
Local Open Government: Key Issues in Paris

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze key issues of open government in Paris. The city is one of the selected members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) for the Local Government Pilot Program. A qualitative approach and bibliometric analysis method are used in this study. Data sourced from Google Scholar collected using Publish or Perish (keywords: Paris information access; Paris transparency; Paris public participation; and Paris public collaboration). Data selection using Mendelay, while bibliometric maps obtained using VOS viewer. This study found 90 relevant articles and 90 topics of open government in Paris. The dominant topics include: transparency; Paris agreement; information; guidelines; and access. While the current and potential topics include: communications; challenges; capacity; policy-making; and hidden-order procedure. Since its main role in the Open Government Partnership, Paris has set twelve commitments, four of which are their current focus: Paris citizens' assembly; introducing two brand-new digital platforms for greater transparency and citizen participation; European citizenship; developing the first index to assess ecological democracy, and establish an action to implement the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment program. These commitments are part of the current potential study of open government in Paris.

Keywords: Key issues; Open government; Paris

Introduction

Open government has become an important strategy for administrative reform, prompting many countries around the world to design and implement initiatives related to access to information, transparency, public participation, and public collaboration (Afandi, Erdayani, & Afandi, 2024; De Blasio & Selva, 2019; Gil-Garcia, Gasco-Hernandez, & Pardo, 2020). Many governments have expanded the concept of open government, for example the Obama administration announced the Open Government Directive in 2009 and took a leading role in establishing the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multinational effort to promote open government worldwide (Afandi, 2024; Moon, 2020; Schmidhuber & Hilgers, 2021).

The Open Government Partnership is based on the idea that open government is more accessible, more responsive, and more accountable to citizens, and that improving the relationship between citizens and government has long-term and exponential benefits for all (Afandi, Afandi, & Erdayani, 2023; Ruijter & Meijer, 2020; Tai, 2021). The OGP is a broad partnership that includes members at the national and local levels (Gao, Janssen, & Zhang, 2021; Ingrams, 2020; Ruijter, D tienne, Baker, Groff, & Meijer, 2020).

Being part of the local OGP provides benefits to encourage open reforms that have become part of the vision and mission of each local government to achieve levels of accountability, responsiveness, inclusiveness, and transparency (Ingrams, Piotrowski, & Berliner, 2020; Zulfa & Afandi, 2023). Through membership in this global community, each local government can obtain new information on the implementation of open government, as well as allow for sharing of views, experiences, and resources to achieve the principles of open government (Afandi, Erdayani, & Afandi, 2023; Wirtz, Weyerer, & Sch, 2019).

The Open Government Partnership has launched the Local Government Pilot Program, recognizing that much open government innovation and reform is happening at the local level where governments can engage more directly with citizens and deliver many important public services. The program is being implemented by fifteen local governments: Austin, Basque Country, Buenos Aires, South Cotabato, Elegy Marakwet, Jalisco, Kaduna State, La Libertad, Madrid, Sao Paulo, Scotland, Sekondi-Takoradi, Seoul, Tbilisi, and Paris.

In addition to being selected for the OGP Local Government Pilot Program, Paris is the only local government in the country to join the OGP. Therefore, Paris has a major responsibility for spreading the values of open government in the country. To date, Paris has made twelve commitments to support open government, including: increase mobile and delocalized crowdsourcing with Densmore V2; kick-off of the Paris City innovation lab; climate mobilization; open contracting; a more inclusive participatory budget; to give the Parisians tools to be committed; increasing community mobilization in new datasets request; solidarity factory; develop the first index to assess ecological democracy, and establish an action to implement the UNFCCC action for climate empowerment program; european citizenship; introducing two brand-new digital platforms for greater transparency and citizen participation; and Paris citizens'

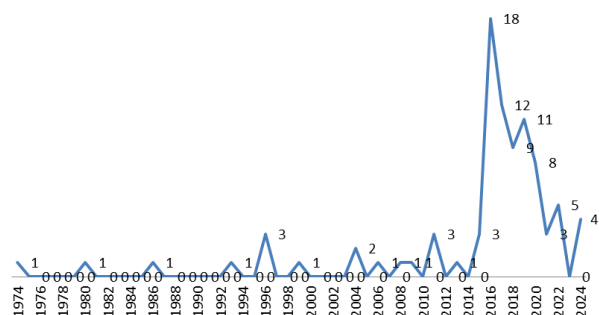
assembly. This study aims to analyze the main issues of local open government in Paris.

Method

This study uses a qualitative approach with a bibliometric analysis method. Bibliometric analysis is a method for analyzing scientific literature in a particular field of knowledge or topic (Donthu, Kumar, Mukherjee, Pandey, & Lim, 2021; Moral-Muñoz, Herrera-Viedma, Santisteban-Espejo, & Cobo, 2020). This method is used to identify trends/highlight critical insights generated from scientific literature (Gaviria-Marin, Merigó, & Baier-Fuentes, 2019; Kulsum et al., 2022). The data used were obtained from the Google Scholar database through Publish or Perish with four keywords: “Paris information access,” “Paris transparency,” “Paris public participation,” and “Paris public collaboration”. These keywords are based on the main principles of open government. The data obtained were then stored in RIS format, selected using Mendeley, including completing author keywords, and analyzed using VOSviewer to obtain a bibliometric map.

Results and Discussion

Ninety relevant articles were found in the last half century (see Figure 1). The first article was published in 1974, while the most recent article was published in 2024. No papers were found in the years 1975-1979; 1981-1985; 1987-1992; 1994-1995; 1997-1998; 2000-2003; 2005; 2007; 2010; 2012-2014; and 2023. One article was published in 1975; 1980; 1986; 1993; 1999; 2006; 2008; 2009; and 2013. Two articles were published in 2004, while three articles were published in 1996; 2011; 2015; and 2021. Four articles were published in 2024, five in 2005, eight in 2020, nine in 2018, eleven in 2019, twelve in 2017, and eighteen in 2016. The publication of open government Paris articles is fluctuating, with the highest number of publications in 2016 with a total of 18 articles.



Graph 1. Publication trends

Network visualization (see Figure 1) displays the relationships between topics formed from article keywords (Irfan, Septiadi, Rivandra, & Rakhmawati, 2023). No duplicate items are displayed in this visualization. Identical items that appear in multiple articles are counted as a single item (Gaviria-Marin et al., 2019). This visualization represents items with labels and circles. The size of the labels and circles is determined by their respective weights. The more frequently an item appears, the larger the size of the resulting label and circle. The lines between items represent links, while the location of each item indicates the closeness of the relationship (Ham, Koo, & Lee, 2019; Lnenicka & Saxena, 2021).

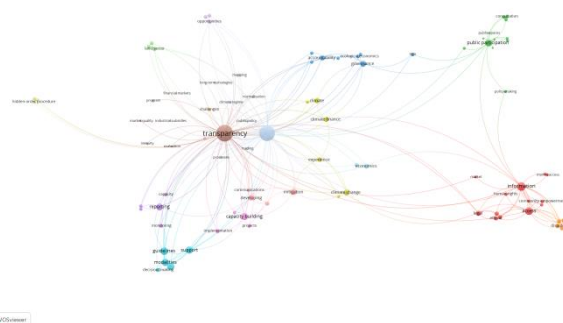


Figure 1. Network visualization

There are 90 topics (see Table 1) and 812 total link strengths in the Paris open government study. Transparency (167 total link strength); Paris agreement (145 total link strength); information (31 total link strength); guidelines (23 total link strength); access (22 total link strength); support (21 total link strength); capacity building (19 total link strength); modalities (19 total link strength); procedures (19 total link strength); reporting (18 total link strength); public participation (16 total link strength); mitigation (14 total link strength); climate change (12 total link strength); governance (12 total link strength); and developing (11 total link strength) are the list of topics that dominate. These topics are the main focus of the Paris open government study.

Table 1. List of topics

| No | Items | No | Items | No | Items | No | Items |
|----|-----------------------|----|------------------------|----|-------------------------|----|-------------------------|
| 1 | access | 24 | ecological economics | 47 | justice | 70 | pre-trade |
| 2 | accountability | 25 | economic co-operation | 48 | land sector | 71 | procedures |
| 3 | assessment | 26 | economics | 49 | law | 72 | processes |
| 4 | capacity | 27 | education | 50 | legal | 73 | program |
| 5 | capacity building | 28 | effective framework | 51 | legitimacy | 74 | progress |
| 6 | challenges | 29 | equal | 52 | long-term strategies | 75 | projects |
| 7 | climate | 30 | ethical | 53 | mapping | 76 | protection |
| 8 | climate change | 31 | evaluation | 54 | market | 77 | public awareness |
| 9 | climate finance | 32 | experience | 55 | market access | 78 | public participation |
| 10 | climate regime | 33 | financial | 56 | market power | 79 | public policy |
| 11 | coalition | 34 | financial markets | 57 | market quality | 80 | public spaces |
| 12 | communications | 35 | framework convention | 58 | mitigation | 81 | reporting |
| 13 | community empowerment | 36 | freedom of expression | 59 | modalities | 82 | resolution |
| 14 | comparability | 37 | gaps | 60 | monitoring | 83 | societal support |
| 15 | compliance | 38 | governance | 61 | ngo | 84 | |
| 16 | consultation | 39 | guidelines | 62 | non-state actors | 85 | sustainable development |
| 17 | cooperation | 40 | hidden-order procedure | 63 | normalisation | 86 | technology on trial |
| 18 | corporate | 41 | human rights | 64 | opportunities | 87 | trading |
| 19 | deal | 42 | implementation | 65 | paris agreement | 88 | transformation |
| 20 | decision-making | 43 | industrial subsidies | 66 | paris bourse | 89 | transparency |
| 21 | developing | 44 | inequity | 67 | participatory democracy | | |
| 22 | digital environment | 45 | information | 68 | policy-making | 90 | working party |
| 23 | dispute | 46 | interest groups | 69 | potential | | |

The overlay visualization (see Figure 2) is identical to the network visualization (see Figure 1), except for the color of the items. In this visualization, the colors range from blue (lowest score), green (middle score), to yellow (highest score). Current topics of focus in the Paris open government study include: communications; developing; financial; program; inequity; ambition; monitoring; capacity; implementation; project; challenges; processes; opportunities; compliance; procedure; law; and public space. These topics provide potential areas for future study.

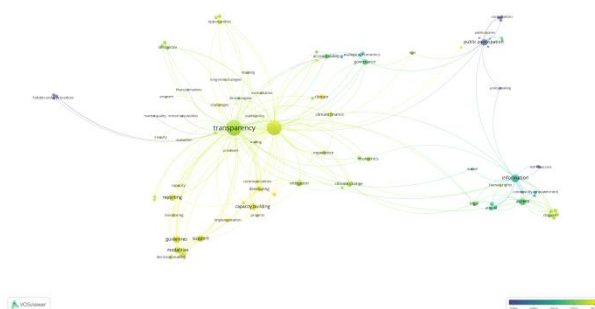


Figure 2. Overlay visualization

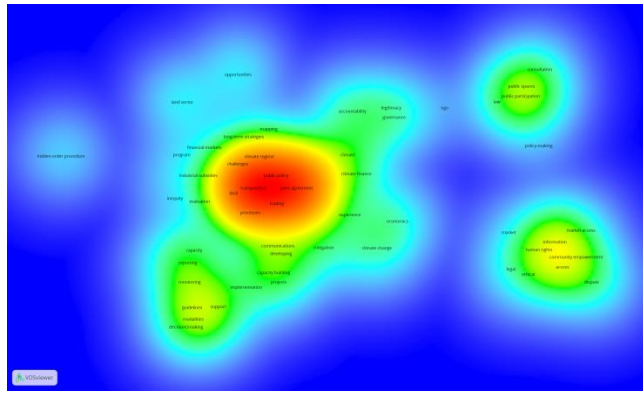


Figure 3. Density visualization

Other topics that allow for potential future studies of Paris open government are: policy-making; NGO; opportunities; land sector; and hidden-order procedure (see Figure 3). These topics are outside the main cluster of Paris open government studies. In addition to these potential opportunities, including overlay visualization (see Figure 2), the potential study topics of Paris open government are related to their current core commitments.

First, the Paris citizens' assembly. While several initiatives by the City of Paris have allowed citizens to have their say (such as participatory budgeting, advisory boards, citizen panels, and conferences), the ambition of the Citizens' Assembly is unprecedented. The assembly aims to provide its members with new tools for training, discovering and elaborating on city issues, better understanding the functioning of the City of Paris and its public services, instilling new ideas, and influencing public decision-making. This commitment aims to expand the rights of citizenship related to political participation as well as to achieve a higher level of equality in participation.

This commitment involved the creation of a Citizens' Assembly made up of 100 Parisians, randomly selected for a one-year term. The purpose of this new citizens' assembly was to participate directly in the policy-making process. In practice, the assembly met in working groups to deliberate and formulate recommendations. The assembly's work focused on three main themes: social education, the environment, and public space. The assembly's work was divided into two phases: an initial phase of discovery and learning, and a second phase of deepening and recommendations. At the end of the process, the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly were submitted to the Paris executive and presented during the Paris Council.

This commitment has the potential to expand citizenship rights related to political participation: the Citizens' Assembly has an unprecedented prerogative that allows its citizen members to produce the deliberations submitted to the Council of Paris, a major innovation of this body and directly related to decision-making. This commitment has the potential to achieve a higher level of equality in participation: the mobilization of the members of the Citizens' Assembly is carried out through a weighted random selection based on four socio-demographic criteria: age, sex, educational level, and district of residence. This pursuit of equality in participation also involves support for those elected to reduce potential feelings of illegitimacy (training in public speaking and interpreting current events). In the long term, this commitment has the potential to further integrate citizen participation into the decision-making process and institutionalize a citizen participation body on a scale across the City of Paris.

Second, introducing two brand-new digital platforms for greater transparency and citizen participation. Despite strong commitments from the Paris executive and civil society, the City of Paris' digital platforms have failed to fully take into account citizens' voices and have proven slow to reach new audiences. The City of Paris' existing tools for citizen participation face limitations: the multiplicity of digital platforms, which leads to a lack of visibility for Parisians; the unevenness of citizen participation depending on the consultation and topic; the many citizen participation networks in Paris that are often disconnected from each other; the lack of clear and transparent rules for including citizens' voices outside the scope of consultations.

The City of Paris has created two platforms: *Décider pour Paris* and *Agir pour Paris*. *Décider pour Paris* is a collaborative way for Parisians to submit and refine their ideas. It brings together all public consultations organized by the city and the municipal council. It also establishes new rules for processing ideas and comments: if a proposal reaches 1,500 votes in favor, citizens have the automatic right to contact the city, which then commits to studying these projects. *Agir pour Paris* facilitates the ability of Parisians to connect with others and take action by bringing together all local initiatives to get involved in projects related to Paris. The platform displays a selection of projects by date, location, and area (environment, solidarity, sports, recreation, education, etc.). It serves to connect citizens, associations, collectives, environmental groups, and Paris Volunteers.

This commitment has the potential to improve access to information through an inventory of all participation processes on projects to transform the city, including the most strategic consultations for the City of Paris (e.g., the review of the Climate Plan); to increase citizen participation in Parisian democracy, both by giving opinions (through comments or petitions) and by getting involved (as volunteers); to improve the integration of citizen participation in political decision-making, with the introduction of the right to express opinions to the City of Paris; to better control user data, since the platform is developed on Lutece, an open source tool developed by the City of Paris and hosted on the City's servers. In the long term, this commitment has the potential to result in greater citizen participation and a better explanation of citizen opinions on all public policies of the City of Paris, within the framework of pre-existing public consultations or otherwise.

Third, European citizenship. The Paris government faces major challenges: raising awareness among young non-French Parisians in particular, ahead of the 2024 European elections; providing information on citizens' rights and

facilitating voter registration; combating the spread of fake news. European elections are usually poorly attended across the Union, especially among young people. Often seen as too distant and disconnected from local issues, they struggle to attract citizen interest.

Through this commitment, the European Council of Paris has launched an innovative, citizen-driven, and participatory information campaign in the run-up to the European elections to encourage Parisians, especially young people, to register to vote. The information campaign relies on the organization of information events in an engaging format; the production of mini-videos to raise awareness in different European languages; and the design of awareness leaflets illustrated by cartoonists. Before and after the 2024 elections, the European Council of Paris will carry out its activities in collaboration with the City of Paris to promote European citizenship.

This commitment has the potential to improve access to information: the participatory campaign is designed to provide Parisians with more information about the upcoming European elections, as well as about voter registration; encourage participation in the elections: the participatory campaign encourages Parisians, especially young people, to register on the electoral register and vote in the European elections in order to achieve a better representation of citizens' priorities in the elections. In the long term, this commitment reflects the values of democracy, inclusion, and citizenship that Paris promotes.

Fourth, develop the first index to assess ecological democracy and establish an action plan to implement the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment program. Addressing the ecological emergency means significantly increasing citizen participation in urban climate governance to promote a democratic, socially just, and faster transition. A growing number of local authorities, such as the City of Paris, are setting up participatory and deliberative processes that involve citizens in their climate policies. However, most of these processes lack inclusiveness, struggle to mobilize the public, and have little impact on decision-making.

The City of Paris has introduced a variety of participatory and consultative approaches to climate issues, with mixed results and impacts that have yet to be fully assessed. During the revision of its climate plan, the city mobilized citizens in 140 public deliberation sessions, culminating in the publication of a white paper on consultations. This initiative reflected a dual determination to involve citizens' expertise in the environmental transition and to articulate local impetus with the overall management of operations. The city now wants to strengthen the consistency and impact of its participatory initiatives to engage citizens in the implementation of the Climate Plan.

The commitment aims to increase transparency, participation, and inclusiveness in the City of Paris' climate governance while creating a new common ground for ecological democracy that will benefit the network of climate cities and local open government partnerships. The commitment has the potential to jointly develop the first ecological democracy index, allowing cities to assess and analyze their actions to engage citizens in climate and ecological transition projects and empowering them to take action at their own level; develop action plans based on this assessment to increase citizens' commitment to the ecological transition; and enable the exchange of information, experiences, and best practices with other cities on an international scale through the existing city network.

This commitment has the potential to build strong climate governance at the city level by fully involving citizens in climate action. In the long term, it will strengthen the City of Paris' capacity to foster citizen participation to achieve a more democratic, equitable, and rapid ecological transition. It activates key factors to achieve the goal: the adoption of an assessment tool, the Climate Democracy Index, to harness and enhance local participatory initiatives and other efforts to promote transparency and information; the strengthening of a shared interdepartmental vision on the benefits of citizen engagement to accelerate the city's transition, the strengths and weaknesses of existing initiatives, and ways to improve them, thanks to the co-creation of this tool and participatory evaluation; the development of a sharing of experiences with other cities on citizen engagement and climate change.

Table 2. Paris Commitments

| No | Commitments | Goals |
|----|--|---|
| 1 | Paris citizens' assembly | This commitment was made to expand citizenship rights related to political participation and to achieve a higher level of equality in participation. |
| 2 | Introducing two brand-new digital platforms for greater transparency and citizen participation. | This commitment is made to generate greater citizen participation and better explanation of citizens' opinions on all public policies of the City of Paris, within the framework of pre-existing public consultations or otherwise. |
| 3 | European citizenship | This commitment was made to raise awareness among non-French young Parisians in particular, ahead of the European elections, provide information on citizens' rights, facilitate voter registration, and combat the spread of fake news. |
| 4 | Develop the first index to assess ecological democracy, and establish an action to implement the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment program | This commitment is made to increase the transparency, participation, and inclusiveness of the City of Paris' climate governance while creating a new common ground for ecological democracy that will benefit the network of climate cities and local open government partnerships. |

Conclusions

Ninety articles on Paris open government were found in the last fifty years. The first publication was detected in 1974, while the latest in 2024. The most articles were found in the period 2016-2020. There are 90 topics and 812 total link

strengths in the Paris open government study. The dominant topics include: transparency; Paris agreement; information; guidelines; access; support; capacity building; modalities; procedures; reporting; public participation; mitigation; climate change; governance; and developing. Meanwhile, the latest and potential topics include: communications; developing; financial; program; inequity; ambition; monitoring; capacity; implementation; project; challenges; processes; opportunities; compliance; procedure; law; public space; policy-making; NGO; opportunities; land sector; and hidden-order procedure.

In addition to these topics, potential studies of Paris' open government relate to its current core commitments: 1) Paris citizens' assembly, aimed at expanding citizenship rights related to political participation and to achieving a higher level of equality in participation; 2) Introducing two brand-new digital platforms for greater transparency and citizen participation, aimed at generating greater citizen participation and better explanation of citizens' opinions on all public policies of the City of Paris, within the framework of pre-existing public consultations or otherwise; 3) European citizenship, aimed at raising awareness among non-French young Parisians in particular, in the run-up to the European elections, providing information on citizen rights and facilitating voter registration, and combating the spread of fake news; and 4) Developing the first index to assess ecological democracy, and establishing an action to implement the UNFCCC Action for Climate Empowerment program, aimed at increasing transparency, participation and inclusiveness of climate governance in the City of Paris, while creating a new common ground for ecological democracy that will benefit the network of climate cities and local open government partnerships.

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