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Evolution of participatory budgeting in Poland

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*Empowering Communities: A Participatory Budgeting Approach
to Democratic Decision-Making in Europe*

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The evolution path of participatory budgeting in Poland

2011, the first
participatory
budgeting in Poland

2024, towards new
form of
participatory
governance

2018, the principles
of participatory
budgeting in the
Municipal
Government Act

Initial motivations for creating participatory budgeting in Poland

- Increased awareness and activity among residents (emergence of so-called urban movements, formal and informal urban communities advocating for the implementation of the “right to the city” idea)
- Participatory budgeting as an election promise made by candidates for city mayors (in 2014, there were local government elections and the peak of the number of emerging participatory budgeting)
- Desire to implement solutions popular in foreign cities; trend towards participatory budgeting

Basic principles of participatory budgeting in Poland according to the *Municipal Government Act* (The regulations were introduced in January 2018)

- Participatory budgeting is a special form of **public consultation**.
- Citizens decide on a portion of the municipality's budget expenditures through **direct voting**.
- Projects selected in participatory budgeting are included in the municipality's budget resolution.
- The municipal council **cannot remove or significantly alter** the projects chosen within the participatory budgeting process.
- In municipalities that are cities with **county rights**, the creation of a participatory budget is **mandatory**.
- The amount allocated to participatory budgeting **is at least 0.5% of the municipality's expenditures**

The findings based on the "Participatory Budgeting Barometer" prepared by the Institute for Urban and Regional Development (Editions 2022):

- Participatory budgeting were implemented in 43.5% cities with more than 5,000 residents.
- 22 cities discontinued their participatory budgeting programs, including 6 out of 66 cities with county rights.
- 4% of cities reduced the amount allocated to participatory budgeting. In 68% of cities, the funding level remained unchanged, while in 28% of cities, it increased.
- The average voter turnout in 2022 remained at a similar level to the previous year, at about 11%.
- The projects selected by residents for implementation, similar to previous years, focused on infrastructural tasks.
- The proportion of so-called "soft" projects within the participatory budgeting increased. 1/4 project selected for implementation involved organizing events.

Participatory budgeting

versus

Civil budgeting

(based on law act, obligatory in 66 cities in Poland)

Deliberative approach or plebiscitary approach?



Civic budgeting in Dąbrowa Górnicza

Zobacz: Dąbrowa Górnica Poprzednie edycje: IX VIII VII VI V IV III II I

Aktualności Dzielnice Model 2.2 Kontakt

Aktualności

04.06.2024

Przed nami X odsłona Dąbrowskiego Budżetu Partycypacyjnego

12 czerwca rusza nabór pomysłów do X, jubileuszowej edycji Dąbrowskiego Budżetu Partycypacyjnego

Zobacz Więcej >

Participatory budgeting in Dąbrowa Górnicza (DBP – model 2.2.)

Participatory budgeting and civic budgeting case study of Dąbrowa Górnicza

Civic budgeting

- compliant with the law,
- city-wide,
- budget: 5.8 million PLN,
- electronic voting,
- project ranking

Participatory budgeting

- original model (currently model 2.2),
- budget based on residents' dialogue (no voting),
- district-wide scope,
- budget: 7 million PLN,
- district diagnosis and idea collection,
- transforming ideas into projects,
- residents' forum - creating a package of priority tasks for implementation in the district

Towards a new form of participatory governance

- Development of other forms of participatory budgeting:
 - regional participatory budgeting,
 - green participatory budgeting,
 - school participatory budgeting.
- **Local initiative** as a tool of participation that engages the local community not only in decision-making but also in action.
- Promoting the concept of **urban commons** and the city as a commons: community gardens, repair cafes, co-housing, etc.



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