Fighting for reliable and high-quality information today is not easy; it has become a true act of resistance against democratic backsliding. How can we become better informed ? How can we combat disinformation ? Can digital tools help fight disinformation, or are they primarily a source of disinformation ? How can citizens regain control over information ? These are just some of the questions that your workshops will surely help to address !

The power of the local

Local communities are a concrete laboratory for bringing decision-makers and citizens closer together. They offer the opportunity to test new forms of participation and to share power in a tangible way. The local level then acts as a space for experimentation and initiatives, a place of resistance and counter-power. What are these local experiences, organizations, and networks that put citizen participation back at the heart of the debate ?

But this promise is sometimes difficult to fulfill : some decision-makers hesitate to delegate, and some citizens hesitate to get involved. Opposition to shared decision-making then affects the local level just as much. How can we address this opposition and ensure that the legitimacy of local decisions is recognized and respected by everyone ? How can we make the local level a true space for democratic experimentation where representation, participation, and legitimacy mutually reinforce each other ? Is the local level a strong enough space to be a laboratory of ideas ready to spread and enrich the national level ?



Participation for everyone

Participation should not be a privilege. Participation should be a right, accessible to everyone. Yet, many today lack access to participatory spaces. This is due to a lack of information, a strong sense of illegitimacy, a feeling of exclusion and ignorance, or simply the absence of a place to express themselves. By fearing decision-making by the people, decision-makers may hinder participatory processes and the opening up to participatory democracy. Can we then speak of democracy if certain voices remain marginalized ? How can we truly broaden participation and give everyone the opportunity to act, challenge, and influence decisions ? What practices, mechanisms, or innovations can create a more inclusive, better representative, and more legitimate democracy ? How can we enable those whose voices are not heard to speak up and truly decide together ? These are some of the questions that these meetings will attempt to address, study, and perhaps, who knows, even resolve.

RENCONTRES FORMATS

-  **Workshop** : to produce a reflection on a specific theme, by working with the participants on a final document, in the form of your choice (recommendations, SWOT analysis, etc.).
-  **Experience Sharing** : producing with participants a critical evaluation of very concrete experiences whose results or process are significant or revealing.
-  **Inspiring Debate** : addressing topics from the perspective of controversy, opening up to other cultures, other areas of participation.
-  **Citizens' Arena** : revitalize a calm public debate between citizens and stakeholders in the form of an agora. Maximum 200 people, 4 speakers (2 facilitators, 2 writers).
-  **Participatory games** : a time for raising awareness and working in the form of games, role-playing games or board games, this type of playful workshop allows a large number of messages to be conveyed and promotes times of exchange.
-  **Your idea** : Décider ensemble remains open to all proposals for innovative formats with a participatory dimension. Explain it in detail in your contribution (number of people required, objectives of the format, tools, facilitation, type of deliverables produced).
-  **Booths Village** : this sharing format allows participatory actors to present their methods, approaches, and tools at a stand. If you are interested in this format, please contact us at rencontres@deciderensemble.com to discuss the details.



TIMETABLE FOR THE CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

April 13, 2026 - June 30, 2026

Submitting contributions on the Purpoz platform

[Consult the platform's USER GUIDE](#)

July 1st, 2026 - July 7, 2026

Voting phase: Everyone who wants to attend the event can vote on the workshops they would like to see (each person selects between 3 and 10 workshops). The 10 workshops with the most votes will automatically be selected! The goal is to ensure that the workshops that interest you most are included in the event.

July 7, 2026 - September 2026

Analysis and selection phase of contributions: it is possible that Décider ensemble will call you during this phase in order to promote the pooling of workshops or to discuss your contribution with you.

September 2026 - October 2026

Finalization of selected workshops: additional requests (room format, room type, summary and final title of the workshop, etc.) and workshop programming, follow-up and organization of the workshop.

November 2026

European Gatherings on participation (REP) in Dijon from November 23rd to 25th, 2026 and online from November 26th to 27th.

Submission of
contributions

01/07 - 07/07

Analysis of
contributions

sept. - oct.

REP 2026

13/04 - 30/06

Voting phase

07/07 - sept.

Workshop schedule

23/11 - 27/11



REP REGULATION 2026 (CONTINUED):

- ✿ **SPEAKER FEES** : Décider ensemble covers the cost of a free meeting pass for two speakers per workshop on the day of the intervention. Speakers whose day of intervention is covered will benefit from the speaker rate (€50 excluding VAT) for the additional day. Speakers whose day of intervention is not covered will benefit from the Speaker Pass (€50 excluding VAT for one day, €80 excluding VAT for two days) which covers meal expenses.
- ✿ All contributors will be informed whether or not their contribution has been selected once the selection process completed.
- ✿ Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- ✿ For all inquiries, you can contact us at the following address :
rencontres@deciderensemble.com

OUR CONTACTS

Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information :



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