ACTE
ASSOCIATION CIVIC TECH EUROPE

Manifesto

Organizations, companies and associations developing civic and citizen-oriented technological solutions, commonly known as civic tech, now constitute a fully-fledged economic sector.

Civic tech aims to solve the crisis of the representativeness of modern democracies by developing innovative technological tools.

The use of these platforms strengthens democracy by giving citizens the opportunity to regain control over public decision-making, and allows elected officials and public authorities to establish a direct, instant and permanent exchange with citizens.

This dialogue is one of the keys to curbing civil society's mistrust of institutions and rethinking its representativeness in a connected world.

The civic tech members of this association wish to contribute usefully and pragmatically to the development of the sector and to maintain a constructive exchange with public authorities.

What is a civic tech ?

Civic tech are actors, independent of any political or economic movement, who rely on technological innovations to strengthen citizens' participation in democracy and forge new links between voters and institutions.

Including a larger number of citizens in the democratic process will allow political decisions to better integrate their collective requirements and experience.

In this way, civic tech platforms attempt to respond to the crisis of representative democracy and **keep participatory democracy alive on a continuous basis**, particularly outside electoral periods.

Different principles are inherent in the action of civic tech :

· Citizens are at **the heart of the process**
· Civic tech **serves the general interest**
· Civic tech **ensures the constancy and continuity of democracy**
· The independence of civic tech platforms **is guaranteed**
· Civic techs are **fully transparent with their users**

Civic tech is the future of democracy

Within the Member States of the European Union, more and more civic techs are developing in order to contribute to the improvement of democracy. However, the representation of the sector is not yet structured on a European scale.

Civic techs are developing rapidly to meet current democratic challenges and now want to be represented as a sector of activity in national and European institutions.

Thus, the Civic Tech Europe Association (ACTE), founded through this manifesto, aims to:

· **Structure and represent the sector** within the European Union
· **Guarantee the original vocation of civic tech** by focusing on their democratic purpose
· **Respect the differences in culture and approach** of each individual
· **Strengthen and multiply civic tech platforms** in all Member States
· **Foster the acculturation of civic tech** in order to create new links between public decision-makers and citizens and strengthen the participatory dimension of our European democracies.

The civic tech actors brought together in the ACTE wish to become the privileged interlocutor of public authorities and stakeholders of the sector at the European level.

The ACTE aims to bring together all European civic tech organizations, companies and associations who wish to join and pursue the same objectives as the signatories of this manifesto.

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