## What is openDCN?

The openDCN software environment -- where DCN stands for Deliberative Community Networks – provides on-line dedicated tools to support participation and deliberation.

OpenDCN is able to manage three different kinds of spaces:

- a **community space**, aimed at fostering public dialog on  civic issues and facilitating the rise of mutual trust between  participants through free discussions;
- a **deliberation space** to foster the creation of a shared  vision position among the participants, i.e., to finalize a deliberative  process in order to produce a well defined outcome. Deliberation space  makes up the core of the participatory system; participatory processes consist of a series of deliberation stages, each relying on a different  participatory modality and involving different participants;
- a **personal space** to manage user profile, relationships and personal objects of each user.

Each space is managed by one or more  [openDCN tools](#) .

### Target Users

- Administrative bodies: local Municipalities,      Provinces, Regions;
- Profit and no-profit Organizations.

### Who uses openDCN?

openDCN has been used within the  [e21 project](#)  in a number of Lombardy Region Municipalities  (Mantova, Brescia, Como, Lecco, Pavia, …).
[Here you can find an updated list of the openDCN instances.](#)

### Which  technologies are used to develop openDCN?

openDCN has been mainly realised in  [PHP](#)  using  [CakePHP](#)  development framework and  [Smarty](#)
template engine.
The Certified Consultation is developed in Java.

## Which license is openDCN released with?

openDCN is released with an Open Source license, more precisely:

- The development framework has been released with MIT    license;
- The application undergoes GPL license.