

A stylized, light blue map of Europe is centered in the background. Various European countries are labeled with their two-letter codes, including FI, LV, IT, PL, UK, NL, DE, FR, PT, ES, IT, SI, BG, GR, MT, and CY. The map is set against a dark blue background with a subtle, lighter blue geometric pattern on the left side.

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING AS A STIMULANT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY

Ph.D. Ewa Markowska-Bzducha

Kazimierz Pulaski

University of Technology and Humanities in Radom

Faculty of Economics

Department of Regional Development and Quantitative Methods

THE AIM OF THE PRESENTATION

The aim of this paper is to present participatory budgeting as an instrument that encourages the development of civil society through fuller participation of citizens in socio-political life.

THE MAIN ISSUES

- ❑ What is Participatory Budgeting?**
- ❑ The origin of Participatory Budgeting**
- ❑ Participatory Budgeting in Poland.
Procedure of Participatory Budgeting in
Radom (my hometown)**
- ❑ Benefits of Participatory Budgeting**

WHAT IS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING?

It is defined as “a mechanism (or process) through which the population decides on, or contributes to decisions made on, the destination of all or part of the available public resources.”

UN-HABITAT, 72 Frequently Asked Questions about Participatory Budgeting, Quito 2004, s. 20.

HISTORY OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

Stages in the development of participatory budgeting:

- ❑ 1989 - 1997 – its “birth” in Porto Alegre and introduction in some other cities of South America, such as Santo Andre (Brazil) and Montevideo (Uruguay)
- ❑ 1997 - 2000 – the spreading of participatory budgeting in Brazil where it was adopted, in varied forms, in more than 130 municipalities.
- ❑ 2000 – present – further expansion and development of individual solutions in Latin American and European countries. In Europe, participatory budgeting is introduced in municipalities in Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Portugal, Denmark, Switzerland, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. There have also been some successful attempts at implementing participatory budgeting in African cities (e.g. in Cameroon) and in Asia (e.g. in Sri Lanka).

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN POLAND

Attempts at using participatory budgeting are made in numerous local government units:

- ❑ in big cities – such as Poznań (552 393) and Łódź (722 022)
- ❑ in medium-sized - such as Bydgoszcz (363 020), Radom (220 062), Toruń (204 847), Sosnowiec (214 488), Płock (124 048), Zielona Góra (119182), Elbląg (123 977), Rybnik (140 863), Dąbrowa Górnicza (125 063).
- ❑ as well as in much smaller towns - such as Sopot(38 584) and Świebodzice (23 292),
- ❑ and very small ones - such as Karpacz (5 026).

FUNDS FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN POLISH CITIES*

Cities	The value of funds [in PLN]	The value of funds as % of budget revenues
Łódź	20 000 000	0.5%
Poznań	10 000 000	0.4%
Bydgoszcz	10 000 000	0.7%
Radom	3 000 000	0.3%
Toruń	2 000 000	0.2%
Elbląg	2 000 000	0.3%
Dąbrowa Górnicza	5 000 000	0.9%
Sopot	4 000 000	1.3%
Karpacz	200 000	0.6%

*Cities are sorted in descending order according to the number of inhabitants

PROCEDURE OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING IN RADOM



TORUŃ - THE LIST OF PROJECTS SELECTED BY THE INHABITANTS:

- ❑ Construction of the playground at 17 Market St. - 997 votes
- ❑ Road construction, Przyłuszczkova Street - 495 votes
- ❑ Construction of external sports gym at the Baj Pomorski Theatre - 436 votes
- ❑ Road construction, Przyjaciół Street - 335 votes
- ❑ Construction of a recreation path in the Glazja park on Waryńskiego St. - 334 votes
- ❑ Road repairs, a section of Rolnicza Street - 307 votes
- ❑ Construction of the playground on Zbożowa St. - 282 votes
- ❑ Traffic lights on Chrobrego St. - 270 votes

The total number of votes for all projects: 5 704 votes
(3.6% of those eligible to vote)

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

- ❑ Better allocation of public funding;
- ❑ Local authorities can have a better understanding of the citizens' vital needs;
- ❑ Improvement of the transparency of local government finances;
- ❑ Participatory budgeting increases social control of public expenditure;
- ❑ Discussions in a public forum allow citizens to get to know each other better and get to know better the representatives of local government.

BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

- ❑ The rise in confidence of the local community in actions taken by the authorities, and at the same time – an improvement of the authorities' image;
- ❑ The broad debate on the town's finances affects civic education in this field; this can positively affect citizens' tax awareness, very low in many countries.
- ❑ Participatory budgeting integrates local community.
- ❑ Improvement of local identity - community members identify with the projects that are the effects of their decisions. This makes them more responsible for their “small homelands.”

Thank you for listening 😊

If you have any questions don't hesitate to ask😊