

LIGHTNING TALK DECIDIM FEST 2025, LARS KAISER

USING DECIDIM IN REBUILDING A TOWN AFTER A NATURAL DISASTER

SPOILER: DECIDIM WASN'T USED

MAY 28TH 2025

WHAT HAPPENED?

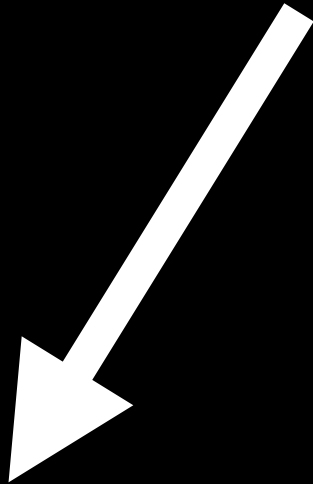
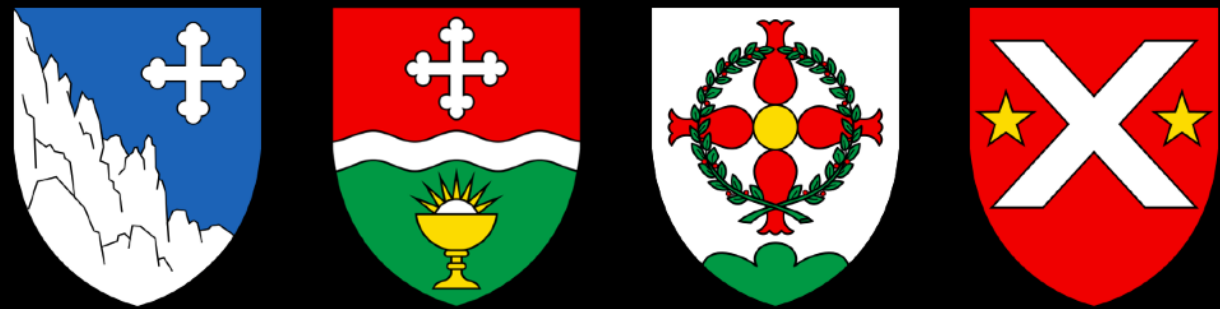


MAY 28TH 2025

WHAT HAPPENED?



2024



Heimat Lötschental – zämm stah, vorwärts gah
Home Lötschental – stand together & move forwards

Strategic planning process for the future development
of the Lötschental valley.

MAY 28TH 2025



JUNE 2025

urb
an equ
ipe

octree

urb
an equ
ipe

?

voca

Request for Decidim

1st public workshop after
the landslide

Urban Equipe and Octree
offer a process on voca and
project support.

An online platform is deemed
valuable by the people present &
decision is reached to apply for
permission to deploy platform

„We have initiated many things with great enthusiasm, but – as you can imagine – there are so many 'vultures' preying on the people in the valley that nothing is happening at the moment. I wrote a concept for an online and offline meeting place, which was approved by the valley council. We could have started implementing it, but everything got bogged down in some administrative quagmire... The population welcomed the platform with open arms, but it got stuck on the political level.“

– SABINA RUFF, PLANVAL

LEARNINGS

The demand for the platform was evident, but it failed in the general overload of those with decision-making power.

For the Decidim ecosystem, we must ask ourselves if getting the official agreement to launch the platform was necessary or if we should have pushed it more as a civilian-initiated project.

LEARNINGS

Maintaining social contacts and cohesion was seen as a «soft skill» and thereby not deemed a priority in the aftermath of the catastrophe.

For the Decidim ecosystem, we should evaluate an argumentarium/support structures why this is not the case, which was shown by the general interest of the people, especially if such a platform could be launched at no costs/effort for the people dealing with the catastrophe.

LEARNINGS

In these cases, the technopolitical project is needed.

We might have had more success on launching the platform if Decidim would have been represented not by a partner, but by the project itself (Decidim association or a local chapter), highlighting the altruistic intentions.

THANK YOU!

HAPPY TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER:
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