

GOOD PRACTICES

PROJECT NAME: CIVIC BUDGET - BELCHATOW

PROJECT IMPLEMENTER: BEŁCHATÓW CITY HALL

WEBSITE: ecs.gda.pl

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

CITIZEN BUDGETS, WHICH ALLOW RESIDENTS TO DECIDE WHAT MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTIES OR PROVINCES WILL SPEND PART OF THEIR MONEY ON, HAVE BECOME A PERMANENT PART OF THE DAILY ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. CITIZEN BUDGETS ARE IMPLEMENTED COMPULSORILY IN CITIES WITH COUNTY RIGHTS. CIVIC BUDGET IS A SPECIAL FORM OF SOCIAL CONSULTATION. ITS ESSENCE IS THAT RESIDENTS IN A DIRECT VOTE DECIDE ANNUALLY ON A PART OF THE EXPENSES OF THE BUDGET OF THE MUNICIPALITY, DISTRICT OR PROVINCE. IN BELCHATOW, THE BUDGET IS IMPLEMENTED IN THE FORM OF A COMPETITION OF CIVIC PROPOSALS VOTED ON IN SEPTEMBER OF EACH CALENDAR YEAR. AS A RESULT OF THE VOTE, TWO TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE SELECTED: HARD - INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SPACE, SOFT - INVESTMENTS IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS.

PROJECT RECIPIENTS:

ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY

PROJECT RESULTS:

AS A RESULT OF THE VOTE, TWO TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE SELECTED: HARD - INVESTMENTS IN PUBLIC SPACE, SOFT - INVESTMENTS IN THE SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COMPETENCE OF THE CITY'S RESIDENTS.

IN 2024, THE WINNING COMPETITIONS WERE TWO PROJECTS SUBMITTED AND DESIGNED BY ACTIVE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY: 1) ECOLOGICAL PART FOR DOGS, SUCH AS AN INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC SPACE AND 2) BEŁCHATÓW ACADEMY OF LEADERS - LIKE A PROJECT IN THE SOCIAL COMPETENCES OF YOUNG RESIDENTS OF BEŁCHATÓW.

CALENDAR/ACTIVITIES

PROJECTS FOR THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET ARE SUBMITTED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS. THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING RESIDENTS' IDEAS ALONG WITH THE DESCRIPTION, TECHNICAL DATA OR ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT ARE SUBMITTED BY THE END OF JUNE AND THEN SUBMITTED TO THE RESIDENTS' VOTE BY THE END OF AUGUST. THE RESULTS OF THE CITIZENS' VOTE ARE ANNOUNCED IN SEPTEMBER, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS IS PLANNED FROM THE NEXT CALENDAR YEAR.



DETERMINE FACTORS

IT INCREASES THE INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS IN LOCAL POLITICS - PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET DECISION-MAKING PROCESS GIVES RESIDENTS A SENSE OF INFLUENCE ON THEIR SURROUNDINGS AND A CHANCE TO INFLUENCE THE SHAPING OF THE CITY.

IMPROVES COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AUTHORITIES AND THE COMMUNITY – THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROCESS REQUIRES ACTIVE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TOWN HALL AND RESIDENTS, WHICH CAN LEAD TO A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF EACH OTHER'S NEEDS AND PRIORITIES.

IT PROMOTES SOCIAL EQUALITY - PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS GIVE A VOICE TO ALL RESIDENTS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL STATUS OR WALLET. EVERYONE HAS A CHANCE TO PROPOSE AND VOTE FOR THEIR PROJECTS.

IT SUPPORTS LOCAL CIVIC INITIATIVES - THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROCESS CAN BE A PLATFORM FOR RESIDENTS WHO HAVE THEIR OWN PROJECTS AND WANT TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CITY. THEY CAN SUBMIT THEIR IDEAS AND APPLY FOR FUNDING.

INCREASES TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN SPENDING PUBLIC FUNDS

BUSINESS MODELS

CENTRALIZED MODEL - IN THIS MODEL, DECISIONS REGARDING THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET ARE MADE BY A CENTRAL BODY OR OFFICE. THIS BODY COLLECTS PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM CITIZENS AND THEN DECIDES WHICH PROJECTS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE CITIZENS' BUDGET. THIS IS THE MOST EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MODEL, BUT IT CAN LIMIT THE ACTIVITY AND INVOLVEMENT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

DECENTRALISED MODEL – IN THIS MODEL, DECISION-MAKING POWER IS DISPERSED BETWEEN DIFFERENT INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NGOS AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES. EACH OF THESE INSTITUTIONS HAS THE RIGHT TO PROPOSE AND VOTE ON PROJECTS. THIS MODEL PROMOTES GREATER SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT AND MAY TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY, BUT CAN BE MORE COMPLICATED AND DIFFICULT TO MANAGE.

WEB/ELECTRONIC MODEL - THIS MODEL USES WEB TECHNOLOGY TO COLLECT, EVALUATE AND VOTE ON PROJECT PROPOSALS. CITIZENS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT THEIR PROPOSALS AND VOTE ONLINE. THIS MODEL PROVIDES GREATER ACCESSIBILITY AND CONVENIENCE FOR CITIZENS, BUT MAY EXCLUDE THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THE INTERNET OR ARE NOT FULLY TRUSTED IN TECHNOLOGY.



BUSINESS PERSPECTIVE

CREATING A POSITIVE BRAND IMAGE FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY: WHEN A COMPANY ENGAGES IN SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, IT IS SEEN AS AN ENGAGED CITIZEN, READY TO HELP OTHERS. THIS CREATES A POSITIVE BRAND IMAGE THAT ATTRACTS CUSTOMERS AND BUILDS LOYALTY.

CREATING BONDS AND TRUST: CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT ALLOWS THE COMPANY TO ESTABLISH CLOSER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY. ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SPONSORING LOCAL EVENTS OR SUPPORTING LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS STRENGTHEN TIES AND BUILD TRUST BETWEEN THE COMPANY AND THE COMMUNITY, WHICH CAN TRANSLATE INTO GREATER CUSTOMER ENGAGEMENT AND GREATER LOYALTY TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

IMPROVING PRODUCTS AND SERVICES: CITIZENS OFTEN HAVE DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND EXPERIENCES THAT CAN CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVING A COMPANY'S PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. BY ENGAGING IN DIALOGUE WITH CUSTOMERS AND LISTENING TO THEIR OPINIONS, THE COMPANY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP BETTER AND MORE TAILORED PRODUCTS.

SUSTAINABILITY PERSPECTIVE

ADOPTING A SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE: AS PART OF THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET, RESIDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS REGARDING THE SPENDING OF PUBLIC FUNDS. ADOPTING THIS SOCIAL PERSPECTIVE REQUIRES UNDERSTANDING AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NEEDS OF OTHER RESIDENTS, WHICH CAN DEVELOP EMPATHY AND THE ABILITY TO THINK ABOUT THE COMMON GOOD.

CRITICAL THINKING: PARTICIPATION IN THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET REQUIRES ANALYZING AND EVALUATING VARIOUS PROPOSALS, AS WELL AS ARGUING AND DEFENDING YOUR OPINION. THIS PROCESS ENGAGES RESIDENTS IN CRITICAL THINKING AND DEVELOPS THEIR ABILITY TO EVALUATE INFORMATION AND MAKE CONSIDERED DECISIONS.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A PARTICIPATORY BUDGET REQUIRES THE ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE FUNDS TO DIFFERENT PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES. THIS PROCESS DEVELOPS THE ABILITY TO MANAGE RESOURCES AND MAKE CHOICES BASED ON AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

BUILDING SOCIAL DIALOGUE: THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET PROCESS INVOLVES THE INVOLVEMENT OF RESIDENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN ORDER TO DEVELOP THE BEST PROPOSALS. THIS TYPE OF DIALOGUE DEVELOPS THE ABILITY TO COOPERATE, NEGOTIATE AND BUILD CONSENSUS.



CULTURAL VALUE

FIRSTLY, THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET ENABLES RESIDENTS TO BE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN SHAPING AND FINANCING CULTURAL PROJECTS THAT ARE CLOSE AND IMPORTANT TO THEM. THANKS TO THIS, CITIZENS HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY AND CAN DECIDE WHAT INITIATIVES ARE FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED.

SECONDLY, THE PARTICIPATORY BUDGET OFTEN GIVES THE OPPORTUNITY TO IMPLEMENT SMALLER, LOCAL PROJECTS THAT WOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE TRADITIONAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OR MUNICIPALITY. THANKS TO THIS, RESIDENTS HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT AND IMPLEMENT CULTURAL PROJECTS THAT ARE TAILORED TO THEIR NEEDS AND EXPECTATIONS.

A PARTICIPATORY BUDGET CAN ALSO SUPPORT CULTURAL AND ARTISTIC DIVERSITY IN THE COMMUNITY. RESIDENTS CAN SUBMIT AND FINANCE PROJECTS THAT PROMOTE MINORITY CULTURES, ART BY LOCAL ARTISTS OR INITIATIVES RELATED TO THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE REGION.