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# Innovative democratic approaches and tools

## The e-democracy in Spain



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# Advantages and disadvantages of E-Democracy

## ADVANTAGES



## DISADVANTAGES

Improvement on citizen accessibility to democracy, consultations are quicker and therefore more efficient.

Citizens have unlimited access to democratic processes and information at any time and in any place.

Lower costs due to reduced material costs.

There are still many people who, because of money problems or age, cannot access technology.

It is easier to sabotage or hack, needs a high security network.

Being electronic reduces the reliability of the system.

# E-Democracy in Spain



Spain is one of the countries at the forefront of digital democracy ([The Guardian](#))

In Spain, several cities have launched **citizen participation portals**, where residents can propose actions, vote on them and debate.

- The first to do so was Madrid, with its *Decide Madrid* platform. This platform allows the inhabitants of the Spanish capital to **participate directly** in the democracy process. It also allows citizens to **interact** with councilors and other members of the municipal corporation.



However...There is still much to be done!

It is necessary to improve E-Democracy in Spain both at autonomous community level and at national level  **Every citizen deserves to be heard**

# E-Democracy in Spain: The impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

During the pandemic, E-Democracy became even more relevant

- Due to an unexpected social shift, social movement activities were constrained, and political issues were temporarily put on hold.
- To counter this recession, politics were spread throughout **social media and digital platforms**

It was clearly demonstrated how important it is to maintain good digital networks to ensure ongoing dialogue with citizens





# “España Digital” Project

A project of the Spanish government financed by the European Union for the digital transformation of the country

**Aims to operate in three dimensions:**

- **Infrastructure and Technology:** better connectivity, 5G, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and other disruptive technologies.
- **Economy:** digitization of SMEs and public administrations, digital entrepreneurship, integration of technology in industrial value chains and in the audiovisual sector.
- **People:** promoting the development of digital skills to access to the careers of the future and the digital inclusion of the entire population, ensuring the protection of people's rights in the digital environment.

**España** | digital

