

Press Release

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Barcelona reinforces its leadership in digital and democratic innovation with the endorsement of the United Nations Open Source Principles

>> Deputy Mayor Jordi Valls, Open Source United Coordinator Omar Mohsine, and United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Digitalisation Amandeep Singh Gill (virtually), symbolize the international recognition of Barcelona as a pioneering city in open technologies and digital rights.

>> Barcelona becomes the first city in the world to publicly endorse the United Nations Open Source Principles.

Barcelona has become the first city in the world to publicly endorse the United Nations Open Source Principles, committing to promoting open, secure, sustainable, and accessible technologies for everyone. In doing so, the city reaffirms its leadership in digital and democratic innovation. Deputy Mayor Jordi Valls, Open Source United co-chairs Omar Mohsine and Mostafa Elkordy, and (virtually) UN Under-Secretary-General, and special envoy for Digital and Emerging Technologies Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill, and the UN Assistant-Secretary-General Mr. Bernardo Mariano Junior formalized the signing yesterday at Barcelona City Hall, symbolizing international recognition of Barcelona as a pioneer in open technologies and digital rights. The event also marked the official presentation of the Barcelona Open Tech Week.

In his remarks, Amandeep Singh Gill highlighted Barcelona's role as an international reference for ethical technology, open data, and digital inclusion, emphasizing that 'the importance of open source principles is not only a technological matter but a public good issue. Technology and knowledge must be in the hands of everyone, not just a few.'. Mr. Bernardo Mariano stressed that the United Nations shares Barcelona's vision of a digital future grounded in openness, trust, and collaboration.

Deputy Mayor Jordi Valls noted that 'in an international context where technology is also contributing to global polarization, we must foster technological and digital policy models that place people and rights at the center. Barcelona is Spain's leading technology city—in companies, hubs, and employment—and has also been a historic pioneer in promoting open and free technologies such as the Decidim civic participation platform. Today, by being the first public institution to sign the UN Open Source Principles, we reinforce Barcelona's commitment to digital rights, open governance, and cutting-edge technology as a driver of economic and social progress.'

The United Nations Open Source Principles establish a global framework to promote collaboration, transparency, reuse, and the creation of digital public goods:

<https://unite.un.org/en/news/osi-first-endorse-united-nations-open-source-principles>

A city with a long tradition in open technologies

Barcelona has historically been a pioneer in promoting public and open technologies. Projects such as Decidim — the open-source civic participation platform used by over 30 countries and institutions including the European Commission and the City of New York — the urban sensor system Sentilo, the Municipal Data Office tools, and the municipal websites developed with Drupal exemplify a digital strategy based on technological sovereignty, transparency, and citizens' rights.

This trajectory has consolidated the city as an international reference in democratic digital innovation, capable of generating technological projects that place people and the common good at the center.

Barcelona Open Tech Week: 4–9 November 2025

With the signing of the United Nations Open Source Principles, the City of Barcelona has launched the Barcelona Open Tech Week — a week that will place the city at the center of global debates on technology, innovation, and digital rights under the motto: One City. One Week. The Future of the Internet.

Over six days, Barcelona will host conferences, debates, and international festivals exploring how to build a fair, open, and democratic Internet. Key events include:

- Decidim Fest (4, 5, and 6 November) – at Canòdrom, the Digital and Democratic Innovation Hub. Under the theme 'Building Technology as a Public Good,' it will bring together institutions, experts, and digital communities from around the world.
- MozFest House Barcelona (7, 8, and 9 November) – at Poble Espanyol. Organized by the Mozilla Foundation, it will address digital rights, algorithmic justice, and community-driven technological alternatives.
- European 4d Conference on Democratic Digitalisation and Digital Rights – promoted by the .cat Foundation and Xnet, combining art, activism, and technopolitics.
- GIGA Agenda – focused on sustainability and governance of digital infrastructures as global commons.

Towards a City Agreement for Democratic Technologies

With the Barcelona Open Tech Week and the signing of the United Nations Open Source Principles, the city reaffirms its commitment to a model of democratic digitalisation that strengthens transparency, collaboration, and public innovation. In this regard, Barcelona's Commissioner for Citizen Participation, Pedro Aguilera, announced

that the City Council 'aims to continue consolidating Barcelona as the global capital of digital rights, in collaboration with universities, organizations, companies, and technology communities.' Aguilera added that 'within the framework of the Open Tech Week, we will launch a permanent participatory space to move towards a city pact for digital rights and open technologies — a space for dialogue with citizens to promote technologies that serve people.' According to Aguilera, this will be achieved 'by driving a common strategy that ensures a fair, transparent, and democratic digitalisation.'

This initiative marks another step forward in consolidating Barcelona as the global capital of open technology and digital rights, aiming to strengthen this model of digital governance and expand citizen engagement.

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