



Towards We Government:

Collective and participative approaches for addressing local policy challenges

Newsletter #4 2018

Dear Reader,

Since the beginning of this year, the WeGovNow citizen engagement platform is now publicly available in our three pilot municipalities Turin, Southwark and San Donà di Piave, proving to be a helpful tool for collaborative processes between citizens and public administration. WeGovNow provides a set of core functions supporting civic participation and engagement for the purpose of addressing local policy challenges, including community networking & self-organisation (WeGovNow FirstLife), problem identification & tracking (WeGovNow Improve My City), democratic proposition development & decision making (WeGovNow LiquidFeedback), crowdsourcing of knowledge & ideas (WeGovNow Community Maps), exchange of volunteering opportunity & free items (WeGovNow Offers & Requests). Almost 10.000 users have already registered to the pilot service, contributing with original content or responding to the contributions by other users. Following this, roughly 17.000 single usage events have been counted across all WeGovNow components up to now and we are confident that these numbers will increase over the last project months as the local pilot service scenarios are gaining pace.

Each city has different thematic focus in which the WeGovNow platform is currently utilized under day-to-day practice. Ranging for instance from the co-design of spaces in a public park to the promotion of cycling in the city and to fostering the dialogue between local faith groups, all three pilot sites are strongly engaged in participatory policy and community development using the WeGovNow online service. To this end, several events have been held in Turin, Southwark and San Donà over the last months. Some of these have focused on providing hands-on experience with the platform to enable the public administrations, citizens but also other local actors to make use of the platform in a confident and effective way. Others have been dedicated to both raise awareness on the capabilities provided by WeGovNow in general and to effectively support the local pilot activities.

In the upcoming months, we will dedicate a closer look on what can be learned from the pilots with a view on how to exploit the platform's capacity to foster citizen participation and co-production also beyond the project duration. This will take into account both the technical viability of the platform and the different framework conditions prevailing at the three pilot municipalities.

Follow us on the [website](#) and on [Twitter](#).

The WeGovNow Team

WeGovNow team at annual fair in San Donà di Piave

Just like last year, the WeGovNow team represented by project partner [Mapping for Change](#), attended the annual [Le Fiere Del Rosario festival](#) in San Donà Di Piave to support the pilot municipality [Comune Di San Donà Di Piave](#)

[More](#)



Turin citizens & public administration co-design public space with help of WeGovNow

Our [pilot city Turin](#) utilises the WeGovNow pilot platform for co-developing a former industrial area together with its citizens. The area has already been converted into an urban park, Parco Dora, some years ago.

[More](#)



Parco Dora Vitali Area (Source: [Uccio "Uccio2" D'Agostino](#), "Parco Dora lotto Vitali, Torino", CC BY-SA 3.0)

WeGovNow supports inter-faith work in Southwark

[Southwark Council](#) is working with local faith groups to build stronger communities and meet the needs of all of its residents. They are developing a Faith Strategy, which will help different groups work with each other and with the Council

[More](#)



Impressions from the London Southwark Inter-Faith Walk

30 students work as WeGovNow ambassadors in San Donà di Piave

The public administration in [San Donà di Piave](#), one of our three pilot sites, and the local high schools [Liceo Scientifico Galilei](#), [Liceo Statale E. Montale](#) and [Istituto Tecnico Tecnologico Statale Volterra](#) have concluded a formal agreement enabling 30 students...

[More](#)



San Donà students during the ambassador training programme

WeGovNow at the Open Government Week in Turin

The [Open Government Week](#) is a unique seven-day event full of conferences workshops, webinars, hackathons and public debates initiated across Italy - all dedicated to promoting a culture and practice of transparency, participation and accountability

[More](#)



WeGovNow lab participants discussing the platform functionalities (Top left: María Alonso, Mapping for Change)

Training the trainers: London Southwark hosts WeGovNow stakeholder lab

In January 2018, the London Borough of Southwark hosted a WeGovNow training lab which brought together public service officials both internal and external to the municipality as well as representatives from local NGOs

[More](#)



Andrea Cereser, Mayor of San Donà di Piave

Three days of technology at the service of citizens: WeGovNow labs in San Donà

"New technologies can improve the collaboration between citizens and public administrations" - these were the words Andrea Cereser, mayor of the WeGovNow pilot site San Donà di Piave, used to initiate another important WeGovNow event

[More](#)

The local innovation ecosystem of Turin meets WeGovNow

On 1st February, WeGovNow was hosted by [Open Incet](#), the Open Innovation Centre of Turin, where the WeGovNow platform's technical enablers have been brought together with the key stakeholders

[More](#)



WeGovNow lab participants exploring Community Maps

