



**Title:** The stealth side of participatory democracy: process preferences towards automated decision-making

**Acronym:** AUTODEMO

**Project leader:** Jose Luis Fernández Martínez

**Host organisation:** Institute of Public Goods and Policies (CSIC)

**Main purpose of the project:**

AUTODEMO analyzes political processes preferences with two purposes: 1) to scrutinize the Spaniards attitudes towards different decision-making procedures, including Artificial Intelligence, and 2) to find out whether there is a change in their preferences after participating in an experiment based on a participatory budgeting.

**Design/methodology/approach:**

The project develops a survey and an experiment. The experiment consists on different scenarios of PB in which algorithms have a more or less prominent role depending on the level of control that citizens exercise over them. At the end of the experiment, the survey is replicated to evaluate its impact.

**Potential results:**

The experimental design allows assessing the internal validity of the causal relations between process preferences; the level of satisfaction after using AI in decision making and, the potential attitudinal change towards process preferences. This will make it possible to know to what extent process preferences are endogenous or susceptible to change.

**Social relevance of the research:**

AUTODEMO provides unique insights to both the academic community as well as the professionals of citizen participation and civil society: the mechanism chosen to conduct the experiment (participatory budgeting) is widely spread around the world. In turn, the way the algorithm operates is easily replicable in different contexts, which facilitates its transferability and institutionalization.

**Originality/value of the project:**

The project opens the black box of process preferences to attitudes towards AI policy decisions, considering it as a potential policy-maker. A component that has been overlooked by the extant literature on process preferences. AUTODEMO posits that AI has the enormous potential to become in one of the most influence decision-maker.