

Overview



D-CENT (Decentralised Citizens Engagement Technologies) is a Europe-wide project creating privacy-aware tools and applications for direct democracy and economic empowerment. Together with the citizens and developers, we are creating a decentralised social networking platform for large-scale collaboration, decision-making, and economic empowerment.

D-CENT brings together world-class technologists and academics with a large number of citizen groups across Europe. Besides the platform, the project explores how communities might manage common goods and facilitate online exchange with Bitcoin-style digital social currencies.

D-CENT started in October 2013 and will run until May 2016. It is funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration.

Objectives

D-CENT will create an open, decentralised, and privacy-aware social networking platform for large-scale collaboration. The modular platform enables citizens to share in real-time open data, democratic decision making tools, and digital social currency for the social good. D-CENT will also grow longer-term alternatives to today's highly centralised platforms and power structures.

Methodology

D-CENT builds on Europe's largest experiments in direct democracy— the Open Ministry crowdsourcing site linked into parliament in Finland, the participation democracy websites Better Reykjavik and Better Iceland in Iceland, and ISM, one of Europe's most dynamic social movements in Spain.

D-CENT will run large-scale pilots in Spain, Iceland, and Finland through Lean UX experimentation, leveraging existing networked social movements and the user-base tens of thousands of people.

D-CENT will be an open, modular and decentralised platform. Its code-base will be described by open specifications, open standards, and released under an open source licence. It will also integrate successful open-source codebases. Developers will be able to easily write API-based apps and add new modules. We call for open source developers, hackers, social movements, and democracy activists around Europe to work with us.

Timeline

D-CENT project started in October 2013 with research and a Lean UX methodology, collecting user stories and features from the different user groups across Europe.

The coding starts in the spring of 2014. We will start by making immediately usable tools for the citizen communities in Iceland, Spain and Finland. The first functional (beta) version of D-CENT will be published by August 2014. After that we start iterating and piloting the platform and its applications, testing it out in Iceland, Finland and Spain.

Our principles

- community ownership of social data
- security and privacy by design
- open standards
- access to knowledge and open source
- mass scalability
- reusability of solutions



Work packages

The D-CENT project is divided into seven work packages (WP). Two of the WP's are focused on research (WP2 and WP3) and two in technical work (WP4 and WP5). Others provide support that helps run the project.

- WP1** Methodology, Use cases requirements and impact assessment
- WP2** Network-driven data analysis, modelling and visualization
- WP3** Economic Analysis on new Commons and sustainable economic cultures
- WP4** Design of platform architecture and pilots
- WP5** Lean implementation and integration of pilots
- WP6** Promotion and dissemination
- WP7** Project Management

Partners

D-CENT has a strong international network as its consortium. The partners come from seven countries spread across Europe from North to South.

- Nesta, UK (coordinator)
- CNRS-Centre d'économie de la Sorbonne, France
- Dyne.org Foundation, The Netherlands
- Forum Virium Helsinki, Finland
- International Modern Media Institute, Iceland
- NEO Europe
- Open Knowledge Foundation, UK
- Open University of Catalunya and Barcelona Media, Spain
- World Wide Web Consortium, France

Coordinator

Francesca Bria

francesca.bria@nesta.org.uk
tel. +44 (0)20 7438 2682
mobile +44 (0)75 3176 6446

Nesta

1 Plough Place, London, EC4A 1DE
United Kingdom

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In short

- **Full title:** Decentralised Citizens ENgagement Technologies
- **Project acronym:** D-CENT
- **Starting date:** 1 October 2013
- **Duration:** 2,5 years (until May 2016)
- **Budget:** 2,5 million euros

Contacts

Francesca Bria (coordinator)
Nesta
francesca.bria@nesta.org.uk

Harry Halpin
World Wide Web Consortium
hhalpin@w3.org

Carlo Vercellone
CNRS - Centre d'économie de la Sorbonne, vercello@univ-paris1.fr

Denis "Jaromil" Roio
Dyne.org Foundation
jaromil@dyne.org

Arnau Monterde
Open University of Catalunya and Barcelona Media, amonterde@uoc.edu

Joonas Pekkanen
Forum Virium Helsinki
joonas.pekkannen@forumvirium.fi

Birgitta Jónsdóttir
Icelandic Modern Media Initiative
birgitta@birgitta.is

Evan Henshaw-Plath
Neo Innovation
evan@neo.com

Sander van der Waal
Open Knowledge Foundation
sander.vanderwaal@okfn.org

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