

## Application Form

### PART 1: BASIC DATA

**Contact details:** *(this information will not be shared or published).*

#### CATEGORIES IN WHICH YOU WANT TO APPLY THE EXPERIENCE

**1: TYPE OF EXPERIENCE:** *choose the most important element (choose only one element which you consider the most outstanding of your practice).*

<b>A) Deliberation</b> Citizen assembly / deliberation workshop / lottery / legislative theater / participatory planning	X
<b>B) Decision</b> Participatory budget / referendum / consultation / participatory process with vote	
<b>C) Citizenship</b> Citizenship / community action / permanent council / civic education / associationism / other initiatives to reinforce local democracy	

**2: TYPE OF GOVERNMENT:** *choose one only.*

<b>A) Up to 50,000 inhabitants</b> (towns, small cities, rural areas).	
<b>B) Cities between 50,000 and 250,000 inhabitants.</b>	
<b>C) Cities between 250,000 and 1,000,000 inhabitants.</b>	
<b>D) Large cities or urban areas of more than 1,500,000 inhabitants.</b>	X
<b>E) Supralocal, regional, provincial governments ....</b>	

**Experience data:** *complete the information below in a clear and concise manner.*

<b>Title of the experience:</b> Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate
<b>Name of the city or region:</b> Milan
<b>Inhabitants of the city or territory:</b> 1,35 millions + 1 million of city users
<b>Country:</b> Italy

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<b>Institution presenting the candidacy:</b> (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience) Milan Municipality		
<b>Website of the experience or institution:</b> <a href="https://www.comune.milano.it/web/milano-cambia-aria/come-posso-partecipare/sono-un-cittadino/assemblea-permanente-dei-cittadini-sul-clima">https://www.comune.milano.it/web/milano-cambia-aria/come-posso-partecipare/sono-un-cittadino/assemblea-permanente-dei-cittadini-sul-clima</a>		
<b>Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution:</b> FB: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/comunemilano">https://www.facebook.com/comunemilano</a> > post: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/comunemilano/posts/512194570944650">https://www.facebook.com/comunemilano/posts/512194570944650</a> FLICKR: <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/comune_milano/sets/72177720304160356/with/52539642184/">https://www.flickr.com/photos/comune_milano/sets/72177720304160356/with/52539642184/</a>		
<b>Start date of the experience: December 2022</b>		
<b>End date of the experience:</b> (if operational, indicate "ongoing") Ongoing - 2030		
<b>Budget of the experience:</b> (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): <b>10 resources full time equivalent</b>		
<b>Type of candidacy</b> (mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	X
	Innovation on an existing experience	
	Continuity of an experience	
<b>Type of experience</b> (mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)	Participatory budgeting	
	Participatory planning	
	Standing council	
	Workshop / meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public hearing / forum	
	Poll / referendum	

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	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces		X
	E-government / Open government / Digital platforms		
	Citizen initiative		
	Other (specify):		
<b>Objective of the experience</b>  <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation		X
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion		X
	Community empowerment		
	To empower non-organised citizens		X
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation		
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"		
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
	To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy		X
To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		X	
<b>Territorial area</b>  <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i>	All the territory	Local	X
		Regional	
	District		
	Neighbourhood		



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<p><b>Thematic area</b>  <i>(mark with an X in the right column, you may choose more than one)</i></p>	Governance	X
	Education	
	Transport	X
	Urban management	X
	Health	
	Security	
	Environment / Climate change and/or urban agriculture	X
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements	
	Culture	
	Housing	
	Job creation	
	Decentralization	
	Local development	
	Training / learning	
	Economy and/or finances	
	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
All		
Other (write the topic)		
<b>Sustainable</b>	SDG 1 - No poverty	

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<p><b>Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice</b></p> <p><i>(mark with an X in the right column, more than one option can be chosen, you can also add the specific target)</i></p>	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well-being	
	SDG 4 - Quality education	
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	X
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	X
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	X
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	X
	SDG 13 - Climate action	X
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	X
SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals		

## PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links, images or graphics if you consider it appropriate.

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### Context:

In a **maximum of 300 words**, present the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, region or territory in which the experience takes place.

The city of Milan, standing in the north-west of Italy, is considered to be its economic and financial capital. Renowned for a lively international business ecosystem, especially in the fashion and design industry, every year Milan attracts people from all over the world.

With its 1,35 million inhabitants, divided into 9 city-districts, the Municipality of Milan is part of a larger metropolitan area that comprises a total of 3,25 millions people, many of whom are the so called “city users”. The expression refers to people who reach the territory of the Municipality every day, mainly for working reasons, while generating traffic that usually puts Milan’s relatively small urban area of 181,8 km<sup>2</sup> under great pressure. Because of this, and due to the number of industries and productive activities that the city hosts, Milan is also one of the most polluted cities in Europe, as are many other urban centres within the wider region of the Padana Valley.

In recent years, the Municipality has designed a strategy for a swift and inclusive ecological transition, which first and foremost addresses the issue of air quality, together with sustainable energy, urban development, adaptation to extreme weather events and so on. The strategy implementation goes through the [Air and Climate Plan](#), approved by the City Council in February 2022. Moreover, since 2009 Milan has been a member of [C40](#), the international network of cities that fight the climate crisis, and in 2022 was selected among the 112 Mission Cities aimed at reaching climate neutrality by 2030, within the European initiative [Net Zero Cities](#).

With a climate strategy at hand, the goal of the Municipality is now to take onboard all the citizens, companies, organisations and possible different stakeholders that could contribute to achieve a truly just ecological transition.

### Precedents:

*Explain the precedents and origins of the experience: if it is the innovation of an existing experience, what are its origins; if it is a new experience, what are the antecedents in participation in your city, region or territory. You can also indicate if you have been inspired by experiences in other cities/countries. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The implementation of a Permanent Citizens’ Assembly on Climate is one of the Actions (n° 5.1.4) of Milan’s Air and Climate Plan whose goal is to disseminate knowledge, raise awareness and empower citizens in relation to fighting climate change at an urban level.

Whilst being a new experience of its own, the Permanent Assembly was in fact preceded by a pilot similar (though temporary) participatory process inspired by the principles of deliberative democracy and based on the drawing of 50 citizens by lot. In 2021, indeed, drawn participants took place at a “Citizens’ Table” discussing and accompanying the drafting and consultation on the Air and Climate Plan itself.

The Citizens’ Table was part of a broader strategy of stakeholders engagement that also entailed:

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- 4 Thematic Laboratories (consultative) which involved 180 stakeholders (organised in working groups) and citizens (via online streaming)
- 9 District Meetings (informative) which involved ~2,500 citizens online
- 1 Student Meeting with 30 students' representatives encouraged to share what they learned during the meeting with their peers
- the formal online public consultation in which the very text of the Air and Climate Plan was amended and commented by citizens and groups. 486 proposals were collected over the course of 45 days: the result of this collective work was transferred to the Milan City Council and each proposal was publicly addressed.

Other than this directly forerunning participation experience, the Milan's Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate has been also inspired and designed referring to previous climate citizens' assemblies that took place around Europe, such as the Scotland's Climate Assembly or the french Convention Citoyenne pour le Climat.

### Objectives of the experience:

*What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience. (In a **maximum of 100 words**).*

The main objective pursued by the Milan's Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate is to improve any public policy through the active participation of the public, since the Assembly is expected to directly observe, accompany, support, discuss and contribute to the implementation of Actions and climate objectives and policies contained in the Air and Climate Plan.

Due to its permanent nature, the Assembly also addresses the improvement of the quality of public decision making, through the empowerment and participation of citizens, and aims at evolving existing mechanisms of deliberative democracy in order to permanently support democratic institutions.

### Methodology:

*Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The methodology of the Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate is informed by the principles of deliberative democracy. The Assembly is going to be active until 2030, that is the same timing of Milan's Air and Climate Plan, when most of its goals should be achieved.

The Assembly is composed of 90 citizens from the 9 districts of the city of Milan. Each participant remains in charge for a maximum of 6 months. Every 3 months, half of the group is renewed, so as to allow the progressive involvement of new participants while also keeping the work of the Assembly going-on without interruptions.

The group of participants is as representative of Milan's population as possible, according to specific criteria: age, gender, district of residence, nationality, educational level, occupational status. Citizens are selected from an amount of 10.000 milanese people,

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randomly sampled at the beginning of every year by the Municipal Statistics Office and invited to participate by post letter/email.

Those who accept to take part in the Assembly are expected to attend four plenary meetings (one every 2 months); during these sessions, they first listen to experts, technicians and policymakers coming from different Municipal Offices to be provided with information and evidence on the Actions contained in the Air and Climate Plan. After the learning phase, participants are divided into thematic working groups and guided by skilled facilitators and thematic experts through the elaboration of Proposals aimed to better define or implement the Actions of the city Air and Climate Plan. Working groups' topics are chosen by the Municipality staff among those covered by the Plan's actions which progressively enter the implementation phase

Twice a year, groups' Proposals are presented to the whole Assembly, discussed together and voted, thus included into the Annual Report for the Municipality, which is called to formally decide on each Proposal, declaring whether the city is approving them or rejecting, but always providing reasons.

### **Innovation:**

*Explain what you consider as the most innovative aspect(s) in the practice. (In a **maximum of 150 words**).*

The most innovative trait of the Assembly is its “permanent” calling, which means that, unlike other similar (but temporary) Assemblies experiences of deliberative democracy around the world, it is firmly rooted into the stable governance mechanisms that the Municipality has designed for its Air and Climate Plan to embark on a just transition to a more sustainable future.

Furthermore, the Assembly doesn't simply express its preference on principles or policies that should guide the ecological transition. Instead, while accompanying the implementation of the Air and Climate Plan it has the opportunity to affect the decisions that are going to be taken on concrete interventions that are to be put in place in each neighbourhood and district of the city.

Finally, the permanent nature of the Assembly makes it easier for previous participants to keep being involved with it even at the end of their mandate, by exploring new models of long-lasting active citizenship.

### **Inclusion:**

*Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible, and how you have achieved it. (In a **maximum of 150 words**).*

The sample of 90 participants who represent the City population composition and are actively involved in the Assembly is thoroughly built through different steps:

- the drawing by lot of 10.000 citizens every year, in proportion to the rate at which different generational and cultural groups are known to be present in the city, according to anagraphic data available to Municipal Offices (age, gender, nationality, district of residence)



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- their invitation by both post and email
- the submission of a brief survey to all the citizens who show an interest in participating, by which to gather information also on their educational level and occupational status
- the selection of the participants in conformity to strict criteria of representation
- the substitution of dropouts whenever possible
- a special support of facilitators to minority groups

A more inclusive participation of the whole population, including the city users, in the deliberations that will affect the future development of the city of Milan, is one of the main objectives pursued by the Assembly.

### **Communication:**

*What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience for engaging the population. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The Assembly is communicated through the [website](#), [press releases](#) and newsletters of the Municipality of Milan, as part of a campaign called “[Milano Cambia Aria](#)”, which comprises all the information, dissemination and participation activities connected to the Air and Climate Plan. Council members in charge of environmental and participation policies are also engaged in sharing news about the Assembly through their social media profiles.

The documents and reports produced by the Assembly are uploaded to [Milano Partecipa](#), a digital participatory platform based on the Decidim digital infrastructure. There, every citizen can read and keep up to date with what is happening within the deliberative process.

In order to “spread the word” about the ongoing process, the Assembly’s staff is taking part in town meetings, festivals and public events regarding the environment, climate change, sustainable lifestyles and participatory democracy (e.g. [Milan Green Week](#), [Fa’ la cosa giusta!](#), the [Spring School on Climate Assemblies](#), Milan’s Forum on Participation).

### **Articulation with other actors:**

*Explain how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this articulation. (In a **maximum of 150 words**)*

The Assembly is weaving relations with various associations of Milan’s civil society to keep them informed about the activities and the deliberations in which the participants are involved. In 2022, for instance, the Assembly was presented at the Milan Green Week, the yearly gathering event for all environmental organisations. Besides, two informative meetings with associations have been organised so far to spread the Citizens’ Assembly message.

The Assembly will be also present with staff members and citizen witnesses at the foreseen Milan Participation Forum in June 2023, where all the existing participatory processes in the city are going to exchange views and experiences.

Finally, a call for bids is about to be launched by the Municipality to invite actors of the civil society to realise an independent monitoring of the deliberative process, an analysis of its

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social impact and other communications and original promotional activities that could enhance its effectiveness.

### **Evaluation:**

*What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether the citizenry has participated in the evaluation of the practice. (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

Every time a cycle of 6 months comes to an end, the citizens that conclude their mandate within the Assembly are asked to fill out an evaluation form upon their experience. They are asked to evaluate every phase of the process: the invitation letter, the learning phase, the plenary activities and the working groups experience, the support given along the way by the Municipality officers and experts, the quality of the facilitation, the inclusiveness of the process, the degree at which they feel represented by the results of the final vote expressed by the Assembly.

As for monitoring the concrete realisation of citizens' proposals in the context of the Actions of the Air and Climate Plan, leaving participants are considering forming an Association that should be aimed at overseeing the implementation phase.

Finally, a group of diverse and independent associations, experts and observatories on practices of deliberative democracy has delivered to the Municipality a monitoring plan for evaluating the deliberation activities of the Assembly itself. This is why, as already mentioned above, the Municipality has disposed of a call for bids to be launched soon in order to officially assign the task and allow external experts to be present during plenary sessions, as to independently evaluate the entire process.

### **Impacts and results**

*Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and what are their profiles? What have been the impacts on public policies, the functioning of the administration, and the citizenry? (In a **maximum of 300 words**).*

The experience of the Permanent Assembly started the 3rd of December 2022 and has just completed its first cycle of 6 months, which has seen the enrollment of 90 citizens, 45 of whom started midway (the 18th of March) so as to allow the periodical rotation mechanism to start running.

On the one hand, it has been observed that people with non-italian backgrounds are those who most easily turn out to be absent during plenary sessions. On the other hand, there has been a good intergenerational balance among actual participants, with a good mix of people from different age groups, even though just one was under the age of 18.

During the fourth plenary session, the Assembly finally voted on the first set of Proposals to be included in the Annual Report for the Municipality Administration. 8 proposals were presented and 5 out of 8 were approved with the majority of at least 2/3 of the attendees (the Proposals rejected are sent back to be further edited and adjusted in case Working Groups decide to give them another chance for the next voting session at the end of the year).

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It is too early to evaluate the impact that citizens' Proposals are going to have on Milan's Air and Climate Plan and climate policies, as for that the end of 2023 and the formal decision of Milan Municipality on the Assembly proposals' report must be awaited. Though, great appreciation has been expressed by Council members and Municipality officers for the quality of the Proposals so far presented by citizens and of the whole deliberative process.

Moreover, as cited above, an independent social impact analysis is about to be commissioned by the Municipality to associations and external experts to better evaluate the entire process.

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### PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

*A summary of the experience: origins, objectives, operation, results, monitoring, and evaluation. (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before. This summary will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a **maximum of 500 words**).*

The Permanent Citizens' Assembly on Climate is a citizens body established by the Municipality of Milan in the framework of the implementation phase of the City Air and Climate Plan, with the supervision and technical assistance of [AMAT](#) - Agenzia Mobilità Ambiente Territorio and of [Consorzio Poliedra](#) - Politecnico di Milano.

The Assembly is inspired and informed by principles of deliberative democracy and is composed of 90 citizens, who are drawn by lot to proportionally represent the population of the city. Each participant is in charge for 6 months; every 3 months, half of the Assembly is renewed so as to allow the involvement of new participants while also keeping the work of the Assembly going without interruptions.

The Assembly's mandate is to supervise, accompany and integrate the implementation of Milan's Air and Climate Plan at least up until 2030. The Plan defines the strategy the city has adopted to reduce GHG emissions, improve air quality and fight the effects of climate change by that date. The main objective of the Assembly initiative is thus to engage non-organized citizens and give them the opportunity to contribute to the definition of the city's climate policies and actions for the next decade, while doing so in the most inclusive and representative way.

In order to allow the voice of citizens to actually affect the concrete development of the strategy, first citizens are provided with detailed evidence on the Actions foreseen by the Air and Plan thanks to the support given by municipal technicians, officers and policymakers. Each participant has then the opportunity to join facilitated Working Groups upon the main areas of the Plan and to elaborate, together with their peers, Proposals - that is to say recommendations and new Actions for the Plan. Citizens' Proposals are voted on twice a year and those which are approved by at least 2/3 of the Assembly's participants are collected within an Annual Report that is submitted to the Municipality. The Administration has then two months to either accept or reject its content, always providing reasons for their choices.

After 6 months from the launch of the Assembly's experience, in May 2023 8 Proposals were drafted by the Working Groups and 5 of them were approved to be included in 2023's Report for the Municipality. The end of 2023 must be awaited to see what impact these Proposals will have on the actual implementation of the climate strategy and actions.

At the end of their experience, leaving participants are asked to fill out an evaluation survey and are presented with new opportunities to extend their commitment to support the Municipality's climate action plan on a voluntary basis. The very first group of participants that is now leaving the Assembly is considering forming an association that should later oversee the Proposals implementation phase.

Finally, a group of independent associations, experts and observatories on practices of deliberative democracy has delivered to the Municipality a monitoring plan for evaluating the deliberation activities of the Assembly itself.



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***We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... These can be sent through a file transfer service, such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive >***  
***[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1boW6nXQK5gFeOSViqmhuU-m9vTCpVXdw?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1boW6nXQK5gFeOSViqmhuU-m9vTCpVXdw?usp=share_link)***

**Thank you for participating!**