

DIGITAL DEMOCRACY THE HAGUE

Final programme

*Sessions are in English, unless indicated otherwise
Version: September 2025*

Thursday 9th of October 2025

09:30

Room: Main hall

Mariëtte van Leeuwen

Provincial Executive

Welcome to DDTH25.

09:45

Room: Main hall

Nienke Meijer

Chairman National Citizen Council Climate

Keynote on the role of citizen councils as a democratic instrument and the interplay between on- and offline participation.

11:00

Room: Main hall

European Commission representative (tbc)

European Commission

Keynote on the European Democracy Shield initiative.

12:00

Room: Main hall

Colin Megill

Director Computational Democracy Project

Keynote on the Pol.is initiative and its worldwide effects on open, digital, democratic processes.

13:00

Room: Main hall

Marleen Stikker

Director Waag Futurelab

Keynote on the state of Digital Democracy and the importance of public digital infrastructure.

14:00

Room: Main hall

Isabel Leemhuis

Behavioral researcher Province of Zuid-Holland

Keynote on behavioral research in participatory practices.

15:00

Room: Main hall

Shannon Spruijt

Founder Populytics

Keynote on opportunities and challenges for hybrid forms of participation.

16:00

Room: Main hall

Cedric Vuye

Associate professor University of Antwerp

Keynote on citizen science project “De Oorzaak”, engaging citizens in measuring the sound in their environment.

17:00 – 19:00

Room: Main hall

Drinks and networking

We invite you to drinks and snacks during our networking event at the end of day one.

10:45 – 12:00

Room: States hall

BETTI Consortium: Responsible AI

Frederik Zevenbergen (Provincial Executive), Gwennaëlle Costa de Valliant (Director Digital Region Ile de France), Arianna Novaro (Université Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Shannon Spruijt (Founder Populytics), Bastiaan Noord (Ethics expert Province of Groningen), Roel Jan Roele (Province of Zuid-Holland)

How do AI systems impact our ability to govern, and how do we govern the impact of AI on our societies and democracies.

13:00 – 14:15

Room: States hall

Kennisknooppunt Participatie: Limits to digital democracy

Carla Weber (Provincial Director), Marloes Pomp (Director GovTechNL), Ben Kokkeler (Chairman Ethics Committee Eindhoven), Martijn Bekking (Coordinator Platform AI & Government), Pieter van Boheemen (Founder PostXSociety)

Digital democracy raises many questions. Not everybody is willing or able to participate through digital means.

14:45 – 16:00

Room: States hall

OECD: Improving civic participation with emerging technologies

Bruno Monteiro (OECD), Art de Blaauw (CIO Dutch Government), Nicole Dronkers (Seconded National Expert European Commission), Tom Schuurmans (Manager Innovation Ministry of Infrastructure), Giuletta Marani (Program director ICTU)

How can governments and innovators truly co-create meaningful solutions together? In this panel we discuss learnings emerging throughout Europe.

11:00 – 12:30

Room: Commission hall

European Digital Democracy Network: Contemporary Research (1)

Emma Hoes (ETH Zurich), Suzanne Bloks (London School of Economics), Féline Lindeboom (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen)

Academic presentations by independent researchers: **1)** The Hidden Politics of Social Media: When Non-Political Influencers Shape What We Believe **2)** Random Districts and Digital Democracy **3)** Diversity in Approval-Based Committee Elections under Incomplete or Inaccurate Information.

13:30 – 15:00

Room: Commission hall

European project: Advancing Digital Democracy Innovation (ADDY)

Umberto Grandi (Université Toulouse Capitole), Jairo Gudiño-Rosero (ETH Zürich), Maija Setälä (University of Turku)

Academic presentations by European research project ADDY: **1)** Project overview **2)** Large Language Models as Agents for Augmented Democracy **3)** LLMs in Democratic Deliberation

15:30 – 17:00

Room: Commission hall

European project: AI4Deliberation

Efthimios Tambouris (University of Macedonia), Sem Nouws (TU Delft), Bram Delisse (Co-founder & Operations lead at Dembrane)

Academic presentations by European research project: **1)** Overview of the AI4Deliberation project **2)** tbd **3)** tbd

ALL SESSIONS IN THIS TRACK ARE IN DUTCH

10:30 – 12:30

Room: Corridor

Workshop: Hoe ontwerp je een participatietraject

Celine Sutorius (Provincie Zuid-Holland), Ennio Mos (Kennisknooppunt Participatie)

Een participatietraject bestaat uit verschillende stappen. In deze workshop leiden we je door al deze stappen heen. En bespreken we de inzet van digitale middelen in elke stap.

14:00 – 16:00

Room: Corridor

Workshop: Hoe zet ik Citizen Science in bij het meten van de leefomgeving

Imme Ruarus (Waag Futurelab)

Citizen Science is een manier om samen met inwoners de leefomgeving in kaart te brengen met behulp van sensoren. Bijvoorbeeld, lucht- of waterkwaliteit, of geluidshinder. Tijdens de workshop bekijken we mogelijkheden van citizen science als participatie instrument aan de hand van succesvolle voorbeelden als *De Oorzaak*, en *Hollandse Luchten*.

11:00 – 12:00

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: The Cheshire East People’s Panel on the Cost of Living

Andy Paice (CrownShy)

13:00 – 14:00

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: Agora Citizen, lessons from a citizen engagement startup

Yuting Jiang, Agora Citizen

14:30 – 15:30 DUTCH

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: Inzet VR bij online participatie: van kaart naar beleving

Luuk Davidsz, Municipality Groningen

11:00 – 12:00

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: Scaling Civic Tech in Europe – Insights from Developing and Scaling Polis in Finland

Sanna-Kaisa Saloranta (Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra)

13:00 – 14:00

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: Using Polis in We Are Drenthe conversations

Anne de Zeeuw (Province of Drenthe)

14:30 – 15:30 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: De Mienskip aan het woord

Rigt Kalsbeek, province of Friesland

16:00 – 17:00

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: Digital Child Rights

Peter Joziassse, Digital Child Rights Foundation

Friday 10th of October 2025

10:00

Room: Main hall

Tom Wilkinson

CDO Scottish Government

Keynote on the interplay of public sector data, public engagement and public services.

11:00

Room: Main hall

Lilian de Jong

IN DUTCH

Future researcher STT

Keynote on future scenario's as a way to shape digital public spaces and the foundations of our future democracy.

12:00

Room: Main hall

Pieter van Boheemen

Founder PostXSociety

The *Democracy Monitor* dissects the current state of democracy. And gives us insights into the impact of social media on our societies.

13:00

Room: Main hall

Hendrik Nahr

Head of European Affairs Made.org

Keynote on european developments in the field of citizen participation and tools for democracy.

14:00

Room: Main hall

Peter Smet / Ib Haarsma

Director Journalism Incentive Fund

Keynote on the role of media and journalism in relation to citizen participation.

15:00

Room: Main hall

Charlotte Vaasen

PhD researcher, Vrije Universiteit

Through scenario's we can discuss the way we shape digital public spaces and their effects on the foundations of our future democracy.

10:00 – 11:15

Room: States hall

Kennisknooppunt Participatie: Innovating the participation landscape

Alette Smits (Lector Hanze University), Ben Kokkeler (Chairman Ethics Committee Eindhoven), David Bos (Program director OpenStad), Nanke Verloo (Associate professor University of Amsterdam), Eva de Bruijn (Strategic Designer We Are Social Rebels), Jim Blom (Co-founder Parai)

Consistency in the way digital participation presents itself to citizens is crucial. However this has led to inefficient tooling in the past. How do we use innovation to support just and accessible tools.

12:30 – 13:45

Room: States hall

Commons Network: Civic Infrastructure for Democracy

Sophie Bloemen (Founder Commons Network), Robin Pocornie (AI Expert and Digital Rights Advocate) Linea Bingel (Economic Affairs Municipality of Amsterdam), Evelyn Austin (Director Bits of Freedom), Ivonne Jansen-Dings, (Strategic Advisor Province of Zuid-Holland), Koos Steenbergen (Policy Advisor Ministry of Interior)

Strong civic and civilian digital infrastructure is essential for a robust democracy. It is essential we support resilience and capacity bottom up, enabling society itself to build and govern the digital tools we need.

14:15 – 15:30

Room: States hall

VNG (Association of Dutch Municipalities): Digital Public Space and Democracy

Thomas de Groot (Senior Policy Advisor VNG), Geert-Jan Bogaerts (Chairman Public Spaces), Lilian de Jong (Future Research STT), Sybren van Dokkum (Council Member Heiloo)
What are the preconditions for a digital public space, that ensures a healthy and inclusive democracy for the future.

09:30 – 11:00

Room: Commission hall

European Digital Democracy Network: Contemporary Research (2)

Arianna Novaro (Université Paris-1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), Anna Mikhaylovskaya (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), Jos van Leeuwen (Haagse Hogeschool)

Academic presentations by independent researchers: **1)** Bridging Theory and Practice in Digital Democracy: A COMSOC Perspective **2)** Nurturing Virtues with Digital Democratic Innovations **3)** Online deliberation and the opportunities and challenges of generative AI.

11:30 - 13:00

Room: Commission hall

European project: Participatory Democracy that Scales (PERYCLES)

Davide Grossi (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), Elise Rouméas (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), Andreas Nitsche/Axel Kistner (FlexiGuided/ Association for Interactive Democracy)

Academic presentations by European research project: **1)** Overview of the Perycles project **2)** Promoting Compromise through Institutional Design. The Case of Digital Democratic Innovations **3)** LiquidFeedback: Democratic Self-Governance at Scale

14:00 – 15:30

Room: Commission hall

European project: Innovative Democracy Through Digitalization (Innovade)

Fatih Yilmaz (Beyond the Horizon ISSG), Joel Museba (Paderborn University), Laurien Koenen (KU Leuven)

Academic presentations by European research project: **1)** Knowledge Base for Digital Democracy **2)** Panel discussion on “Digital Democracy and Policy-Making”.

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09:30 – 11:30

Room: Corridor

Workshop: OpenStad, Polis, Consul. Snel schakelen met open participatietools.

Bart Nieuwenweg (OpenSstad), Raoul Kramer (Polis NL), Jens Kimmel (Consul Democracy Foundation)

Open participatietools onderscheiden zich van commerciële tools door onder anderen herbruikbaarheid en transparantie. Hoe ga je snel aan de slag met de drie essentiële tools die voor Nederlandse overheden beschikbaar zijn. En waar moet je allemaal rekening mee houden wanneer je *open* tools gebruikt.

13:00 – 15:00

Room: Corridor

Workshop: Data, representatie en participatie

Marco Sodderland (Motivaction)
Wanneer je digitale middelen inzet in je participatietraject, kunnen er grote datasets ontstaan. Hoe verwerk je de ruwe data tot inzichten? En zorg je dat jouw data ook representatief is voor jouw vraagstuk?

09:30 – 10:30

Room: Schoonoord

Participatory Democracy in Slovakia
Michal Horsky (DEMDIS)

10:45 – 11:45 DUTCH

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: Genuanceerde burgerparticipatie in gespannen tijden
José Duindam (gemeente Wijk bij Duurstede)

12:00 – 13:00

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: The ‘Assense’ area approach with AI
Gert Stam (municipality Assen)

13:15 – 14:15

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: ‘Talk with your government’ experiment
Reinout Meuwissen, Ministry of Interior

14:30 – 15:30

Room: Schoonoord

Case study: new construction of children's center
Edgar Bon (municipality Vught)

09:30 – 10:30 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: Capelle bouwt aan de stad
Bert Tielemans (gemeente Capelle aan den IJssel)

10:45 – 11:45 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: Zendmast Waarde
Simone Janssen (gemeente Reimerswaal)

12:00 – 13:00 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: Hoe één inwoner de aanzet gaf voor het digitale hart van zijn stad
Jean-Paul Maduro (inwoner Lelystad)

13:15 – 14:15 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: AI-collega voor participatie
Linda Westerkamp (gemeente Zwolle)

14:30 – 15:30 DUTCH

Room: Arentsburgh

Case study: Doe mee over SMB, grip op wachttijden bij sociaal medisch beoordelen
Bo Aarsbergen (Ministerie SZW)