

Diffusion and Use of Participatory Budgeting in the Baltic Sea Region

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PB in Baltic Sea Region

- ▶ My viewpoint: EmPaci -project as a frame for PB in Baltic Sea region
- ▶ In EmPaci: 17 partners from Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia and Finland
- ▶ www.empaci.eu



Framing Participatory Budgeting in Baltic Sea Region with EmPaci

Partner country	Partner structure
Finland	2 universities (Tampere, LAB UAS/Lahti), 1 associated organisation (Finnish Association of Municipalities) (2 pilot municipalities: Lahti and Riihimäki)
Germany	1 university (Rostock), 1 municipality (Bützow), 1 NGO (Citizen Initiative)
Poland	1 municipality (Bielsko-Biała), 1 NGO (Baltic Institute for Regional Affairs BISER), 1 associated organisation (Union of the Baltic Cities)
Lithuania	1 university (Klaipeda), 2 municipalities (Telsiai, Rietavas), 1 associated organisation (Citizen initiative in Telsiai)
Latvia	1 planning region (municipality/ Vidzeme), 1 NGO (Social Innovation Centre)
Russia	1 university (ITMO Universität), 1 municipality (St Petersburg), 1 NGO (eDevelopment Partnership); 3 associated organisations (Association of SME support centers Kaliningrad, Administration District Petrogradsk, City Council District Moscow Zastava)

Framing Participatory Budgeting in Baltic Sea Region with EmPaci

- ▶ Participatory budgeting is a process of democratic decision-making in which ordinary people take part in preparing and adopting a municipal or public budget.
- ▶ In the Baltic Sea region, only a few municipalities have applied participatory budgeting to date.
- ▶ A typical type of citizen in such a process is male, politically active, well-educated, and 35-65 years old.
- ▶ The objective of EmPaci is to get more municipalities involved and mobilize different types of citizens by building municipal capacities, transnational clusters and municipality citizens cooperation.
- ▶ www.empaci.eu

Empowering participatory budgeting in the Baltic Sea Region – EmPaci



1st pilots completed



1 123 IDEAS SUBMITTED



32 656 CITIZENS VOTED



136 IDEAS SUPPORTED



1 511 000 EUR



10+ TRAINING AND INFORMATIVE EVENTS



5 INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE SHARING EVENTS

PROJECT IDEAS SUPPORTING:



ACTIVE LEISURE



CULTURE



SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES



INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS



EmPaci

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- ▶ Is all citizen participation about PB? Criteria by Sintomer, Herzberg & Röcke (2010)
 - 1) Procedure explicitly concerns **financial matters**
 - 2) Participation on the **level of the whole city / municipality**
 - 3) **Permanent** and **repeated** procedure
 - 4) Public debate on **budgetary** issues
 - 5) **Results** are publicly reported
- ▶ Baltic Sea region is a heterogenous region - heterogenous PB's

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Country	Status quo
Finland	PB officially used since 2012, fragmented implementation: from single small projects to large biannual budgets of > 8.8 M€ (Helsinki), ~ 12% of Finnish municipalities use PB, most projects in Southern Finland
Germany	PB officially used since 1998, very fragmented implementation, < 0.5% of German municipalities , most projects in South/West Germany, trend towards use of citizens' budgets with 1-5 EUR/citizen in general (max. of 24 €/citizen), almost no use of PB in the German Baltic Sea region
Poland	PB officially used since 2011, nowadays PB is obligatory and since 2018 the budget must constitute at least 0,5% of the annual municipal budget , design of PB is left to the discretion of the local authorities
Lithuania	Embryonic stage , PB officially used in one municipality since 2018
Latvia	Embryonic stage , PB officially piloted in one municipality since 2018
Russia	PB (have been officially used since 2015, in 2017 in 57 Russian regions (out of 85) . A total of 14.5 billion roubles (~ 200 M€) was spent on PB projects.

Key points of PB in Baltic Sea region

- ▶ Why? Where? Who? For whom? How? What kind of?



- ▶ PB requires in organizations

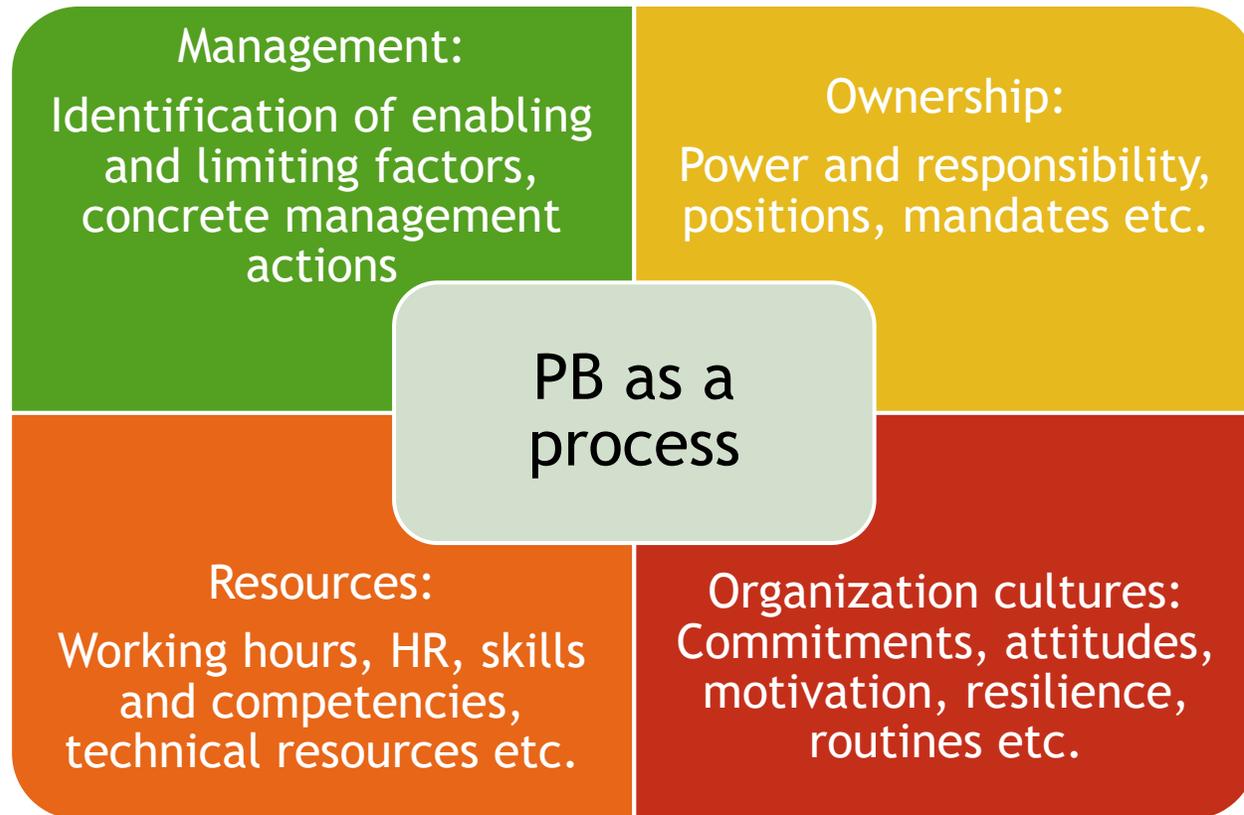
- ▶ Support
- ▶ Commitment
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Evaluation

- ▶ Key points

- ▶ Question of information and knowledge
- ▶ Balancing between aims and means

Evaluation as method to provide information and knowledge on PB

Citizens:
Awareness,
coverage,
impacts and
outcomes



Political will and support



Balancing between aims and means in PB

Often behind an idea is



41-50 year old
Finnish born
woman

Active in society

Highly educated

Employed

Household's total
gross income
5000-7499 €/month

interreg
Baltic Sea Region
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- ▶ Question of *who* in participatory budgeting
 - ▶ E.g. in Lahti
- ▶ Resourcing PB
 - ▶ Administration of PB
 - ▶ Technical platforms in PB
 - ▶ Tailoring a suitable platform vs. using existing ones
 - ▶ Communication
- ▶ PB is a learning process
 - ▶ For citizens, municipal organizations and local politicians



“The mayors are powerful and important catalysts for the Participatory Budgeting (PB) initiation as the researchers revealed their dominant role as the PB initiators. The durability of PB, however, depends strongly on the political support at the local council as well as executive and administrative support and commitment.”

JAROSLAV DVORAK
Project Manager at
Klaipėda University,
Lithuania





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“For the successful implementation of participatory budgeting the desire of local authorities and citizens is crucial. Therefore, one of the main tasks of training municipal employees and citizens in St. Petersburg is to inspire them and explain why this mechanism of implementing initiative projects is beneficial to both civil society and the government, as well as to help citizens and the administration learn how to work together.”

JULIA SLAV
Deputy executive director,
project coordinator,
Council of Municipalities of St.
Petersburg, Russia






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“Participatory Budgeting is useful when planning and making decisions about investments or services, for example. It promotes open discussion, dialogue, and reconciliation of interests and cooperation among residents, groups, and organizations. The essential elements of participatory budgeting are budget transparency and an understandable presentation of financial matters.”

PÄIVI KURIKKA
Senior advisor, Association of
Finnish Municipalities,
Finland





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“Purposeful communication and appropriate communication instruments play an important role to ensure that all target groups are reached and involved in the activities.

If the participatory budgeting traditions are weak in general, it is necessary to work on explaining the processes to the widest possible public. Indisputably - in Latvia, it is also a process of educating the public about what is participatory budgeting and why it is important.”

LIENĪTE PRIEDĀJA-KLEPERE
“EmPaci” Project Manager at
Vidzeme Planning Region,
Latvia





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