



The Citizen Observatory is designed to promote transparency and accountability in public management at both local and national levels. By collecting and analyzing information, the Observatory produces reports, research, and recommendations to improve information transparency and make participation processes more accessible to citizens.

Concept

The Citizen Observatory is a hub for citizen participation designed by DemoLab to bolster democracy in Costa Rica. It aims to increase citizen engagement, transparency, and democratic resilience by providing essential information, tools, and spaces needed for active involvement. Among its various tools, the Diputómetro is a key component that offers detailed insights into the legislative process and the activities of Costa Rican deputies. The Diputómetro is an initiative established by DemoLab, in partnership with CRHoy, aimed at enhancing transparency and citizen engagement in Costa Rica. CRHoy is a prominent digital media outlet in Costa Rica known for its extensive news coverage and dedication to public service. This collaboration seeks to provide citizens with clear and interactive tools to monitor and understand legislative processes and the activities of deputies.



CONTEXT

Costa Rican society is facing a critical challenge: the evolution of our democracy and social contract, combined with ineffective institutional channels and decision-making mechanisms, has led to a decline in trust in institutions and leaders. In response to widespread disillusionment due to inadequate information and ineffective public management, the Citizen Observatory aims to provide accessible, reliable, and transparent information about government performance and accountability. It also offers tools for engaging in state advocacy processes, aligning with Article 9 of the Political Constitution of Costa Rica, which emphasizes a participatory and accountable government.

The target audience for the Citizen Observatory includes young individuals aged 16 to 30 who are interested in actively participating in the political life of their country, as well as those seeking clear and reliable information about political representatives and their work.

The Citizen Observatory focuses on the Republic of Costa Rica.

OBJECTIVE

The general objective of the Citizen Observatory is to increase citizen participation, transparency, and the strengthening of democracy by providing citizens with the information, tools, and spaces needed to become active citizens in their country.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

DemoLab will work with various organizations and civil society groups to promote citizen participation and increase transparency in public management. It will also collaborate with media outlets and international organizations working on issues related to democracy and transparency. Some of these organizations include:

> CRHoy

>Department of Citizen Participation of the Legislative Assembly

>Department of Press and Protocol of the Legislative Assembly

“Only a well-informed citizen on public affairs can truly engage in the political and social development of their country”.

The specific objectives are:

To **inform** citizens about the impact of the work of deputies, ministers, autonomous institutions, and the judiciary, enabling them to participate in advocacy and decision-making processes.

Facilitate information for undecided voters to help them make an informed decision and cast an educated vote in Costa Rica’s presidential and municipal elections by monitoring and highlighting the proposals of political candidates through infographics, interviews, and debates.

Make the work of various Civil Society Organizations visible and **help connect** those doing similar work to foster a collaborative environment within Costa Rica’s civil society.

Measure the level of democracy in Costa Rica based on a series of indicators such as Freedom of the Press, Separation of Powers, among others.

Products: **Diputómetro:**

The Diputómetro is a central tool within the Citizen Observatory designed to improve transparency and access to information regarding the legislative process. It provides detailed insights into:

>>What Are the Deputies Doing?

>>At This Moment: A brief explanation of current events in Congress, significant commissions, live session broadcasts, and ongoing discussions.

>>The Issue at Stake:
Key bills or topics under consideration.

>>Daily Agenda:
Overview of Congress’s agenda.

>What Is My Deputy Doing?

An interactive map by province showing deputies’ activities, including bills presented, voting records, absences, trips, gasoline expenses, and advisers.

>Visits

An interactive table detailing visits to deputies, including visitor information, entry/exit times, meeting dates, and deputy affiliations

>Legislation

>>Bills
Status and process of important bills.

>>Approved Initiatives: Bills approved in the first and second readings, with voting records.

>Plenary

Image of the plenary with deputy figures and basic information.

>Citizen Participation

Instructions on how to present a bill and weekly interviews with deputies.

>How Does the Assembly Work?

Explanatory videos on Congressional processes and a tour of the building with its history.

Expected Results from the Citizen Observatory:

Increased Citizen Participation in State Advocacy and Decision-Making Processes 1

Enhanced Civic/Political Literacy Among Costa Rican Citizens 2

Higher Engagement with the Diputómetro Platform 3

Improved Trust in Democratic Institutions 4

Wider Dissemination of Information on Legislative Processes 5

Active Contribution to Public Discourse 6

