

The background of the entire page is a close-up, slightly angled photograph of a budget spreadsheet. The spreadsheet is white with blue headers and text. A blue pen lies horizontally across the middle of the page, resting on the spreadsheet. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a black smartphone is visible, showing a battery level of 32%. The overall color scheme is dominated by the orange background on the left and the green circle on the bottom left, which frame the central budget image.**In**Information
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Budget

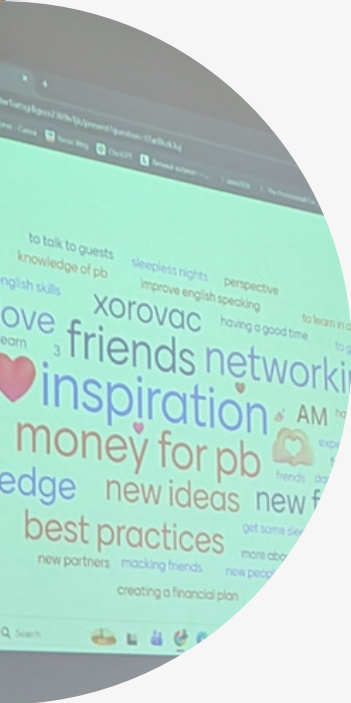
MAPPING PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

A Comparative Research and
Mapping Study Across
Communities in Armenia,
Germany, Hungary, Moldova,
Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden

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About

BUDGETIFY PROJECT

BUDGETIFY – Boosting Youth Democratic Governance through Participatory Budgeting (www.inednet.com/budgetify) is an international capacity-building project implemented by the Information and Education Development Network (INEDNET) Armenia and its international partners MENQ e.V. Germany, European Dialogue Slovakia, KEKS Sweden, DevYou Hungary, Aequelitas Portugal, RNCLTM Moldova with the support of the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, H. Hovnanian Family Foundation and the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe.

The project was created in response to a persistent democratic challenge: although decisions about public resources directly affect young people's lives, they often have limited opportunities and capacities to influence how those resources are allocated. Participatory Budgeting offers a practical way to address this gap. It enables residents to identify community priorities, develop proposals and participate in deciding how a portion of public funding should be used.

BUDGETIFY aimed to strengthen young people's understanding of Participatory Budgeting and equip them with the knowledge, confidence and practical tools required to engage in local decision-making. It brought together young leaders from seven countries, Armenia, Germany, Hungary, the Republic of Moldova, Portugal, Slovakia and Sweden, for a seven-day international training course in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia in April 2026, which was the first step of the long-term project. Through non-formal education, collaborative research, practical exercises and peer learning, participants explored:

- the principles and stages of Participatory Budgeting (for participants with no prior background in PB);
- the connection between public budgets, local democracy and youth participation;
- different models of Participatory Budgeting used by communities;
- barriers that prevent young people from participating in public decisions;
- inclusive and youth-friendly approaches to Participatory Budgeting;
- methods for researching, communicating and promoting PB practices;
- possibilities for transferring successful approaches between different local contexts.

Participants were not only learners. They became researchers, contributors and multipliers who connected the project's learning with the realities of their own communities.

Meet THE PARTNERS



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HOW THIS PUBLICATION CAME TO LIFE?



Before and during the training, participants carried out research and mapped examples of participatory budgeting and related participation mechanisms in their countries. They examined how local processes are designed, who can participate, how proposals are selected, what resources are available, how young people are included, and whether authorities report back on implementation.

Their work resulted in the selection and mapping of eight community cases across seven countries:

1. **Martuni Municipality, Armenia**
2. **Cologne, Germany**
3. **Chişinău, Republic of Moldova**
4. **Budapest, Hungary**
5. **Rožňava, Slovakia**
6. **Trnava Self-Governing Region, Slovakia**
7. **Braga, Portugal**
8. **Alingsås, Sweden**

The cases do not represent one single PB model. They operate at different territorial levels, from a village within a municipality to a capital city and a self-governing region. Most are active participatory budgeting processes, while others demonstrate youth-led, school-linked, regional, historic or broader public-participation models connected to public-resource decisions.

For example, Budapest, Chişinău, Martuni, Rožňava, Braga and Trnava Region operate identifiable PB programmes with defined rules and allocations. Alingsås shows a youth-focused model in which students influence funding decisions through the Youth Council. Cologne illustrates the evolution of a pioneering citizens' budget into a broader framework of systematic public participation.

This publication, *Mapping Participatory Budgeting Across Communities*, brings these contributions together in a consistent and accessible format. It enables readers to understand each case individually while also comparing different approaches to participation, funding, youth inclusion and accountability.

The publication asks several practical questions:

- **Who is invited to participate?**
- **At what age can people submit proposals or vote?**
- **How are ideas developed, assessed and selected?**
- **Does public voting directly influence decisions?**
- **How much funding is available?**
- **How are young people informed, supported and included?**
- **Are results and implementation progress publicly communicated?**
- **Which elements can be adapted to other local contexts?**

WHY DOES THIS WORK MATTER?



Participatory Budgeting makes democracy more concrete. It can move participation beyond elections and one-off consultations by allowing people to influence decisions about real community priorities and public resources. For young people, PB and related youth-participation mechanisms can be an entry point into democratic life. They can help young people understand how institutions work, identify problems, develop realistic proposals, debate competing priorities, work with others and see how public decisions can create visible change.

However, participation is not automatically meaningful simply because a voting mechanism exists. The eight cases show important differences in accessibility, transparency, eligibility, decision-making power, public funding, implementation and follow-up. Some processes are open to all residents; others are designed specifically for students or young people. Some rely primarily on online tools, while others combine digital participation with workshops, meetings, outreach and proposal-development support.

Mapping these differences helps communities learn from one another. It shows that strong PB processes need more than a budget and a vote. They also need clear rules, accessible information, inclusive outreach, transparent selection criteria, meaningful public influence and visible reporting on implementation.

The cases also demonstrate that useful participatory practice is not limited to large or highly resourced cities. Smaller municipalities, rural communities, youth councils and regional authorities can create valuable models when they provide practical support, build trust and make participation understandable and accessible.

This publication does not rank the eight cases or present one model as universally best. Instead, it invites readers to examine the principles behind each experience and adapt relevant lessons, thoughtfully and selectively, to their own community, institutional setting and resources, rather than simply replicating the eight examples. The BUDGETIFY partners welcome readers' feedback and suggestions as this mapping and comparative work continues to develop

CONTRIBUTORS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was made possible by the commitment, research and shared knowledge of all BUDGETIFY participants. Every participant's contribution is acknowledged equally below, without singling out individual article authors: **Aida Vardanyan, Emilia Martirosyan, Shahane Matinyan, Margarita Nalbandyan, Hnazard Manukyan, Serzhik Martirosyan, Sipan Kirakosyan, Narek Hakhverdyan, Timofey Torosyan, Areg Badalyan, Jan Stefanek, Michal Drengubiak, Natalia Novakova, Simoneta Šimková, Bianka Terjékóvá, Sabina Khalilova, Marek Hromada, Nina Vážna, Wasrik Hartun Sarkissian, Nareg Cazanjan, Mariam Noniashvili, Anna Ispiryan, Hermine Gevorgyan, Anni Mesropyan, Elionora Abramyan, Marharita Galayan, Ovsanna Sukiasyan, Anna Barseghyan, Inês Soares, Núria Almeida, Adelina Ciudin, Marina Certan, András Szűcs, Ramona Beláová, Marlene Mardo, Setare Azad.**

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Special thanks are extended to the municipalities, community representatives, youth workers, young people and local stakeholders who contributed information, experience and perspectives to the research.



EDITORIAL NOTE ON SOURCES AND TERMINOLOGY

The case studies are based on participant mapping forms, official municipal and regional websites, programme rules, public calls, budget documents and published results where available. Figures, calendars and eligibility rules may change from one cycle to another; the information presented here reflects the most recent cycle data available as of mid-2026 (primarily the 2025–2026 cycles, depending on each community's reporting calendar). “Participatory Budgeting” or PB is used in this publication as an umbrella term. Most cases are dedicated PB programmes; some are youth-led, school-linked, historic or broader participatory mechanisms connected to public-resource decisions. This distinction is made clear in each case study.



IN ADDITION

The project trainers' team developed another valuable resource, “A Youth Workbook on Participatory Budgeting: My FIRST PB Project”, a practical manual and workbook designed to help educators and learners understand the concept of Participatory Budgeting and, step by step, develop their first PB project while integrating the process into a non-formal education programme.

The workbook is available for free download from the [BUDGETIFY project website](http://www.inednet.com/budgetify): www.inednet.com/budgetify



DISCLAIMER

BUDGETIFY was implemented by INEDNET and its partners with the support of the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and H. Hovnanian Family Foundation. The views expressed in this publication are those of its authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Union, Council of Europe or H. Hovnanian Family Foundation.

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The mapped cases also differ sharply in scale, and that scale shapes what participation actually feels like on the ground. In Rožňava, Martuni and Braga, it means a single municipality running its own PB cycle. In Budapest and Chişinău, it plays out at capital-city scale, reaching far more residents and far larger budgets. In Trnava Region, it spans an entire self-governing region covering multiple municipalities. In Alingsås, it is deliberately smaller and youth-only, channelled through a Youth Council with its own dedicated budget. Cologne offers a different story altogether: one of Europe's early citizens' budgets, or Bürgerhaushalt, that has since grown into an ongoing, broader framework for public participation in how the city is run.



Table 1: Case Snapshot at a Glance

Community / City	Year PB Opened	Last Cycle Budget	Minimum Voting Age	Voting Method	Primary Focus & Strategic Approach
Martuni Community (Vardenik), Armenia	Current framework since 2023–2024	AMD 106 Million	16	Online	Co-financed Local-National Model: Leverages 0.72% of the municipal budget alongside a national support programme to build rural technological and youth infrastructure.
Chişinău, Republic of Moldova	~2016 (current framework since Aug. 2020)	MDL 3,000,000 (2025 cycle)	18	Mixed (commission evaluation, then public vote)	Commission-Vetted Dual-Tier Model: A joint municipal/civil-society commission validates proposals before public voting, funding "small" (up to 100,000 MDL) and "large" (up to 300,000 MDL) projects, though the PB envelope is only about 0.04% of the municipal budget.
Budapest, Hungary	2020	HUF 1 Billion	14	Mixed (Online/Paper)	High-Density Engagement: Commands heavy public involvement (600–730 ideas annually) using an online "liking" filter phase before formal expert and public selection.
Rožňava, Slovakia	2018	€30,000	Not Specified	Online	Iterative Framework Evolution: A fully civic-project model that scaled down project counts (from 10–12 to 6) while raising project caps to €5,000 to sharpen competition and execution quality.
Trnava Region (Voderady), Slovakia	Late 2010s	€150,000	15	Mixed Evaluation	Regional Scheme & School Parallels: Uses a mixed matrix (40% public vote, 40% expert board, 20% historical funding track record) alongside 44 school-specific PB cycles.
S. Vítor (Braga), Portugal	2014	€675,000	16	Online	Multi-Tiered Citizenship Strategy: Combines themed municipal categories, school-allocated budgets (€10k/school) and a separate "Tu Decides!" youth platform for ages 14–35.

Cologne, Germany	2007	Integrated into main budget	Case- by-case	Mixed formats	Systematic Budgetary Consultation: Shifted from an isolated PB fund to a consultative model where city- wide participation guidelines apply directly to the €6.4B+ municipal budget.
Alingsås, Sweden	2011	SEK 400,000	13	Mixed (Online/In- person)	Qualitative Youth-Led Integration: Prioritizes soft educational goals, democratic values and leadership over headcount metrics, closely integrated with local schools.

Cross-Case Insights: Where the Models Converge and Diverge

The dimensions above play out very differently once you look at what each community actually chose to do. Across Armenia, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden, Slovakia, Portugal, Germany and Hungary, local governments have made very different strategic choices: some focus on large-scale funding pools, others prioritize digital voting infrastructure, and still others are reshaping PB from a once-a-year event into a year-round way of governing.

The fragility of democratic continuity.

A major vulnerability across nearly all these models is how easily they can be disrupted by shifting political cycles and economic shocks. In Rožňava, the biggest existential threat is a change in elected leadership: a new administration could deconstruct the staff and funding that keep the process alive. Cologne faces a related challenge, where large planned deficits force a tense compromise between citizen aspirations and fiscal constraints.

The illusion of digital equity.

Almost every community uses digital platforms to make voting easier and more scalable. Yet several report the same realization: digital tools alone do not produce representative engagement. Rožňava notes that keeping people involved requires resource-intensive, face-to-face facilitation rather than a sleek online portal alone. Chişinău's process illustrates the same tension differently, a joint commission still vets every proposal before public voting, and youth participation there "appears limited" despite young residents being formally eligible, according to the community's own mapping form.

Youth as the strategic frontier.

Every framework agrees that young people are essential to long-term civic vitality, but they split sharply on how to involve them. Budapest lowers its voting age to 14 to draw youth into the main process. Alingsås, Trnava and Braga instead build separate, parallel youth architectures, school-allocated funds or dedicated youth councils, to protect youth priorities from being crowded out by adult interests. Chişinău sits at the opposite end: both submitting and voting require participants to be 18, keeping the process fully adult-oriented for now.

Table 2: Cross-Cutting Thematic Analysis

Dimension	Comparative observation
Territorial level	The cases operate at village, municipal, metropolitan, regional and youth-council levels. This affects budget size, administrative capacity and who can participate.
Type of process	Most cases are dedicated PB programmes. Cologne is a historic PB example now operating through broader participation mechanisms, while Alingsås focuses on youth-led allocation through its Youth Council.
Budget scale	Funding ranges from targeted youth allocations in Alingsås to large city-level allocations in Budapest and Chişinău. Martuni combines municipal funding with national support, while Trnava Region distributes a fixed regional envelope among projects.
Eligibility	Minimum participation ages range from 13 in Alingsås to 18 in Chişinău. Several cases allow students, workers or people with a local connection to participate, rather than only formally registered residents.
Youth inclusion	Youth participation is strongest where young people have a defined role: as voters from age 13 or 14, school representatives, proposal developers, outreach volunteers or members of youth councils.
Decision-making	Public voting has different levels of influence. In some cases, votes directly select projects; in others, voting is combined with expert assessment, administrative review or eligibility checks.
Digital and offline access	Online platforms are common, but the more inclusive approaches combine digital tools with workshops, information sessions, school outreach or face-to-face support.
Transparency	Stronger cases publish calls, rules, project lists, voting results and implementation information. Where results or implementation information are difficult to access, accountability is weaker.
Implementation	Implementation can be delayed by procurement, technical constraints, financing pressures or administrative capacity. A successful vote does not automatically guarantee rapid delivery.
Sustainability	Regular cycles, stable funding, clear rules and municipal commitment make PB more durable. One-off processes are more vulnerable to changes in political priorities or financial conditions.
Legal framework	Legal arrangements vary. Armenia has developed a national PB framework and subsidy mechanism that has expanded through pilots and municipal implementation. In other cases, rules are mainly municipal or regional.

Headcounts vs. hard learning.

What does a "successful" cycle look like? Budapest's metrics-driven approach tracks quantitative signals: the sheer volume of proposals (600–730 annually) and how fast winning ideas become infrastructure. Alingsås takes the opposite view, explicitly rejecting headcounts in favour of "soft" goals, individual learning, leadership growth, democratic values, measuring success by whether an activity was genuinely youth-led and youth-produced.

Pocket money vs. systemic consultation.

How should PB connect to the main city budget? Most communities carve out a small, earmarked share of the municipal treasury for a dedicated PB pool, Chişinău, for instance, allocates roughly 0.04% of its municipal budget this way. This gives citizens direct power, but confines it to a small scale. Cologne represents the opposite extreme: rather than ring-fencing an isolated citizen fund, it built city-wide participation guidelines that apply directly to its multi-billion-euro municipal budget, trading a guaranteed funding pool for a voice in macro-level policy and spending.

Pure public vote vs. the expert matrix.

How is a winner decided? In Budapest, the raw ballot count directly determines which projects are implemented. Trnava uses a more layered formula: the public online vote counts for only 40% of the final score, split with an expert committee's assessment (40%) and the project's historical funding track record (20%), balancing popular appeal against administrative feasibility. In the Armenian case, the PB project goes through a two-step selection process. The first step is an initial technical review by the committee to determine whether the proposal meets the eligibility criteria. The second and final step is online public voting, where citizens select the winning projects.

Key Takeaways

- Move from event to culture. PB works best when it shifts from an annual "voting event" into a continuous co-design process, with citizens involved in refining ideas and monitoring implementation, not just casting a vote.
- Facilitation is the equalizer. Lowering the voting age or launching a modern portal isn't enough on its own. Without deliberate support, school workshops, door-to-door outreach, plain-language guidance, technical and digital barriers will naturally favour better-resourced residents, reinforcing existing exclusions.
- Procurement is the real chokepoint. Citizen participation rarely fails at the ballot box; it fails during execution. Complex procurement rules, utility conflicts and budget pressures are where enthusiasm most often turns into institutional distrust, as delayed projects erode confidence.
- Structural autonomy protects youth voices. Independent parallel frameworks, school-based funds, youth-led councils, help ensure young people's priorities aren't absorbed or outvoted by adult-centred agendas.
- Voting age is only the first step. Lower age thresholds improve access, but meaningful engagement comes from giving young people real roles in managing budgets and overseeing implementation, not just a ballot.
- Peer leadership multiplies participation. When young people design and run initiatives themselves, it lowers institutional barriers for other young people and broadens who takes part.
- Beyond the ballot. When inclusive, transparent and followed by visible implementation, participatory budgeting builds not just infrastructure but trust, civic confidence and shared responsibility for community development.



Participatory Budgeting in

MARTUNI, ARMENIA

Name of the community / city / town	Vardenik village, Martuni community
Region / province	Gegharkunik Province (Marz)
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/1KETtnk4FtdSYziy6
Population of the municipality (approximate)	80006 for Martuni community, 4000 in Vardenik
Official website of the municipality	Official website of Martuni Municipality
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Yes. Martuni Municipality has implemented participatory budgeting procedures in line with Armenia's recent local PB framework.
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	In the region, an interactive budgeting program was introduced in 2021, serving as a prototype of participatory budgeting. However, the local participatory budgeting practice in Martuni is documented and verified through the municipality's official archives. At the national level, participatory budgeting was institutionalised and expanded through a government-supported framework during 2024–2025, following pilot implementations launched in 2023.
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	In 2026, the Municipality of Martuni allocated a total of AMD 106 million to participatory budgeting projects. Of this amount, AMD 40 million was financed from the municipal (community) budget, while the remaining AMD 66 million was provided through the Government of Armenia's participatory budgeting support program. This co-financing model illustrates the integration of local fiscal commitment with national support for participatory governance.
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	In 2026, the Municipality of Martuni contributed AMD 40 million from its own budget to participatory budgeting, representing approximately 0.72% of the municipality's total annual budget of AMD 5.59 billion .

MARTUNI, ARMENIA

How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	Usually around 3 projects, subject to annual call results and available funding.
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	For the 2026 participatory budgeting cycle, the municipality launched its public information and awareness campaign on 23 November 2025 to inform residents about the process and encourage participation. The official call for idea submissions was subsequently open from 5 to 21 January 2026 .
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	23 of January, 2026.
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	Official website of Martuni Municipality
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Residents of Martuni Municipality, including individual citizens, NGOs, youth groups, and initiative groups, in line with the municipal PB rules.
Minimum age to submit a project	Project proposals can be submitted by residents of the Martuni community who have reached the age of 16 .
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes. The applicant must be a resident of Martuni Municipality.
Who can vote in PB?	Only residents registered in Martuni Municipality can vote.
Minimum age to vote	16
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Online
Link where voting results are published	Official website of Martuni Municipality
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	In the latest participatory budgeting cycle, two projects were selected as winners based on citizens' votes. The winning proposals were: (1) "Vardenik Youth Center and Art Café," which received 3,605 votes; and (2) "Drone Laboratory in the Rural Settlements of Martuni Community," which received 3,381 votes. These projects reflect residents' priorities in youth engagement, creative development, and the introduction of innovative educational opportunities in rural areas.

MARTUNI, ARMENIA

Short description of the winning project/s	The winning projects focused on youth development, technological education, and community-based learning opportunities. 1. Drone Laboratories in the Rural Settlements of Martuni Community The project aims to establish eight drone laboratories in rural settlements of Martuni Community, providing young people with access to modern technological education. The laboratories will offer training in drone technology, including principles of operation, assembly, programming, and practical flight exercises. The initiative seeks to reduce the technology gap between rural and urban youth by developing skills relevant to education, employment, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Participants will have opportunities to obtain drone operator certification, pursue careers in technology-related fields, participate in drone competitions, and apply acquired skills in areas such as digital services and business development. 2. Vardenik Youth Center and Art Café The project aims to renovate a 295 m² space on the third floor of the Vardenik Cultural Center and transform it into a youth center serving young people from Vardenik and neighboring settlements, including Tsovinar, Artsvanist, Zolakar, Astghadzor, and Vaghashen. The center will provide a space for youth engagement, educational activities, cultural initiatives, and community interaction, creating new opportunities for young people in Martuni Community.
Link to the project/s	• Drone laboratory in rural areas of Martuni community • Vardenik Youth Center and Art Café
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	In progress
If yes, when was it completed?	The winning projects were selected during the 2026 participatory budgeting cycle and are currently under implementation. The projects are expected to be completed within the 2026 implementation period following the completion of planned renovation, equipment procurement, and operational activities.

MARTUNI, ARMENIA

Reflected by Areg Badalyan

What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	Key challenges include ensuring broader public awareness of the PB process, helping residents understand and use online voting tools, and sustaining participation across all settlements of the municipality.
What works well in the PB process?	What works well is the active involvement of local residents and young people , the use of direct citizen voting, and the presence of official municipal documentation for project proposals and results.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, how are young people involved?	Young people actively support outreach by visiting households, explaining the participatory budgeting process, and helping residents who may have difficulties participating, including with information and online voting.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	Create a youth-led environmental participation group linked to the PB process, so that young people can identify local environmental problems, develop project ideas, and report them directly to the municipality.
If PB does NOT exist in your community, would you like to advocate for it?	Not applicable
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	Support is needed for stronger youth engagement, outreach, and capacity-building so that more residents can understand, promote, and participate in the PB process.

Participatory Budgeting in

COLOGNE, GERMANY



Name of the community / city / town	Cologne (Köln)
Region / province	Federal State of North Rhine–Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/PbxDsrcm4tNdFP5P6
Population of the municipality (approximate)	1,090,000
Official website of the municipality	https://www.stadt-koeln.de
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Cologne implemented a city-wide participatory budgeting process (‘Kölner Bürgerhaushalt’) from 2007 onwards, but the separate citizens’ budget procedure as a distinct PB cycle has been discontinued. In 2025–2026, Cologne instead uses systematic public participation and consultation around the municipal budget and other decisions, following city-wide participation guidelines.
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	Cologne first introduced its citizens’ budget (Bürgerhaushalt) in 2007, with the pilot linked to the 2008 municipal budget; this PB model informed later broader public participation reforms.
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	No separate PB fund; public participation applies to selected parts of the municipal budget . Total planned expenditures are approximately €6.46 billion (2025) and €6.70 billion (2026).
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Not applicable: Cologne’s PB and subsequent participation practices concern the full municipal budget as a consultative process and do not earmark a specific percentage solely for PB.

COLOGNE, GERMANY

How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	In past PB cycles (2008–2010 and later), Cologne's Bürgerhaushalt generated ranked lists of citizen proposals; the council implemented or integrated a subset of these each year, often several projects across sectors such as transport, schools, environment and culture. Since no separate PB cycle is run in 2025–2026, there is currently no fixed number of 'PB-funded projects' per cycle.
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	Since 1 November 2025, Cologne applies systematic public participation to all policy areas and budget decisions, based on city-wide participation guidelines. Public consultations and participation procedures, including those related to the 2025/2026 budget, are scheduled case by case and announced via the city's participation and budget pages , rather than through a single annual PB call.
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	Deadlines for submitting ideas or participating in consultations are set individually for each participation process (for example, for the 2025/2026 budget consultations) and are published in the respective announcements and in the council's information system; no single fixed PB submission deadline applies in 2025–2026.
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	• "Main PB legacy and citizens' budget page: — Kölner Bürgerhaushalt" • General public participation and guidelines (2025–2026): — Leitlinien für Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung • Systematische Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung announcement (standard from 1 November 2025)
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Residents of Cologne and local stakeholders (individual citizens, initiatives and civil society organizations) can propose ideas, comment and participate in consultations in line with the city's public participation guidelines and the thematic concepts developed for each procedure
Minimum age to submit a project	Participation procedures aim to include diverse groups, including young people; specific age rules for submitting proposals are defined in each procedure's concept. For publication, note that residents, including youth, can participate according to the city's participation rules.
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes – participation processes on Cologne's municipal budget and policies are primarily open to people affected by decisions in Cologne, especially residents of the city.

COLOGNE, GERMANY

Who can vote in PB?	For dedicated PB cycles in the past, Cologne's citizens' budget allowed residents to rate and comment on proposals via an online platform. In 2025–2026, voting or feedback mechanisms are defined individually within each participation process; they target groups affected by the respective decision and follow the public participation guidelines.
Minimum age to vote	Minimum age to take part in specific participation mechanisms is set in each procedure; in general, youth participation is encouraged, and age rules follow municipal and legal participation frameworks.
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Mixed: Cologne uses digital tools (online information and feedback) together with in-person formats (public meetings, workshops, forums) as part of systematic public participation. Past PB cycles relied heavily on online participation, and current 2025–2026 procedures continue to combine online and offline formats.
Link where voting results are published	Results of budget and participation procedures (including decisions on the 2025/2026 double budget) are published through the council's information system and relevant city webpages: – Ratsinformationssystem: linked in the 2025 participation announcement. – Budget 2025/2026 documents
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	Cologne's last distinct city-wide PB cycles pre-date 2025; they produced ranked lists of citizen proposals rather than a single winner . In 2025–2026, the city does not run a separate citizens' budget cycle; instead, participation focuses on the 2025/2026 double budget and other decisions through systematic public participation. Therefore, there is no 2025 or 2026 PB 'winning project' list to report.
Short description of the winning project/s	Not applicable for 2025–2026: PB as a separate cycle is not active. Historically, implemented PB proposals in Cologne covered local transport, schools, environment, culture and social services.
Link to the project/s	For historic PB examples, see the experience report : ‘Experiences of the City of Cologne with the measure of participatory budgeting’

COLOGNE, GERMANY

Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	PB-originating projects from earlier cycles have been implemented over time in Cologne. In 2025–2026, budget decisions and projects are driven by the double budget and participation procedures rather than a separate PB cycle.
If yes, when was it completed?	Completion dates vary by project and are recorded in sectoral implementation reports and the municipal budget documents, not as a single PB completion date.
Reflected by Ovsanna Sukiasyan	
What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	In 2025–2026, Cologne faces major fiscal pressures and large planned deficits in the double budget (around €399 million in 2025 and €444 million in 2026), which make prioritization and savings necessary. Ensuring meaningful participation in this context, reaching groups that usually do not engage, and integrating citizen input into constrained budget decisions are key challenges .
What works well in the PB process?	Cologne has adopted the city-wide ' Leitlinien für Öffentlichkeitsbeteiligung ' and, from 1 November 2025, made systematic public participation standard for all political committees. Clear guidelines, the possibility for citizens to propose participation for specific agenda items, and a structured concept for each participation procedure are strengths of the current system.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Young people are explicitly targeted as one of the groups to be reached via the 2025/2026 participation guidelines and the city's political participation support programme, but actual youth engagement in budget-related participation remains limited and is a focus for further improvement.
If yes, how are young people involved?	Youth are involved through participation projects, forums and initiatives supported by the political participation programme 2025/2026 and other youth-focused programmes ; they can propose and take part in consultations and activities about planning and decisions.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	Develop more youth-friendly and accessible digital tools for budget-related participation, combined with targeted outreach in schools, youth centres and online platforms, to make it easier for young people to understand and influence the 2025/2026 budget and other city decisions.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	Support needed includes: training in civic facilitation around complex budgets; updated digital participation tools; dedicated funding for inclusive outreach to youth and underrepresented groups; and sustained institutional backing from the council and administration to keep participation central in the 2025/2026 budget implementation.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



Name of the community / city / town	Budapest
Region / province	Budapest
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	Hungary
Population of the municipality (approximate)	1 685 000
Official website of the municipality (for PB)	https://budapest.hu
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	2020
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	1 000 000 000 HUF
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Around 0.2% of the municipal budget is allocated to participatory budgeting (approx. 1 billion HUF per year, based on recent budgets)
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	13-18
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	Annually, typically starting in November and running into early January, depending on the cycle
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	For the current cycle, the deadline has been postponed due to the impact of national elections; the exact revised date is yet to be announced.

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	otlet.budapest.hu
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Individuals who live, work, or study in Budapest
Minimum age to submit a project	14
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Open to residents and to people who have a strong connection to Budapest, such as working or studying in the city.
Who can vote in PB?	Residents of Budapest and individuals who work or study in the city.
Minimum age to vote	14
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Mixed: online voting via the PB platform and paper ballots at physical voting points (e.g., kiosks or municipal offices).
Link where voting results are published	otlet.budapest.hu/projektek
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	"Rain gardens in the city" – a project focused on collecting and using rainwater through urban rain gardens
Short description of the winning project/s	The project aims to collect rainwater in urban rain gardens and increase tree planting along major roads such as Bartók Béla út, contributing to climate resilience and greener public spaces.
Link to the project/s	https://otlet.budapest.hu/projektek/545#
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	No
If yes, when was it completed?	

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA



Name of the community/city/town	Chisinau
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	Chişinău
Population of the municipality (approximate)	~700,000 (approximate)
Official website of the municipality	https://www.chisinau.md/ro
Does your municipality currently have PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	Participatory budgeting in the form of the Civil Budget has been implemented in Chişinău since around 2016, and the current framework is governed by the revised Regulation approved by Chişinău Municipal Council Decision No. 14/23 of 13 August 2020.
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	3,000,000 MDL in the most recent Buget Civil Chişinău edition (for example, the 2025 cycle, which allocates 3 million lei across small and large projects).
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Approximately 0.04% of the municipal budget is allocated to the Buget Civil Chişinău participatory budgeting programme. The municipal budget for Chişinău in 2025 is on the order of 8.5–9.1 billion MDL (revenues around 8.455 billion, expenditures around 9.144 billion, according to TV8 reporting and budget consultation documents). $3,000,000 \div 8,500,000,000 \approx 0.00035$, i.e., 0.035%, which rounds to about 0.04% of the municipal budget.
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	The number of projects funded per Civil Budget cycle varies, but recent editions have financed around 8–10 projects, and more than 50 projects have been implemented in total through the programme since 2021.

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	February 1
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	28 February (for example, 28 February 2025 at 17:00 in the 2025 edition)
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	https://www.chisinau.md/ro/lansarea-programului-privind-buget-civil-chisinau-editia-2024-20292_275810.html
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	The program is open to both individuals and legal entities from Chişinău, acting individually or in teams .
Minimum age to submit a project	18
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes. Projects must address public needs in Chişinău, and proposals may be submitted by individuals or legal entities from the municipality.
Who can vote in PB?	Residents of Chişinău
Minimum age to vote	18
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Mixed. Projects are first evaluated and validated by a commission made up of municipal and civil society representatives, after which they are submitted to a public voting process. The precise voting format should be confirmed on the current municipal PB page.
Link where voting results are published	Results are published on the official Chişinău City Hall website in the ‘Bugetul Civil Chişinău’ section.
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	Each Buget Civil Chişinău edition funds several winning projects rather than a single winner. These projects are selected from citizen proposals and focus on improving neighbourhood infrastructure and public spaces, mobility, cultural and social facilities, social services, innovation and energy efficiency. The exact list of winning projects for the latest cycle must be retrieved from the official ‘Bugetul Civil Chişinău’ results pages of Chişinău City Hall.
Short description of the winning project/s	Winning projects are small and large local initiatives (up to 100,000 MDL and up to 300,000 MDL respectively) that improve public spaces, streets and parks, mobility, community facilities, cultural and social infrastructure, and citizen participation in local decision-making.

CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

Link to the project/s	Information on winning projects is published on the Chişinău City Hall website in the ‘Bugetul Civil Chişinău’ section
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	Implementation status differs by project: some Civil Budget projects from recent editions have already been implemented or are in progress, while others are still in planning or early execution. Implementation needs to be checked for each project using official municipal project pages or reports.
If yes, when was it completed?	Completion dates should be added individually once confirmed from official municipal sources such as City Hall announcements, project pages, or budget execution reports; no single date applies to all Civil Budget projects.
Reflected by Marina Certan	
What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	The biggest challenges are limited public outreach and communication, weak participation by youth and underrepresented groups, and the relatively small financial envelope allocated to the programme compared with the scale of municipal needs.
What works well in the PB process?	The programme allows citizens to propose local development ideas directly and improves transparency in municipal decision-making by linking public proposals to a defined municipal funding mechanism.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Young people are involved, but their participation appears limited.
If yes, how are young people involved?	Young people can submit project proposals (including as part of youth or student groups), participate in voting on Civil Budget projects, and attend public consultations. In practice, however, only a relatively small number of young residents make use of these opportunities.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	A more accessible and modern online PB portal, combined with targeted information and outreach campaigns for young people, would help broaden participation and make the process easier to understand and use.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	Training on civic facilitation and PB methods, practical resources for promotion and communication (especially to reach youth and underrepresented groups), and continuous institutional support from local authorities to sustain and expand the PB process.



Participatory Budgeting in

BRAGA, PORTUGAL

Name of the community / city / town	S.Vitor (a parish/neighbourhood in the municipality of Braga)
Region / province	Braga
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/EYvUs2c7SXo3tDZT7
Population of the municipality (approximate)	193.324
Official website of the municipality	https://www.cm-braga.pt/pt
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Yes, Braga has operated a municipal participatory budget ('Orçamento Participativo Braga') since 2014. For the most recent edition, continuation under the new municipal term is still under discussion, and it is not yet clearly reflected in the current municipal budget.
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	2014
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	675 000 euros for 2025
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Approximately 0.28% of the municipal budget is allocated to the participatory budget.
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	10
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	Mid-September Participatory Budgeting Braga – 2024 Edition
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	Early November

BRAGA, PORTUGAL

What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	Early November
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	Primary PB link Participation norms PDF (2024 edition) Youth PB “Tu Decides!” page School PB portal
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Citizens aged 16 or above who reside, are registered, study or work in Braga and who register on the PB portal.
Minimum age to submit a project	16
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes. Participants must be residents, registered voters, students or workers in Braga.
Who can vote in PB?	Citizens aged 16 or above who reside, are registered, study or work in Braga and are registered on the PB portal.
Minimum age to vote	16
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Online voting via the municipal PB portal
Link where voting results are published	participe.cm-braga.pt
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	• Tadam Community Centre (Citizenship and Civic Participation): €75,000 2,132 votes • Ferreiros + Cohesive (Social Cohesion): €74,949 2,546 votes • Chapel of St. Benedict of Oliveira – Rehabilitation (Social Cohesion): €74,899 1,467 votes • Sequeirense and the Supporters’ Space (Sport and Well-being): €79,943 2,487 votes • Inclusive Guisande Fitness (Sport and Well-being): €71,000 1,952 votes • Being Sequeira – Culture and Traditions (Cultural Programming): €75,000 3,953 votes

BRAGA, PORTUGAL

	• Sustainability, Ecology and Recycling (Sustainability): €75,000 3,776 votes • Turning the Page on Food Emergency in Braga (Sustainability): €70,822 815 votes • Fado & Faith (Cultural Programming): €3,000 281 votes
Short description of the winning project/s	• Tadin Community Center: Creation of a community space for social activities and civic participation. • Ferreiros + Cohesive: Community initiatives to strengthen social cohesion in Ferreiros. • St. Benedict of Oliveira Chapel – Rehabilitation: Restoration of a local chapel to preserve cultural heritage. • Sequeirense and the Supporters’ Space: Development of a space connected to the local sports club for fans and events. • Inclusive Guisande Fitness: Installation of accessible outdoor fitness equipment for all residents. • Being Sequeira – Culture and Traditions: Cultural activities to promote local traditions and community identity. • Theatre for All: Inclusive theatre workshops open to the community. • Sustainability, Ecology and Recycling: Environmental awareness and recycling initiatives. • Turning the Page on Food Emergency in Braga: Social support project addressing food insecurity. • Fado & Faith: Cultural events celebrating fado and Portuguese traditions.
Link to the project/s	VIRAR A PÁGINA Casa Do Povo De Tadin Sequeirense e o Espaço do Adepto Ser Sequeira: Cultura e Tradições Tin.Bra
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	Most winning projects from the latest PB edition are in the implementation phase; some cultural and social projects are already ongoing, while infrastructure and rehabilitation works are scheduled according to municipal planning.

BRAGA, PORTUGAL

Reflected by Inês Soares

What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	Ensuring broad dissemination of information, balancing technical feasibility with citizen expectations, and sustaining participation and engagement across different areas and age groups.
What works well in the PB process?	The clear thematic areas, online portal, and combination of municipal assemblies and digital tools support strong citizen engagement and structured evaluation of proposals.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, how are young people involved?	School Participatory Budget (OPE – Braga) - Focus: Improving facilities and recreational areas in public EB 2/3 schools. - Participants: Students from the 2nd and 3rd school cycles. - Funding: €10,000 per school. - Process: Students submit proposals, projects are evaluated, voted on within the school, and then implemented. Youth Participatory Budget – “Tu Decides!” (OPJ) - Target group: Young people aged 14–35 who live, study, or work in Braga. - Goal: Encourage active citizenship and youth involvement in municipal decision-making, helping participants learn how public projects and budgets are managed. - Project areas: Typically include sports, culture, social innovation, and sustainability. - Budget: In 2024, the municipality allocated €100,000 to fund winning proposals. Winning projects: - Dona Espaço Vivo: Revitalize school outdoor spaces. - Cantinho do Descanso: Relaxation area for students. - Talent Weekend & Connections: Youth networking event. - School Nurseries: Grow native plants for reforestation. - Relaxation Spaces at AEMC: Quiet zones in schools. - ExpoSaúde: Promote healthy lifestyles. - Youth 2.0: Training on citizenship and financial literacy.

BRAGA, PORTUGAL

One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	More dissemination of information.
If PB does NOT exist in your community, would you like to advocate for it?	I currently do not live in my community because I am studying in another city. My hometown does not have participatory budgeting, so I would like to help bring it there.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	More people interested and greater awareness about participatory budgeting. It is important to teach people that this is something our community can implement and to show the benefits it can bring to the community.

ROŽNAVA, SLOVAKIA



Name of the community / city / town	Rožňava
Region / province	Košický kraj
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/W4vaqNybCRetm89M8
Population of the municipality (approximate)	17
Official website of the municipality	https://www.roznava.sk
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Yes – civil projects only
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	2018
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	30.000 €
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Approximately 0.06% of the total municipal budget is allocated to participatory budgeting.
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	The number of supported projects has varied by cycle. In earlier cycles, approximately 10–12 projects were supported; in the 2026 cycle, the number was reduced to 6 projects because the maximum allocation per project increased from €3,000 to €5,000 and the city wanted to maintain a meaningful and competitive voting process.
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	The call for idea submissions usually opens on 1 October.
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	Initial design ideas are usually submitted by 11 November, and full project proposals are submitted by 31 January, in line with the annual calendar set by the PB statute.

ROŽŇAVA, SLOVAKIA

Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	https://www.roznava.sk/participativny-rozpocet
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Permanent or temporary residence ; organizations based in the city
Minimum age to submit a project	16
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes . Applicants must have permanent or temporary residence in the City of Rožňava, or, in the case of organizations, be based in the city.
Who can vote in PB?	Voting is conducted online. The public materials reviewed do not clearly specify a separate voter eligibility category beyond participation through the city's online voting process.
Minimum age to vote	The minimum voting age is not clearly specified in the public materials reviewed.
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Only online.
Link where voting results are published	https://www.roznava.sk/vysledky-hlasovania-participativneho-rozpocetu-2025-a585-15181
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	In the 2025 cycle, all 10 submitted projects received support because the number of submitted projects matched the maximum number that could be funded under the PB rules.
Short description of the winning project/s	1.Improvement of the Surroundings at Kalvária – Phase II – Creating a new seating/resting area and improving the surroundings of the historic chapel site to make the Calvary more attractive and comfortable for visitors. Location: Kalvária, Rožňava. 2.City Coin Minting Device – Creating a manual coin-minting experience where visitors can make their own Rožňava city coin while promoting the city and its tourism offer. Location: TIC Rožňava. 3.Psychological Counseling Without Fear and Anxiety – Revitalizing a neglected courtyard into a greener, safer and more welcoming public space for counselling-centre clients and local residents. Location: Letná 42–44, Rožňava. 4.Safety and Property Protection – Improving drainage, stairs and railings to prevent water damage and ensure safer access to the residential building. Location: Zakarpatská 1, Rožňava.

ROŽNAVA, SLOVAKIA

	5. Kindergarten Terrace Revitalization – Renovating a damaged kindergarten terrace to create a safe and attractive outdoor activity space for children. Location: Kyjevská Kindergarten, Rožňava. 6. Let's Bring Life to the Community Garden – Equipping and improving the community garden to enable more cultural, educational and social activities and strengthen community life. Location: Community Garden, Rožňava. 7. Sports Area 2 – Creating two outdoor table-tennis spaces where children, young people and adults can exercise, socialize and participate in sports activities. Location: Juh Housing Estate, Rožňava. 8. Balcony – A Small Place of Great Joy – Transforming a damaged school terrace into a colorful outdoor play and activity space that encourages movement, communication and cooperation among children. Location: Zakarpatská 12 Primary School, Rožňava. 9. Community Herbal Orchard II – Expanding an existing community orchard through new planting, improved seating and upgrades to the surrounding children's playground area. Location: Mierová 10, Rožňava. 10. Revitalization of Public Space on Szilvássyho Street – Improving the public space through greenery, infrastructure repairs and preparatory works for future public lighting. Location: Szilvássyho Street, Rožňava.
Link to the project/s	• PARTICIPATÍVNY ROZPOČET MESTA ROŽŇAVA 2025 • Projekty financované z participatívneho rozpočtu - podrobnosti • Participantov pribúda a naše mesto je opäť raz krajšie • Aj dnešné popoludnie sa nieslo v znamení projektov participatívneho rozpočtu mesta Rožňava • Hlavnou témou dnešného dňa boli opäť projekty participatívneho rozpočtu mesta Rožňava • Dnes sa uskutočnilo predstavenie, ako aj preberanie projektov v rámci participatívneho rozpočtu mesta Rožňava • Rožňava PB Page on Facebook: Participatívny rozpočet pre Rožňavu
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, when was it completed?	All 10 supported projects from the 2025 cycle moved into implementation. In general, projects are implemented between April and September of the given year, although this period may be extended in justified cases, such as delays in material delivery

ROŽNAVA, SLOVAKIA

Reflected by Michal Drengubiak

What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	For those of us who were present at the creation and development of participatory budgeting, the biggest challenge was setting up the system itself so that it would function effectively (for example, in the first two cycles there was a high percentage of projects that were not implemented). Gradually, we adjusted the model so that participants would not be discouraged by excessive bureaucracy or a lack of clarity. We also worked to ensure there would be enough time for project implementation. Throughout the entire existence of participatory budgeting, another major challenge has been maintaining the attractiveness of the system so that residents remain actively involved. In many cases, this also requires personal meetings, explanations, and support from the municipal office.
What works well in the PB process?	Currently, it is the overall setup of the system. It is understandable, attractive, and flexible, and we are able to adjust it depending on circumstances.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, how are young people involved?	Like all other residents of our city. The municipality offers this opportunity and also promotes participatory budgeting among members of the Student Parliament, with whom we cooperate and actively communicate.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	In the future, involve residents through other forms of participation as well.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	The local government must identify with the very idea of citizen participation in the city's governance. In the City of Rožňava, participatory budgeting was introduced "from the top", meaning by elected representatives of the city and the municipal office, who cooperated with the civic sector and a non-profit organization. The municipality was capable and willing to introduce participatory budgeting, finance it, and provide the necessary staff capacities for its implementation. The greatest risk is that with a change in elected officials who may not be interested in this project, participatory budgeting could cease to exist. Participatory budgeting has existed in our city since 2018. Although it went through a certain challenging period (COVID-19) and had to undergo a transformation, it is now fully functional and sustainable. I believe it will survive the upcoming elections as well. Rather, I would like to focus on introducing new forms of participation in our city.



TRNAVA REGION, SLOVAKIA

Name of the community/city / town	Voderady (part of the Trnava region)
Region / province	Trnavský kraj (Trnava region)
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/ddmXdDCDjLgJQ1e28
Population of the municipality (approximate)	Voderady: approximately 1,609 residents Trnava Region : approximately 566,008 residents
Official website of the municipality	https://trnava-vuc.sk/
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Voderady, as a village, does not have its own participatory budgeting (PB) program. However, the Self-Governing Trnava Region (Trnavský samosprávny kraj) runs a regional PB initiative ('Tvoríme kraj') that covers the whole region, including projects proposed by residents of Voderady. This allows analysis of PB processes relevant to my local context, even though the program is not implemented directly at village level
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	Participatory budgeting at regional level ('Tvoríme kraj') has been implemented since the late 2010s; the current cycle is the seventh round (2025–2026).
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	In the 2025–2026 PB cycle, 32 projects will be supported with a total allocation of €150,000.
Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Approximately 0.05% of the regional budget is allocated to the ' Tvoríme kraj ' participatory budgeting programme.
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	The number of supported projects varies by cycle: 41 projects were funded in the 2025 PB cycle, while 32 projects received funding in the 2026 PB cycle, both with a total allocation of €150,000.
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	Calls for project proposals usually open in late August or early September, with detailed information and online meetings for applicants held in mid-September.

TRNAVA REGION, SK

What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	For PB 2026: • Submission of project proposals by applicants: 26 September 2025 (for the 2025–2026 cycle). • Formal project submission deadline after pre-consultation and adjustments: 14 November 2025.
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	https://tvorimekraj.sk/participativny-rozpocet/
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	A project proposer can be: a) a civic association or a non-profit organization that is based in or operates within the Trnava Self-Governing Region (TTSK), or b) an individual or a group of individuals who are at least 18 years old at the time of submitting the project proposal and meet at least one of the following conditions: • have permanent residence in TTSK, or • operate or carry out activities within TTSK, or • provide services to residents of TTSK.
Minimum age to submit a project	18
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes, there are residency/connection requirements. Either the organization must operate in the Trnava Region, or if it's an individual (or group), they must be 18+ and live, work, or provide services in the region.
Who can vote in PB?	Anyone over 15 years old who lives in the region is eligible to vote.
Minimum age to vote	15
Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	A mixed evaluation system is used. Online public voting accounts for 40% of the final score, the regional committee's expert assessment accounts for another 40%, and the project's funding history over the last three PB cycles accounts for the remaining 20%.
Link where voting results are published	https://tvorimekraj.sk/dokumenty/
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	32 winning projects were selected; some examples include: • Creation of a community ecological garden in Červeník focused on soil regeneration, composting, and sustainable food production • Restoration and improvement of Koriátka castle, including a new path, benches, and information boards, • Building a fitpark in Petrova Ves as a public space for all generations,

TRNAVA REGION, SK

	• Establishment of “Domček dôvery” in Piešťany for education and social counselling for people in difficult situations • Creation of “Ateliér duše” in Trnava, providing art therapy and psychosocial support • Development of online educational materials for volunteer firefighters to support searches for missing persons • Organization of the children’s cycling event (Detský Seredňmaratónik) to promote physical activity and community engagement
Short description of the winning project/s	The winning projects include a mix of community and public-benefit initiatives, such as improvements to local public spaces, cultural and social activities, and small-scale infrastructure and environmental projects proposed by residents across the region.
Link to the project/s	• Podpora komunitných aktivít Dobrovoľného hasičského zboru Šamorín (Support for Community Activities of the Volunteer Fire Brigade Šamorín) • Domček dôvery – vzdelávanie a poradenstvo v bezpečnom prostredí (House of Trust – Education and Counselling in a Safe Environment) • Záchrana hradu Korlátka 2026 (Rescue of Korlátka Castle 2026)
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	The winning projects from the most recent PB cycle are currently in the implementation phase ; some are already underway, while others are in preparation.
If yes, when was it completed?	In progress for 2026

TRNAVA REGION, SK

Reflected by Simoneta Šimková

What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	In my view, the biggest challenge of participatory budgeting in our region is that many residents of smaller towns, like Voderady, are not fully aware that they can both submit project ideas and vote on them.
What works well in the PB process?	In my view, what works well in the participatory budgeting process is mainly the clear communication and information provided to participants, including precise deadlines, templates for submitting projects, supportive online calls to explain the process, and having a contact person available for any questions.
Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, how are young people involved?	The region also runs a separate participatory budgeting scheme in 44 secondary schools, through which high school students propose and vote on projects in their schools ; this complements the regional PB and actively engages young people.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	I would improve awareness and participation by involving more students through campaigns, workshops, and social media, so that a larger number of young people take part in proposing and voting on projects.
If PB does NOT exist in your community, would you like to advocate for it?	Not applicable – participatory budgeting already exists in the community.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	I would need a better understanding of the needs within the community and insight into who would like to be involved. It would also be helpful to simplify the participatory budgeting process so that it is more accessible and easier for people to engage.



Participatory Budgeting in

ALINGSAS, SWEDEN

Name of the community / city / town	Alingsas/Alingsås
Region / province	Västra Götaland
Country (community location on google map – provide a link)	https://maps.app.goo.gl/5nYpSFeZbrxhXpYJ6
Population of the municipality (approximate)	42.199
Official website of the municipality	Alingsås kommun
Does your municipality currently have Participatory Budgeting (PB)? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, since which year has PB been implemented?	2011
How much is the PB budget in the last cycle? (in national currency)	The Youth Council's budget each year is SEK 200,000 (€37 200 – €37 600) to allocate to the decisions that are made. In addition to this, there are extra funds of SEK 200,000 per year to be allocated. These funds were previously intended for the development of outdoor environments but were redirected in 2025 to support holiday activities. The allocation is decided through a democratic process involving students from lower secondary school (Year 7) to upper secondary school. All students submit proposals, which then form the reference group, consisting of up to 6-7 students from each school, who have a voting session to make the decision on which proposals get funded, there is also room for debate in the decision process. Those who get voted on are then sent to a reference group within the representatives that consists of one representative from each school and three from upper-secondary school. The reference group is set to make the proposals happen through arrangements, project planning and budgeting.

ALINGSÅS, SWEDEN

Approximate percentage of total municipal budget dedicated to PB	Approximately 0.01% of the total municipal budget in Alingsås is dedicated to youth-focused participatory budgeting, based on an annual allocation of around SEK 400,000.
How many projects are usually funded per PB cycle?	A total of 8-10 projects
When does the call for idea submissions usually open?	There is no fixed official opening date for idea submissions. However, proposals must be submitted no
What is the deadline for submissions? Give exact dates.	Proposals must be submitted approximately two months before each school holiday to be considered by the reference group. For example: • Autumn break: submit by early September • Christmas break: submit by early November • Sport (winter) break: submit by early January • Easter break: submit by early February / March • Summer break: submit by early May
Link to the official PB webpage or call announcement	Demokrati / Var med och påverka! - Alingsås kommun
Who can submit project proposals? (citizens, NGOs, youth groups, individuals, etc.)	Students from lower secondary (Year 7) up to upper secondary (Year 3 of gymnasium, typically 13–18 years old) can submit proposals for holiday activity funds. These proposals are reviewed and decided by a reference group, consisting of two representatives from each school Regarding the Youth Council (Ungdomsfullmäktige), the same age group is involved, but these students are pre-selected representatives from each school. Members of the Youth Council are chosen through elections at their schools, and the Youth Council Board (Ungdomsråd) is elected by the Youth Council itself. The Youth Council representatives vote on proposals, and the Youth Council Board is then assigned to carry out the projects approved by the council. In this way, the Youth Council ensures both democratic decision-making and implementation of projects for youth in Alingsås Municipality.
Minimum age to submit a project	13
Are there residency requirements for submitting a project?	Yes. To submit a project proposal for either holiday activity funds or Youth Council initiatives in Alingsås Municipality, students must be registered residents or enrolled in a school in Alingsås Municipality.
Who can vote in PB?	Students from Year 7 to upper secondary school.
Minimum age to vote	13

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Voting method (online / in person / mixed)	Mixed: proposals are submitted via online forms, while voting and final decisions take place in person during Youth Council and reference group meetings.
Link where voting results are published	Proposals are submitted online for both holiday activity funds and Youth Council projects. Voting and final decisions are made in person during the respective meetings of the reference group, Youth Council Board, and Youth Council.
What was the winning project in the last PB cycle?	In the last participatory budgeting cycle in Alingsås Municipality, the winning projects, submitted through both the holiday activity funds and Youth Council initiatives, included LAN gaming events, a laser dome activity, a baking competition, a murder mystery event, and an escape room.
Has the project already been implemented? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, when was it completed?	The projects from the last participatory budgeting cycle were completed during the following periods in Alingsås Municipality: • Autumn break: Escape Room and Murder Mystery • Christmas break: Laser Dome • Winter (sport) break: Baking competition and LAN gaming events
Reflected by Marlene Mardo and Setare Azad Mohammad	
What are the biggest challenges of PB in your community?	Focusing on ‘soft’ goals such as quality, learning processes, leadership, democratic values, and participation, rather than only on quantitative results like headcounts and activity numbers, can be challenging for some stakeholders to value and understand.
What works well in the PB process?	While other professionals may prioritize output or measurable results, our approach emphasises quality, learning processes, and youth-led initiatives, highlighting personal development, active participation, and the development of leadership and democratic values. This approach is supported by close collaboration with schools, ensuring that all parties understand each other’s roles and responsibilities.

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Are young people actively involved in PB? (Yes / No)	Yes
If yes, how are young people involved?	Young people are actively involved throughout the entire process. Pre-established groups participate in budget decision-making, reviewing and selecting projects. Once decisions are made, other young people in our youth programs are given the opportunity to act as organizers, take on different roles, and participate in the activities, even if they were not part of the decision-making process. For example, at our youth meeting place, if visitors show interest in an activity such as PlayStation gaming, the event is organized around the activity chosen by the reference group or Youth Council, ensuring broad youth engagement in both planning and implementation.
One idea you would like to improve in your community PB process	When young people create activities for other young people, a synergy effect emerges, encouraging broader engagement and highlighting new opportunities. We would like to further develop this approach, ensuring that more activities are clearly youth-led and youth-produced.
What support do you need to advocate PB in your community?	We need stronger recognition and support from municipal decision-makers and adult stakeholders for the KEKS-based approach to youth work, which prioritizes quality, learning, and youth-led activities alongside traditional quantitative indicators. This includes time and resources to implement the KEKS model and to align local practice with the European Charter on Local Youth Work.



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