



PDC: Peace, Dialogue, Coexistence. Designing for living together.

Call for Workshops

In a world marked by disconnections, fragmentations, and conflicts, more than ever, the urgency of participatory design is to become an agent of peace, dialogue and coexistence.

How can participatory design facilitate living together?

PDC 2026 will be an opportunity to discuss research and applied programs, projects, and initiatives where participatory design and co-design have been used to foster dialogue, to create or reconcile communities, to give voice to people or entities who have not voice, to nurture solidarity, to negotiate, to create contexts of conviviality, to tackle even the unmanageable issue of wars and conflicts due to societal, political, economic and climate reasons.

Challenges design must face are related to take care of the others and the planet, counteract marginalisation, prevent conflicts, alleviate the consequences of any conflictual circumstance, and rebuild conditions of peace and dialogue. In all situations, peace is not a product, but a process: to contribute meaningfully, participatory design must first understand why a community struggles to live in peace and focus on how to reactivate communities and heal conflict damages for individuals and the social fabric of a territory.

In addressing the evolving landscape of participatory design, the role of digital technologies is critical: understanding, designing, and using digital technologies for peace, dialogue, and co-existence today is to locate and mobilize diverse agencies. This involves recognizing the interconnectedness of all entities—human, non-human, and technological—and learning how to harness and govern our interdependencies rather than corralling complexity. Digital technologies are not merely tools for individual or human-centric use, but integral to the fabric of a global and interspecies society.

Engaging with peace and conflict means going to the origins of participatory design as a democratic tool for conflict mitigation and resolution. PDC 2026 will explore its political dimension, investigating how participatory processes can foster peacebuilding, social justice, and transformative change.



Workshops at PDC26 are conceived as **sites of encounter: temporary yet generative spaces** where knowledge is not only shared but actively co-produced through active, participatory engagement.

We invite proposals that take this opportunity seriously: workshops should foster meaningful interaction among participants through formats such as co-design, discussion groups, speculative prototyping, performative tactics, hands-on group work, and more. Whether focused on methods, theory, activism, practice, or experimentation, workshops should offer **spaces for collective exploration, situated inquiry, and critical engagement** with the theme of *living together*.

We are particularly interested in workshop formats that support **deep engagement and participant agency**, activating all those involved to reflect, contribute, and shape the session together. Workshops may bring together diverse participants to imagine and make: from researchers to practitioners, from community organisers to policy makers, enabling collaboration across disciplines, geographies, and roles. Proposals should clearly articulate the intended outcomes or takeaways for participants, whether in the form of shared tools, insights, prototypes, frameworks, or seeds for future collaboration.

Workshop proposals can be submitted on any topic or issue of relevance to participatory design theory, practice, or methods. However, PDC 2026 is especially interested in soliciting submissions that open up engagement, exploration and reflection in topics related to the conference themes, including (but not limited to):

- the interplay between global systems and local experiences, with a critical lens on how globalization impacts peacebuilding efforts and fosters resistance and/or cooperation at a local level. Participatory design can contribute to conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of inclusive strategies that honour local knowledge and cultural practices as tools for fostering coexistence.
- AI, democracy and participation: how to frame participatory conversations and decision-making processes at different levels of governance from neighbourhoods to cities, from national and



international levels to allow stakeholders inclusion in the transformations triggered by the digital and green transitions.

- participatory approaches to embrace diverse voices, fostering inclusion, equity, and resilience by centring marginalized communities in systemic, and long-term transformations.
- design research for participatory policymaking, focusing on how design can support sustainable transitions through collaborative decision-making, inclusive policy frameworks, and prototyping systemic interventions.
- civic participation and deliberative democracy processes that are being deployed to address the social, technical and political challenges raised by the climate crisis.
- rethinking AI in more-than-human terms: explore how technology can foster new modes of attunement, collaboration, and survival by embracing human, machine, and ecological interdependence.
- incorporating multispecies perspectives, critically exploring the implications of participation, consent, cohabitation and interdependence in a more-than-human world.

Important dates:

- **Submission of proposals:**
~~Midnight, October 07h, 2025 (CET)~~
Midnight, October 16, 2025 (CET)
- **Notification of acceptance:**
December 04-05th, 2025
- **To confirm inclusion in the final programme, all convenors must register for the conference.** Failure to do so will result in the workshop slot being reassigned to a waitlisted proposal.
- **Conference:** June 16th-19th 2026



Practical information about preparing your workshop and related submission:

The following practical information is intended to support the preparation of your workshop and related submission.

Workshops at PDC 2026 will run during the days of the conference, with multiple sessions running in parallel. They are expected to last up to three hours each. PDC 2026 will prioritize in-person workshops and will allow a maximum of one online workshop.

Each workshop should be proposed by a minimum of two and up to five convenors. Workshop proposals must be submitted through the Conftool system, use the official ACM templates, and be **written in English**. The proposal must **not exceed 2500 words** and must be **limited to a maximum of 4 pages total**, including references.

- **For Microsoft Word users:**
Please follow [the ACM instructions for preparing your submission with Word](#). In the section titled “The ACM Article Template: Using Microsoft Word”, you will find the link to download the [Word submission template](#).
- **For LaTeX users:**
Please refer to the [ACM instructions for preparing your submission with LaTeX](#). In the section titled “The ACM Article Template: Using LaTeX”, you will find the link to download the [LaTeX template files](#).

Workshop required contents for submission

1. Title
2. Names and affiliations of organizers
3. Description of the theme and goals
4. Proposed format, methods, techniques
5. Participant contribution modalities
6. Relevance to Participatory Design and the conference theme
7. Justification for holding the workshop at PDC
8. Expected Takeaways for Participants
9. Positioning of the Workshop: novel initiative, part of a series, or embedded in a broader project



10. Min/max number of participants
11. Organizers' expertise and short bio
12. Duration (max 3 hours) and modality (online/offline)
13. Future outcomes (e.g. publication, proposals, exhibitions, collaborations)
14. Equipment and setup needs

Proposals will be reviewed by the conference committee and may be accepted, waitlisted, or rejected.

Workshop criteria for selection

A sub-committee of the conference will review proposals to ensure that they meet the criteria outlined here:

1. **Relevance** - to the main conference theme and interest for the discipline.
2. **Originality** - of the format proposed and capability to engage discussion from multiple perspectives.
3. **Clarity and Feasibility** - well-structured proposal with clear goals, methodology, and expected outcomes. Duration, modality, and logistics must be realistic within the conference setting
4. **Audience engagement and Interactivity** - strong emphasis on interactive and participatory formats rather than lecture-style presentations. Workshops should offer hands-on, co-creative experiences
5. **Potential Impact and Follow-Up** - capacity to generate tangible outcomes such as publications, collaborations, prototypes, or future research directions.
6. **Inclusivity and Diversity of Participation** - potential to attract and engage a variety of participants and people from different disciplines and backgrounds.

To confirm inclusion in the final programme, all convenors must register for the conference. Failure to do so will result in the workshop slot being reassigned to a waitlisted proposal. Accepted submissions will be published in Conference Proceedings Volume 2.



Please note that PDC does not cover production costs beyond basic materials such as pens, paper, post-its, or tape. Workshop organizers are encouraged to plan accordingly.

Participation in workshops is included in the general conference fee. Registration for workshops will take place on 2026, where participants can choose their preferred workshop on a first-come, first-served basis. While no formal selection process will be implemented, organizers may describe minimum and maximum number of participants, as well as desired profiles or skills, in the workshop description.