

# *Green participatory budgeting in Poland-a new trend?*

Ph.D. Brygida Klemens

Opole University of Technology  
Faculty of Economics and Management  
Regional Policy and the Labor Market Department

12.06.2024

Europe & Central Asia LPSA Regional Working Group Open Meeting

---



# Introduction:

The development of cities is determined by many factors.

High quality of life in cities requires making decisions for the benefit of the environment's quality, such as urban climate improvement, smog reduction, car traffic reduction, expansion of urban green areas, walking and recreational spaces



Tychy city, one of the most green cities in Poland.

Source: <https://www.miasta.pl/aktualnosci/najbardziej-zielone-polskie-miasta> (accessed 23.08.2022)



# Introduction:

The discussions over public management involve using the **participative management model**. It is referred to as the interaction between the self-government administration and the community by using consulting procedures and involving all stakeholders in the decision-making process

One manifestation of city co-management is the use of the **participatory budget tool (civic budget)**.

The inhabitants declare the projects they deem necessary and then vote to decide whether to use public funds to implement them.



What is PB?

Source: <https://www.participatorybudgeting.org/what-is-pb/> (accessed 23.08.2022)



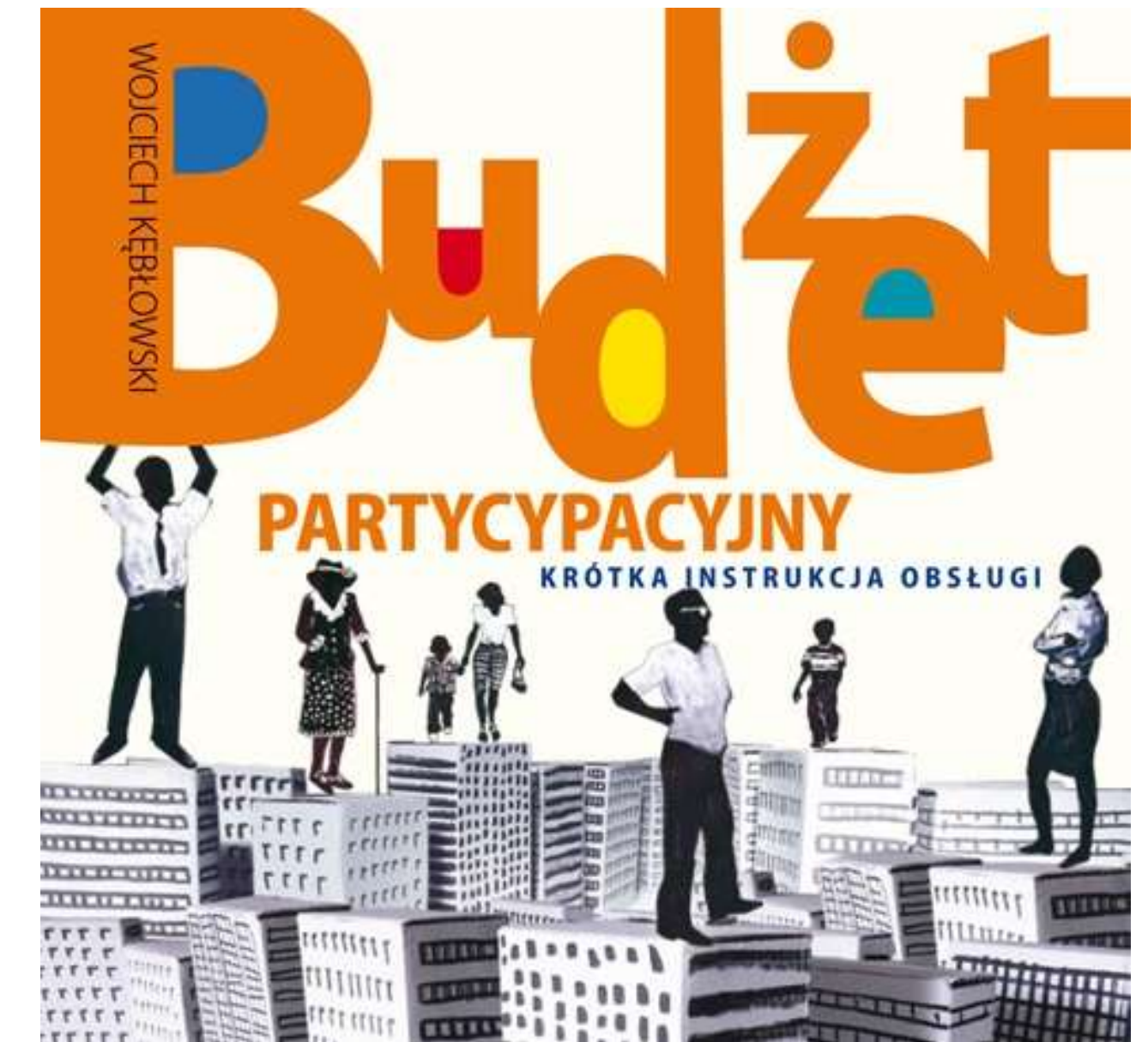
# Introduction:

In Poland, the participatory budget does not have a long history: the first budget was introduced in Sopot in 2011.

It is becoming more popular as a tool for **activating and mobilising urban communities**.

In terms of environmental challenges, the local level play a prominent role in the fight for clean air and implementation of climate change adaptation activities.

Many initiatives are aimed at making cities more “**green**”



Participatory budget in Poland. A short instruction manual  
Source: <https://instytutobywatelski.pl/analizy/168-budzet-partycypacyjny-krotka-instrukcja-obslugi>  
(accessed 23.08.2022)



# Methodology:

**The aim** of the study is to analyze the phenomenon of civic participation and the use of participatory budgets, especially „green”, as a tool of co-governance in the context of environmental issues and urban development

A desk research analysis of national and international literature data was conducted (the criteria: research topic focused on cities and environmental context).

The statistical data was obtained from reports of the Institute of Urban and Regional Development (data from 2020 to 2022) and from the selected cities' websites.

The **research hypothesis** was defined:

**H1:** The „green” civic budget is an increasingly popular form of participation used by city inhabitants.



## Results

**Table 1.** Civic budget voters in the biggest Polish cities.

year	Voters in (frequency in %):				
	Warsaw	Krakow	Lodz	Wroclaw	Poznan
2014	-	67.000 (10)	130.000 (22)	153.000 (32)	67.000 (16)
2015	166.000 (9,5)	48.000 (8)	175.000 (31)	168.000 (35)	54.000 (13)
2016	172.000 (10)	40.000 (7)	135.000 (25)	105.000 (22)	73.000 (17)
2017	128.000 (7)	32.000 (5)	150.000 (26,5)	97.000 (19,5)	38.000 (9)
2018	117.000 (6)	34.500 (5,2)	98.000 (17)	68.000 (18)	45.000 (11)
2019	89.000 (5)	50.000 (7)	115.000 (20)	86.000 (13,5)	55.000 (10)
2020	106.000 (6)	45.000 (6)	130.000 (24)	95.000 (15)	68.000 (13)
2021	109.000 (6)		82.000 (12)		87.000 (16)

Source: M. Brol, N. Derlukiewicz, Budżet obywatelski w największych polskich miastach - perspektywa urzędników i aktywistów, Wydawnictwo Uniwersytetu Ekonomicznego we Wrocławiu, Wrocław 2023



**Table 3.** Number (and share) of projects divided into main thematic categories in Poland in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

<u>Activity</u>	Year	Small cities (5-20 thousand)	Medium cities (20-50 thousand)	Medium cities (50- 100 thousand)	Large cities (100-200 thousand)	Large cities (> 200 thousand)	Total
Green	2022	34 (6,7)	65 (11,1)	86 (15,4)	88 (17)	400 (26,8)	673 (18,4%)
	2021	42 (9,2)	71 (11,7)	64 (13,7)	115 (19,2)	408 (25,3)	700 (18,7%)
	2020	15 (5)	53 (13)	32 (7)	85 (14)	390 (24)	575 (17%)
Total number of projects	2022	504	587	560	517	1495	3663
	2021	459	607	467	600	1612	3745
	2020	321	411	432	608	1644	3416

Source: Martela B, Janik L and Mróz K 2023 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2022 (Warszawa-Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Janik L and Bubak G 2022 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2021 (Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Bubak G and Janik L 2021 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2020 (Kraków: IRMiR).



# Results

**Table 4.** Number (share) of projects in urban civic budgets in the “greenery” category in Poland in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Activity	Year	Small cities (5-20 thousand)	Medium cities (20-50 thousand)	Medium cities (50-100 thousand)	Large cities (100-200 thousand)	Large cities (> 200 thousand)	Total
Trees	2022	15 (42,4)	29 (44,6)	40 (46,5)	34 (38,6)	173 (43,3)	291 (43,2)
	2021	10 (23,8)	31 (43,7)	27 (42,2)	41 (35,7)	188 (46,1)	297 (42,4)
	2020	6 (40)	19 (36)	12 (38)	30 (35)	191 (49)	258 (45)
Bushes	2022	10 (30,3)	23 (35,4)	26 (30,2)	25 (28,4)	162 (40,5)	246 (36,6)
	2021	13 (31)	24 (33,8)	21 (32,8)	42 (36,5)	160 (39,2)	260 (37,1)
	2020	3 (20)	22 (42)	8 (25)	27 (32)	142 (36)	202 (35)
Greenery (general)	2022	5 (15,2)	13 (20)	25 (29,1)	34 (38,6)	65 (16,3)	142 (21,1)
	2021	20 (47,6)	13 (18,3)	26 (40,6)	34 (29,6)	69 (16,9)	162 (23,1)
	2020	6 (40)	7 (13)	13 (41)	30 (35)	66 (17)	122 (21)
Flowers and decorative plants	2022	8 (24,2)	23 (35,4)	19 (22,1)	18 (20,5)	109 (27,3)	177 (26,3)
	2021	10 (23,8)	16 (22,5)	14 (21,9)	23 (20)	80 (19,6)	143 (20,4)
	2020	6 (40)	11 (21)	6 (19)	16 (19)	88 (23)	127 (22)
Lawns	2022	7 (21,2)	8 (12,3)	8 (9,3)	11 (12,5)	55 (13,8)	89 (13,2)
	2021	4 (9,5)	21 (29,6)	8 (12,5)	21 (18,3)	60 (14,7)	114 (16,3)
	2020	4 (27)	7 (13)	2 (6)	10 (12)	57 (15)	80 (14)
Outdoor maintenance	2022	2 (6,1)	5 (7,7)	6 (7)	8 (9,1)	77 (19,3)	98 (14,6)
	2021	2 (4,8)	6 (8,5)	2 (3,1)	9 (7,8)	37 (9,1)	56 (8)
	2020	0	0	1 (3)	0	10 (3)	11 (2)
Flowery meadows	2022	1 (3)	2 (3,1)	4 (4,7)	3 (3,4)	16 (4)	32 (4,8)
	2021	1 (2,4)	2 (2,8)	3 (4,7)	7 (6,1)	35 (8,6)	48 (6,9)
	2020	0	6 (11)	2 (6)	9 (11)	32 (8)	49 (9)
Rain gardens	2022	1 (3)	3 (4,6)	0	2 (2,3)	13 (3,3)	19 (2,8)
	2021	0	1 (1,4)	1 (1,6)	5 (4,3)	8 (2)	15 (2,1)
	2020	0	3 (6)	0	0	14 (4)	17 (3)
Green roofs/walls	2022	0	0	0	0	3 (0,8)	3 (0,4)
	2021	1 (2,4)	1 (1,4)	0	1 (0,9)	20 (4,9)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	2 (4)	0	1 (1)	7 (2)	10 (2)
Clearing (greenery removal)	2022	2 (6,1)	7 (10,8)	4 (4,7)	3 (3,4)	16 (4)	32 (4,8)
	2021	2 (4,8)	1 (1,4)	2 (3,1)	4 (3,5)	14 (3,4)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	2 (4)	1 (3)	0	4 (1)	7 (1)
Other greenery types	2022	2 (6,1)	2 (3,1)	4 (4,7)	2 (2,3)	24 (6)	34 (5,1)
	2021	1 (2,4)	3 (4,2)	1 (1,6)	8 (7)	10 (2,5)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	6 (11)	0	5 (6)	26 (7)	37 (6)
"Deconcreting" the Space	2022	0	1 (1,5)	2 (2,3)	2 (2,3)	27 (6,8)	32 (4,8)
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects with at least one activity in the category "GREEN"	2022	34 (100)	65 (100)	86 (100)	88 (100)	400 (100)	673 (100)
	2021	42 (100)	71 (100)	64 (100)	115 (100)	408 (100)	700 (100)
	2020	15 (100)	53 (100)	32 (100)	85 (100)	390 (100)	575 (100)

Source: Martela B, Janik L and Mróz K 2023 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2022 (Warszawa-Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Janik L and Bubak G 2022 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2021 (Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Bubak G and Janik L 2021 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2020 (Kraków: IRMiR).



# „Concreteosis in Polish cities”



Leżajsk city:  
on the top: after revitalisation in 2022  
On the bottom: before revitalisation

Source: @Sylwia\_Majcher\_eko



# „Concreteosis in Polish cities”



Bartoszyce city:  
on the left: before revitalisation  
on the right: after revitalisation in 2013

Source: <https://poznan.eska.pl/galeria/betonoza-w-polsce-tak-bylo-kiedys-tak-jest-dzis/gg-EmLm-76KY-ztSH/gp-UFT6-pyQj-M1Lo>



# Results

**Table 3.** Number (share) of projects in urban civic budgets in the “greenery” category in Poland in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

Activity	Year	Small cities (5-20 thousand)	Medium cities (20-50 thousand)	Medium cities (50-100 thousand)	Large cities (100-200 thousand)	Large cities (> 200 thousand)	Total
Trees	2022	15 (42,4)	29 (44,6)	40 (46,5)	34 (38,6)	173 (43,3)	291 (43,2)
	2021	10 (23,8)	31 (43,7)	27 (42,2)	41 (35,7)	188 (46,1)	297 (42,4)
	2020	6 (40)	19 (36)	12 (38)	30 (35)	191 (49)	258 (45)
Bushes	2022	10 (30,3)	23 (35,4)	26 (30,2)	25 (28,4)	162 (40,5)	246 (36,6)
	2021	13 (31)	24 (33,8)	21 (32,8)	42 (36,5)	160 (39,2)	260 (37,1)
	2020	3 (20)	22 (42)	8 (25)	27 (32)	142 (36)	202 (35)
Greenery (general)	2022	5 (15,2)	13 (20)	25 (29,1)	34 (38,6)	65 (16,3)	142 (21,1)
	2021	20 (47,6)	13 (18,3)	26 (40,6)	34 (29,6)	69 (16,9)	162 (23,1)
	2020	6 (40)	7 (13)	13 (41)	30 (35)	66 (17)	122 (21)
Flowers and decorative plants	2022	8 (24,2)	23 (35,4)	19 (22,1)	18 (20,5)	109 (27,3)	177 (26,3)
	2021	10 (23,8)	16 (22,5)	14 (21,9)	23 (20)	80 (19,6)	143 (20,4)
	2020	6 (40)	11 (21)	6 (19)	16 (19)	88 (23)	127 (22)
Lawns	2022	7 (21,2)	8 (12,3)	8 (9,3)	11 (12,5)	55 (13,8)	89 (13,2)
	2021	4 (9,5)	21 (29,6)	8 (12,5)	21 (18,3)	60 (14,7)	114 (16,3)
	2020	4 (27)	7 (13)	2 (6)	10 (12)	57 (15)	80 (14)
Outdoor maintenance	2022	2 (6,1)	5 (7,7)	6 (7)	8 (9,1)	77 (19,3)	98 (14,6)
	2021	2 (4,8)	6 (8,5)	2 (3,1)	9 (7,8)	37 (9,1)	56 (8)
	2020	0	0	1 (3)	0	10 (3)	11 (2)
Flowery meadows	2022	1 (3)	2 (3,1)	4 (4,7)	3 (3,4)	16 (4)	32 (4,8)
	2021	1 (2,4)	2 (2,8)	3 (4,7)	7 (6,1)	35 (8,6)	48 (6,9)
	2020	0	6 (11)	2 (6)	9 (11)	32 (8)	49 (9)
Rain gardens	2022	1 (3)	3 (4,6)	0	2 (2,3)	13 (3,3)	19 (2,8)
	2021	0	1 (1,4)	1 (1,6)	5 (4,3)	8 (2)	15 (2,1)
	2020	0	3 (6)	0	0	14 (4)	17 (3)
Green roofs/walls	2022	0	0	0	0	3 (0,8)	3 (0,4)
	2021	1 (2,4)	1 (1,4)	0	1 (0,9)	20 (4,9)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	2 (4)	0	1 (1)	7 (2)	10 (2)
Clearing (greenery removal)	2022	2 (6,1)	7 (10,8)	4 (4,7)	3 (3,4)	16 (4)	32 (4,8)
	2021	2 (4,8)	1 (1,4)	2 (3,1)	4 (3,5)	14 (3,4)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	2 (4)	1 (3)	0	4 (1)	7 (1)
Other greenery types	2022	2 (6,1)	2 (3,1)	4 (4,7)	2 (2,3)	24 (6)	34 (5,1)
	2021	1 (2,4)	3 (4,2)	1 (1,6)	8 (7)	10 (2,5)	23 (3,3)
	2020	0	6 (11)	0	5 (6)	26 (7)	37 (6)
"Deconcreting" the space	2022	0	1 (1,5)	2 (2,3)	2 (2,3)	27 (6,8)	32 (4,8)
	2021	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2020	-	-	-	-	-	-
Projects with at least one activity in the category "GREEN"	2022	34 (100)	65 (100)	86 (100)	88 (100)	400 (100)	673 (100)
	2021	42 (100)	71 (100)	64 (100)	115 (100)	408 (100)	700 (100)
	2020	15 (100)	53 (100)	32 (100)	85 (100)	390 (100)	575 (100)

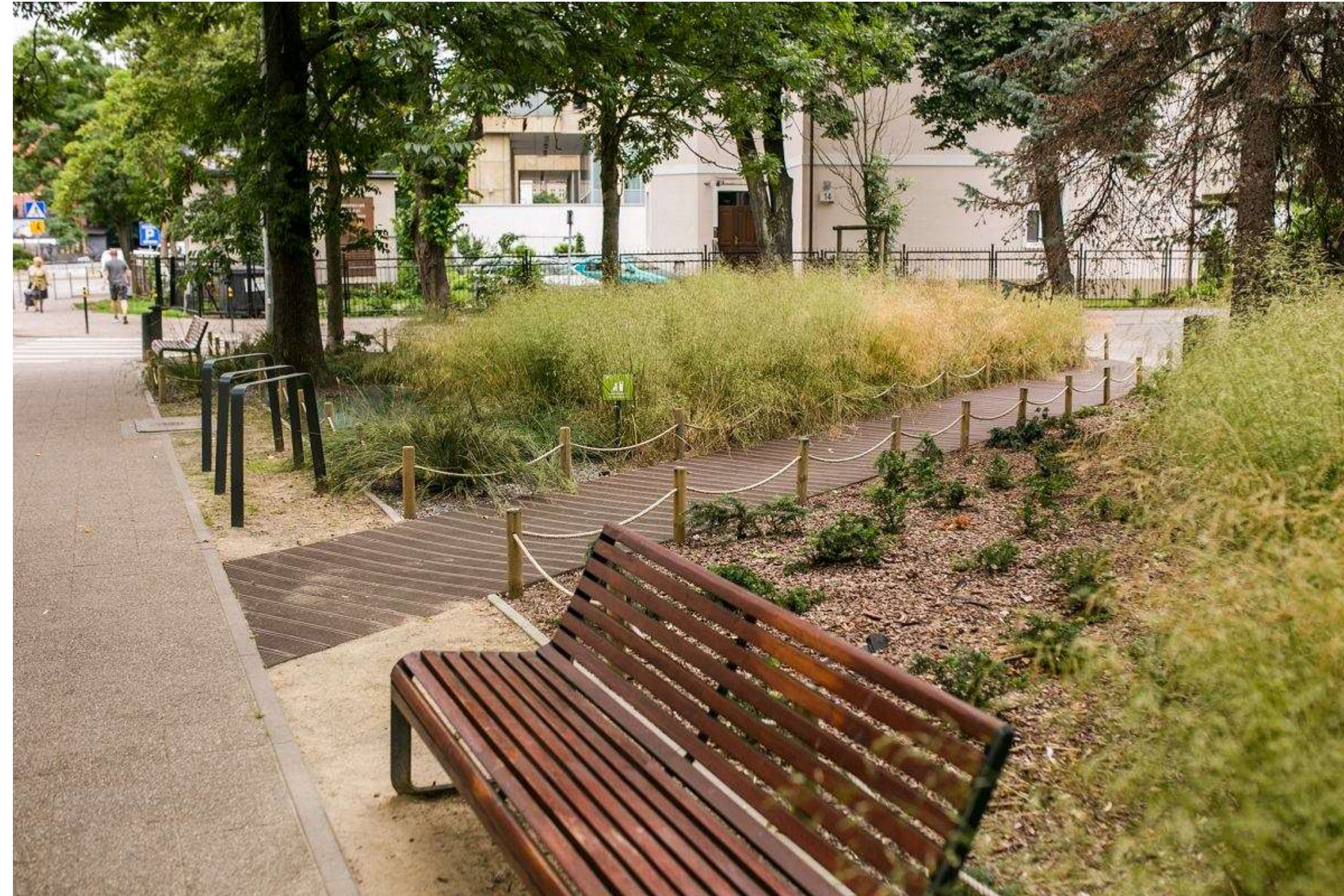
Source: Martela B, Janik L and Mróz K 2023 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2022 (Warszawa-Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Janik L and Bubak G 2022 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2021 (Kraków: IRMiR); Martela B, Bubak G and Janik L 2021 Barometr budżetu obywatelskiego. Edycja 2020 (Kraków: IRMiR).

Lublin - 2016  
Wrocław - 2017  
Białystok - 2018  
Gdańsk - 2020  
Szczecin - 2020  
Tomaszów Mazowiecki – 2020  
Katowice - 2020



The proces of building rain garden in Lublin,  
Source:<https://sendzimir.org.pl/projekty/ogrody-deszczowe-dobrze-nawodnione-miasto/>





Pocket garden in Gdańsk,  
Source:<https://trojmiasto.wyborcza.pl/trojmiasto/7,35612,26177923,miniaturowy-ogrod-daje-chronienie-w-upalne-dni-powstal-u-zbiegu.html>





City garden in Katowice,  
Source: <https://bo.katowice.eu/>



# CONCLUSIONS

Environmental aspects in city development are becoming an increasingly pressing issue.

Civic budgets can be a great citizen participation tools provided that they are used to improve the inhabitants' quality of life and their involvement in the co-determination of the cities' future.

Hypothesis

Some cities implemented the so-called Green Civic Budgets

It is necessary to focus on broader dissemination of the concept of creating Green Civic Budgets

Recommendation: to create a civic budget database featuring uniform categories



Flowers meadow in Warsaw,  
Source: <https://laka.org.pl/laka-kwietna/laki-kwietne-budzet-obywatelski/>



# Thank you for your attention

Brygida Klemens  
b.klemens@po.edu.pl

