



Towards We Government:

Collective and participative approaches for addressing local policy challenges

Newsletter #5 2019

Dear Reader,

After three years, the WeGovNow project is coming to an end and it is now the time to round up what we have achieved and learned so far.

Starting in 2016, twelve partner organisations have joined forces in the WeGovNow project to tap into the potentials provided by participatory online technologies having the vision to transform the relationship between citizens and governments into collaborative partnership(s). The result of months of technical and operational development work is the WeGovNow platform which has been piloted under day-to-day conditions in three European cities: San Donà di Piave, London Southwark and Turin.

In a nutshell, the WeGovNow platform provides a set of core functions supporting civic participation and engagement for the purpose of addressing local policy challenges. These include community networking & self-organisation (WeGovNow FirstLife), problem identification & tracking (WeGovNow Improve My City), democratic proposition development & decision making (WeGovNow LiquidFeedback), crowd sourcing of knowledge & ideas (WeGovNow Community Maps), as well as the exchange of volunteering opportunity & free items (WeGovNow Offers & Requests). Other than e.g. commonly available eGovernment services, the WeGovNow platform represents a flexible citizen engagement "tool box" enabling the support of diverse utilisation patterns rather than a single "service work flow".

Almost 10.000 users have yet registered to the pilot service across all three pilot municipalities, populating the WeGovNow platform with content and proving the platform to be stable and indeed scalable to large number of users. From an overall technical perspective, WeGovNow accomplished to integrate a set of core software components into a unified citizen engagement platform that supports local participation processes in a flexible manner – flexible not only in the sense of offering open cross-component usage but by being customisable according to local requirements and preferences at the municipalities.

Following this, the WeGovNow approach also goes beyond the technological, meaning that it requires the pilot municipalities to pursue both technology innovation and administrative process innovation in parallel. Beyond utilising the mere software functionalities provided by the WeGovNow platform, the pilot municipalities have also defined new roles and responsibilities internal to their own administrations for the purposes of the WeGovNow pilots. With the help of the WeGovNow approach, the three cities have not only explored a new participatory eGov platform, but engaged in innovative ways of collaboration both internal and external to the public administrations. Following this, the use case scenarios developed and piloted by the three pilot municipalities also involved a dedicated ecosystem of local stakeholders, including e.g. citizens, schools, local NGOs and associations, all motivated to improve or increase the collaboration with their public administrations with the help of the WeGovNow platform. Turin, for example, has co-designed a public space in Dora Park; San Donà di Piave has promoted active citizenship among young people to engage in public matters; Southwark has supported young job seekers to find employment and training opportunities. Here, WeGovNow has proven to be a transparent and convenient means to collate knowledge and expertise from citizens and to involve them as active partners in the decision-making processes that concern their community.

In the last project months, several local and international exploitation workshops took place to discuss the lessons learned and experiences made in the last year, thereby also exploring the conditions under which WeGovNow may be used after the project end. In particular, the workshops had the objective to keep the discussion with the pilot sites going to explore their further needs and requirements, and at opening a debate with other municipalities potentially interested in the platform and its capability to help addressing local policy challenges. The WeGovNow pilot municipalities are very confident in the continued operation of the WeGovNow platform. We look forward to the path in front of us and the opportunities it might open.

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

The WeGovNow Team

Register now: WeGovNow webinar on 1 February

Did you miss our international workshop in Padua last Friday? This week we'll provide another opportunity to learn from our experiences made and discuss with us the challenges...

[More](#)



Young people in Southwark level up with WeGovNow

In November, WeGovNow has teamed up with Southwark's Youth Council offering a stand at their Level Up youth employment event. The event was the culmination of months of hard work from the Youth Council team

[More](#)

WeGovNow supports collaborative co-design process of a public park in Turin

In Turin the WeGovNow platform is used for a participatory process whose objective is to collect ideas for co-designing a 500 m2 space in Dora Park in a constructive dialogue with its citizens.

[More](#)



Register now: WeGovNow workshop in Padua on January 25

With the WeGovNow project coming to an end after three years, it is now the time to put our heads together and discuss the project's general bottom-up WeGovernment approach. With a view to not only discuss lessons learned but to stimulate further research or uptakes of the WeGovNow platform

[More](#)

Participate in our survey!

Among its various civic participation functions, the WeGovNow pilot platform utilises an interactive map enabling all users to relate posted content to specific places in the local community where they deem useful.

[More](#)



WeGovNow working to improve Southwark's streets

On November 30, Southwark Highways staff and representatives from the WeGovNow team were out on London streets – meeting residents of Harper Road and finding out their views on proposed street improvements.

[More](#)

